

What is Intergroup?

Intergroup represents GA meetings in the Connecticut and Western Massachusetts, also known as GA Area 17. Intergroup consists of GA members from the meetings in Area 17 with elected officers of Chairperson, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary/Treas., and two Trustees. Additionally, there are elected positions for Website, Phone Service, Public Relations, Pressure Relief and Sponsorship Committees. Ideally, each group in Area 17 should have an Intergroup representative and a group member involved in each of the committees.

Intergroup supports GA's primary purpose of carrying the GA message to compulsive gamblers by coordinating phone service volunteers, performing pressure relief meetings, answering inquiries for information about GA, providing speakers for schools, distributing literature, sharing information on group events and communicating group concerns.

Groups within Area 17 support Intergroup by sending a representative from their group to the monthly Intergroup meeting in Middletown, CT. Each GA group in Area 17 makes a monthly dues donation to Intergroup. The amount of the dues is set by each individual group in December for the upcoming year, based on what the group can afford. Intergroup relies on each group honoring their financial obligation in order to perform its duties.

The Trustees represent Area 17 at the Board of Trustee's (BOT) Meeting twice a year. They communicate to the BOT on issues concerning Area 17, vote on all issues brought to the BOT for consideration and attend the International Conference following the BOT meeting. The Trustee's also visit the meetings in Area 17 to answer questions and communicate group concerns to Intergroup and the BOT.

Some additional functions performed by Intergroup in past years:

- Holds sponsorship and pressure relief workshops
- Develops and hosts a mini-conference and possible social events (mini golf, picnic)
- Helps rooms with issues and problems at the group level
- Passes along good and welfare (fellowship) - notifies rooms of members who have medical issues/problems through their room reps

Committee Descriptions

Website Committee – Responsible for developing and maintaining the Connecticut and Western Massachusetts website: WWW.CTWMAGA.ORG. The website contains a listing of all meetings in Area 17 with driving directions, GA FAQs and the 20 questions, and information on upcoming event in the area. The Website Committee ensures all content meets GA guidelines for website operation.

Phone Service Committee – Maintains a list of all GA members willing to take calls from people looking for help, information requests, and meeting information. The committee collects statistics on calls, and interfaces with the company providing the phone service.

Public Relations Committee – Provides information and GA speakers for schools, radio shows and civic organizations to explain what GA is and how it works based on their own experience.

Pressure Relief Committee – Conducts Pressure Relief meetings for individual GA members and provides training to GA members on how to conduct a Pressure Relief meeting. Hosts an annual workshop on Pressure Relief.

Sponsorship Committee – Provides information to GA members and GA groups on Sponsorship in the GA program. Hosts an annual workshop on Sponsorship.

Your help is needed to support Intergroup in 2023!

Intergroup works best when all groups in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts participate in the meetings. Elections are held in December and currently six positions have a single candidate for the elections. There are openings for Secretary, Hotline and Pressure Relief as well as backups for all positions.

Intergroup needs new people to get involved if we want an Intergroup to continue to support Area 17. With the change in the gambling environment (online gambling, electronic sports betting, more casinos within driving distance, etc.), Intergroup needs younger people to get involved so that their experience and needs are included.

Intergroup is seeking new GA members to participate in our monthly meetings. Meetings are currently held on Monday night at 7pm, typically on the first Monday of the month. **Meetings are held on the first Mondays at 7pm. Meetings are currently held at Merritt Hall, Finkelstein Rm, CT Valley Hospital, 39 Tynan Circle, Middletown.**

Member Experiences:

Tony V. – Gales Ferry Monday Night Member:

“Since being involved with Intergroup, my recovery has actually strengthened. Participating in Intergroup meetings has allowed me to connect with more members from various rooms, learn more how Governance in GA works, become involved in committee work and learn how a GA meeting operates something valuable to take back to the rooms I attend.

I have become a Room Rep and Public Relations Chairperson, both experiences enhanced my level of commitment assisting others at a broader level and become more immersed in Fellowship. Commitments with these positions also made me more responsible to Intergroup, Rooms. and members. I became a messenger spreading the word of what is new, what needs attention and what is working well across Ct, Ma and from Trustees nationally and internationally.

Most of all, it kept me engaged, involved and away from a bet as I was offered opportunities to work Step 12. I am grateful.”

Paul S. Tony V. – Gales Ferry Monday Night Member

“I was taught early in recovery that giving back to the program is important to keep GA going and important to my own recovery. I got involved in Intergroup after 18 months in the program and I have been an active member for about 14 years. I am grateful for that opportunity because I now have GA friends all over the world. I learned how to work as a group to solve problems and reach out to the gambler who is looking for help. I learned many new tools for my recovery and for helping others. What I never expected was to learn skills that would help me at home and at my work place.

I believe that there are three aspects of our program: Recovery (recovery steps); Unity (unity step); and Service (giving back to GA). Service for me was through the Hotline and Intergroup. These are not meant to be long term commitments; everyone should have the opportunity to serve. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve the members of GA.”