

GaL-AA (Gays and Lesbians in AA) was established to serve and have the involvement of lesbians, gay men, and others in Alcoholics Anonymous, regardless of how they choose to identify themselves. In selecting the name, careful consideration was given to a variety of combinations. While the name only directly reflects gays and lesbians, we embrace all LGBT+ members of the AA fellowship.

2020 Detroit Update

It is with tremendous humility that I will have the opportunity to be of service to the Gay and Lesbian AA community by serving as the Treasurer for the 2020 Detroit World Conference Committee. I had the privilege of attending my first international convention in Montreal, Quebec in 1985, just 4 years after GaL-AA was chartered. While much has changed since then for our community, still more remains the same. It is our responsibility that, 'when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that, I am responsible.' The Responsibility Statement was written for the 30th International Convention in Toronto. It also became the theme of the July 2005 Convention in Toronto, which I also had the privilege of attending.

I was proud to call San Antonio my home during the International Convention in 2010. Indeed, I was asked by the Lambda Group to chair GaL-AA's opening session held in the Westin Ballroom on the famed Riverwalk. Perhaps one of the greatest spiritual experiences of my recovery was when we joined together in helping my friend, YaYa, recite, "How It Works". "Rarely have we seen a person fail..." Now, I'm proud to call Detroit my home, again, and am grateful for the opportunity to serve this great fellowship of ours. My commitment to you is to be responsible in managing our financial affairs, so that we together, can ensure that the hand of AA is always there for the GaL-AA community.

In gratitude, Heidi M.

I am pleased to report that a friend to the AA community, Alan S. Brown, has agreed to allow our group access to his amazing historic property in late September 2019 for purposes of raising significant funds needed for the costs associated with hosting GAL-AA activities in July 2020. This property is lovingly referred to as the Berry Gordy "Motown Mansion" who was the fourth owner of the estate built in 1917. We will be conducting a fundraising brunch which will include tours of the Mansion and grounds, and scrumptious food and beverages. Tickets will be limited - details to follow.

In service, John J.

GaL-AA : Detroit 2020 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous

LGBTQ+ people in AA - Service - Unity - Recovery

HOME VOLUNTEER DONATE CALENDAR ABOUT US ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS AA LINKS

Detroit 2020: detroit2020.gal-aa.org



GaL-AA 2019 Election Results

Greetings and Happy New Year,

We have received one service resume for each of the open positions during our election timeline. These positions are Chair, Treasurer, Advisor I and Advisor III. They were received from the current incumbents Denise R, Pierre B, Jim A and Randall R, respectively. According to our Bylaws and election process, no voting need take place should there not be more than one nomination. Therefore, I say congratulations to the three incumbents and thank them for their continued service to our organization. I would, however, like to encourage future participation in our organization. If you have any interest or talents that you feel would be useful to our organization, please feel free to contact us.

In service, Carol N, Deputy Chair

Personal Story

"They're Here" / My cancer's back.

**Editor's note: This story originally appeared in the author's Facebook status and was passed on to us by a committee member. After several months of reaching out to the author, we were finally granted permission to print his story.*

Hi, everyone. Well, just like Carol Anne in Poltergeist saying, "They're Here", my oncologist told me over a year ago that my scans did not show any remaining cancer in my body. It was a conditional diagnosis and that each year I should get other scans to make sure the cancer hadn't redeveloped. This year I got new scans and they showed some good news and some bad news. Good news, that there were no signs of cancer in my blood streams, and the bad news was that the scans were showing I had a lymph node that read as "cancerous" in the rear area above the leg they amputated to get me as far away from the dead tumor that remained in my left leg. Also good news that it was only showing in my lymph system and not my main blood stream. They scheduled 6 weeks of radiation treatment to sterilize the area after they performed surgery to get rid of the new tissues that showed as cancerous this year.

I know I've asked everyone I know last year to help me, and they did and my cancer went away. Well here I am again, asking if you would be kind enough to say a quick prayer for me, and/or to send a positive thought in the direction of the southeast coast of Florida, where Wade and I live in Boynton Beach. I am not a religious person but I do believe in prayer and positive thoughts.

