

# About being a part of the Intergroup

## What is Intergroup?

Intergroup is an A.A. service entity that involves a partnership among groups in a community – just as the A.A. groups themselves are a partnership of individual members. Intergroup exists to support the groups in their common purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the still suffering alcoholic. Our Intergroup, the Intercounty Fellowship of A.A., has been the local A.A. service provider and a resource for 12th Step work and A.A. information in San Francisco and Marin since early 1947.

## How does Intergroup fulfill its purpose?

We fulfill our purpose by providing and coordinating services that individual groups cannot provide on their own, while observing the intent and spirit of the Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Concepts for World Service, and A.A.'s three legacies – Recovery, Unity and Service. These services are carried out through Central Office and our Service Committees. They include:

⇒ Connecting new members with the help and hope of A.A. by answering inquiries via live chat, email and a 24/7 phone line and setting up 12th Step calls for those who request them

- ⇒ Publishing accurate, up-to-date A.A. meeting schedules for SF and Marin – both online and in print
- ⇒ Managing [aasf.org](http://aasf.org), an informative and comprehensive website which includes resources for groups, individuals and the general public
- ⇒ Operating a centrally located office and bookstore which stocks an ample supply of A.A. conference-approved literature and service material, Grapevine publications, locally produced literature and sobriety medallions
- ⇒ Publishing two newsletters, *The Point* and *The Buzz*
- ⇒ Providing Group Insurance certificates
- ⇒ Acting as an information exchange for A.A. announcements, events and service opportunities
- ⇒ Responding to inquiries and providing information about A.A. to members, the general public, the professional community, media and outside agencies
- ⇒ Cooperating with and maintaining contact with other A.A. service entities including Bridging the Gap, General Service (District, Area and GSO), GGYPAA, the Hospital & Institution Committee, our Intergroup service committees and other Intergroup/Central Offices
- ⇒ Participating in local, regional and national A.A. events

## What is an Intergroup Representative?

The Intergroup Representative (IGR) is your home group's voice for making sure that Intergroup and our Central Office continue to

function and to carry out our primary purpose. An IGR serves as a liaison between the groups and its members and our Intergroup, Central Office and service committees.

## How do we get an IGR?

All A.A. groups holding regularly scheduled meetings in SF or Marin and listed in the meeting schedule are eligible to elect an Intergroup Representative. Most groups elect an IGR and an Alternate IGR (Alt-IGR) who usually serve a two-year term. We suggest that all representatives have a year or more of continuous sobriety. No person may represent more than one group.

Intergroup Representatives and Alternates begin by attending the orientation just prior to the regular monthly meeting. During orientation we ask each IGR and Alt-IGR to provide contact information so that we can maintain contact between meetings. This includes receiving the monthly agenda and other meeting material via email. All names and contact information of A.A. members submitted to or on file at the Central Office are kept confidential in accordance with our Bylaws and the principle of anonymity.

## What happens at Intergroup Meetings?

Monthly Intergroup meetings serve as a communication link between Intergroup, its committees and Central Office, the A.A. groups in San Francisco and Marin and various other A.A. service entities (e.g., General Service and H&I).

IGRs may suggest an item or topic for the agenda by contacting the Board Chair or the

Executive Director at least two weeks prior to the monthly Intergroup meeting. Much of the work of the Intergroup is done by service committees. These currently include Teleservice, Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community, Archives, The Buzz, Fellowship, *The Point*, Sunshine Club, and Technology, which includes our Website and HelpChat service. Other committees are formed as the need arises and it is hoped that as many IGRs as possible participate. We also have a Board of Directors that is responsible for the business and administrative affairs of Intergroup and Central Office.

The Annual Meeting is held in June. The Intergroup Committees and officers present annual reports at this meeting and elect new members to our Board of Directors. Elections are held according to the Third Legacy procedure outlined in The A.A. Service Manual.

### **Informed Group Conscience**

*"For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience."*

*Tradition Two*

Voting on an issue need not be hurried; we are working toward substantial unanimity in our decisions.

In 2018 we adopted use of a Consensus Model for decision making. This model is a way of reaching agreement between all members of a group. Instead of simply voting for an item and having the majority of the group getting their way, a

consensus group is committed to finding solutions that everyone actively supports – or at least can live with. This makes sure that all opinions, ideas and concerns are taken into account. By listening closely to each other, we aim to come up with proposals that work for everyone, by weaving together everyone's best ideas and most important concerns – a process that often results in surprising and creative solutions, inspiring both the individual and the group as whole.

When an issue is ready to be decided, we follow the usual format of making a motion, calling for a second to that motion, discussion, and then a vote. In addition, we add the more unusual A.A. custom of asking if the minority (that is, the side that lost the vote) would like to state a minority opinion. The majority voters then have an opportunity to change their votes, if so persuaded by the minority opinion.

### **A.A. Guidelines**

A.A. World Services publishes a series of Guidelines. It is suggested that each IGR become familiar with the Guidelines entitled "Central or Intergroup Offices" as these explain in more detail our essential function. Ask the Orientation Committee Chair for your copy or visit [aa.org](http://aa.org).

### **When are Intergroup Rep Meetings?**

Intergroup meetings are typically held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm. Please see our Events Calendar on [aasf.org](http://aasf.org) for location information as we meet in both Marin and San Francisco.

# The Intergroup and the Intergroup Representative

The Link between Your Home  
Group and Intergroup



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**Intercountry Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous**  
serving San Francisco and Marin Counties