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I'm hoping that perhaps God will allow me to continue living, and continue in the most rewarding thing I've ever experienced. I try each day to help people who just need a helping hand. And who just need someone who has the time to "pass it on" in explaining what I've had given freely to me about how to get sober and how to stay sober. I know how to do this so far, for 36 years, and I'm delighted to help anyone and everyone who is searching for someone who is willing to help them make it to midnight, each day, without taking a drink of alcohol. (Even one small drink, namely that first).

It's really a lot easier than it seems for anyone who feels as hopeless as I felt 36 years ago. I was fortunate to find a wife and husband, who passed on their program of recovery to me. She died with 57 years, and he died with 44 years of sobriety. Meeting them and their willingness to teach me in the program that was taught to them, was the most valuable gift ever given to me. And when I asked Sybil and Bob, "What can I do to thank you appropriately for all the time you've spent, helping me learn these wonderful secrets (secrets that were available to read for \$4.65 back in 1982, or that were free if I didn't have the money)."

They said, "If you are serious about wanting to pay us back, you can. The price is that you have to give it away for free. You can't ever charge anyone anything. You can't even charge them for the cup of coffee or the soft drink, just like we've never charged you when you came over and visited us each week." So that was it. All I had to do was, "Pass it On".

Even if you're one of the people who don't like me, I am still asking for your help and hope you'll say a prayer for me. Or if you don't pray, or don't believe in prayer, that's ok. If you'd send a positive thought towards southeast Florida, I'd be grateful for that help as well. I really love the life that sobriety and all the wonderful alcoholics in sobriety have taught me. The cost of that wonderful life is simply going without one small sip of booze, that first sip. That very simple bit of instructions, plus making amends to anyone I have

ever hurt or harmed as long as doing so won't hurt anyone in making those amends, is it. Also, rather selfishly, I really do have the most wonderful time, in my relationship with Wade and am hoping that next February we'll be able to say "Thank You" to all of our family and friends who have helped us get to 25 years as a couple. There is no phone call that is as wonderful as a phone call from another person who is also trying to "just stay sober today, until midnight."

Here's the connection to Carol Anne in Poltergeist saying, "They're Here." That's what Sybil and I used as sort of a 'special code' between us to address that the thought of taking a drink had entered our thinking for that morning. That way, she could pass on one more, or one other of her secrets of how to not take, just one little drink (notice how they are all little drinks that we think of) just one little drink...that first one.

Thank you all for making the time to read this. And if you've helped me before, thank you for that help. And if you're willing to help me again, by either saying a little prayer for me again, and/or sending me a positive thought. Since I know that there are so many other grateful and kind people who also used to drink and who are happy to help anyone in need, thank you, in advance.

Love and Gratitude from Florida,

Matt M.

**Post-Script: Unfortunately, we just learned before the publication of this newsletter that Matt passed away a few weeks ago. We are saddened to learn this and would like to send healing vibes to his partner, Wade, and all of Matt's family and friends.*

September 2018 - December 2018 Group/Individual	Contribution
Bell Book and Candle, Atlanta, GA	\$ 60.00
Early Start Fri. 6 pm, San Francisco, CA	\$ 102.01
G&L AA, Des Moines, IA	\$ 25.00
GALIS, Winchester, MA	\$ 25.00
Jonathan M.	\$ 45.00
Lambda Galveston Group, Galveston, TX	\$ 40.00
LGBTQ AA Meeting #177988, Portland ME	\$ 100.00
Live & Let Live AA, St. Paul, MN	\$ 22.30
Live & Let Live, Birmingham, AL	\$ 130.30
Michael A., Portland, ME	\$ 50.00
Naples, FL Free 2 Be	\$ 23.24
Primary Purpose, Columbia, SC	\$ 133.25
Rhode Island LGBT AA, Providence, RI	\$ 40.00
Rose City Men's Group, Portland, OR	\$ 11.20
Saint Mary's Gay Group	\$ 150.00
Step by Step, Maplewood, NJ	\$ 80.00
Sunny Dunes 5th Tradition, Palm Springs, CA	\$ 96.00
That GAAY AA Group, Kettering, OH	\$ 24.00
Thomas S., Clayton, NC	\$ 100.00
Wednesday Nite Big Book, Upper Montclair, NJ	\$ 34.90
SubTotal	\$ 1,292.20
September 2018 - December 2018 International	Amount
Detroit, local self-supporting event	\$ 870.00
Grand Total	\$ 2,162.20

Executive Committee

Chairperson

Denise R.
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Attleboro, MA
DOS: 10/24/1989

Deputy Chair

Carol N.
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Stoneham, MA
DOS: 2/9/1980

Secretary

Mark P.
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DOS: 4/21/2005

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DOS: 9/25/1982

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DOS: 4/26/2002

Technical Liaison

Rob F.
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Columbus, OH
DOS: 12/25/2008

Contribute to GaL-AA

Go to the web or download the mobile apps for each of Venmo or Square Cash:

Venmo: venmo.com/GaLAACContribution Square Cash: [cash.me/\\$GaLAACContribution](https://cash.me/$GaLAACContribution)

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Upcoming LGBT+ Roundups - U.S. & Canada

City	Roundup Name	Website	Start Date	End Date
Chicago, IL	Chicago Roundup	chicagoroundup.org	8/24/2018	8/26/2018
Asbury Park, NJ	New Jersey Roundup	njroundup.org	9/14/2018	9/15/2018
Duluth, MN	Duluth Roundup	duluthroundup.org	9/21/2018	9/22/2018
Aiken, SC	Carolambda	carolambda.com	10/5/2018	10/7/2018
Mansfield-Foxboro, MA	Southeastern Mass. (S.E.M.R.U.)	semru.org	2/15/2019	2/18/2019
Rehoboth, RI	Spirit by the Sea	rehobothroundup.org	2/15/2019	2/17/2019
Myrtle Beach, SC	Quest Carolina Roundup	questcarolinaroundup.org	2/22/2019	2/24/2019
Honolulu, HI	Aloha Roundup	aloharoundup.com	2/22/2019	2/24/2019
Troy, MI	Together We Can	twcdetroit.com	3/15/2019	3/17/2019
Miami, FL	Florida Roundup	floridaroundup.org	3/20/2019	3/24/2019
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada	Celebrate Sobriety	celebratesobriety.ca	4/19/2019	4/21/2019
San Jose, CA	Sober & Free	soberandfree.org	5/3/2019	5/4/2019
Long Island, NY	Long Island Roundup (Fire Island)	longislandroundup.org	5/9/2019	5/12/2019
Highlands, NC	The Highlands Retreat	thehighlandsretreat.com	5/10/2019	5/12/2019
Palm Springs, CA	Sober in the Sun	soberinthesun.net	5/16/2019	5/19/2019
Los Angeles, CA	AALA	aalaroundup.org	5/24/2019	5/26/2019
Phoenix, AZ	AZ Spring Break	azspringbreak.org	5/24/2019	5/26/2019
Dallas, TX	Big D Roundup	bigdroundup.com	5/24/2019	5/27/2019
Albuquerque, NM	New Mexico Roundup	nmroundup.org	5/24/2019	5/25/2019
Palm Springs, CA	Hot-N-Dry Reunion	hotndry.com	6/20/2019	6/23/2019
NYC, NY	Gay & Sober Men	gayandsober.org	6/27/2019	6/30/2019
NYC, NY	Big Apple Roundup	bigappleroundup.org	6/29/2019	6/30/2019
Austin, TX	Austin Roundup	austinroundup.com	7/5/2019	7/7/2019
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada	Courage Roundup	courageroundup.ca	8/9/2019	8/11/2019
Toledo, OH	Ohio Roundup	ohioroundup.org	8/23/2019	8/25/2019
San Antonio, TX	San Antonio Roundup	sanantonioroundup.com	8/30/2019	9/1/2019
San Francisco, CA	Western Roundup Living Sober	livingsober.org	8/31/2019	9/1/2019
Tacoma, WA	Lakeshore Retreat	lakeshoreretreat.org	9/27/2019	9/29/2019
San Diego, CA	Sobriety on the Sand	sobrietyonthesand.org	10/4/2019	10/6/2019
Toronto, Ontario, Canada	Toronto Gratitude	torontogratitude.org	10/11/2019	10/13/2019
Scottsdale, AZ	Renewal In the Desert	renewalinthedesert.org	10/11/2019	10/13/2019
Provincetown, MA	Serenity by the Sea	provincetownroundup.org	10/23/2019	10/27/2019
Houston, TX	Houston Roundup	houstonroundup.org	11/28/2019	12/1/2019

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