

HISTORY

OF THE DALLAS CENTRAL OFFICE

The Dallas Central Office had its first Board meeting and was open for business on September 18, 1947. At the time, there were only two A.A. groups. The Central Office was located on Akard in the Davis Building. It was a musty old office, a little cluttered, but filled with A.A. caring. Some literature was sold. Dick P. was the director. He suffered physically from Jamaica Ginger poisoning during prohibition days. But it didn't stop him from answering the phone, coordinating 12-Step calls or sharing with a friend or stranger over a cup of coffee.

The location changed a few times in the next several years, but always stayed in the downtown area. In the late 50's Lester F. hired Merl ("a perfect lady") to run things. According to Lester, she kept the place "real clean and orderly," during the time she worked there.

In 1968, a reorganizational meeting was held. The Central Office became an Intergroup Office operating under the guidance of the A.A. Groups which numbered around 8 or 9 by then. A member of the Richardson Group loaned them \$2000 so they could start buying literature from A.A. World Services, Inc.

From this beginning, the Metropolitan Dallas Intergroup Assn. now serves over 103 A.A. Groups in the Dallas Metroplex. A full range of Committees including Public Information, Special Events, C.P.C., Treatment Centers and Correctional Facilities are headed by members of the Board of Trustees of Metropolitan Dallas Intergroup who meet once a month at the Intergroup Office. The Intergroup Representatives Meeting representing all the Groups in the area meet on the second Thursday of each month to decide the policy of the Intergroup Association.

The Office is staffed with 2 full-time and 1 part-time employee. Volunteers answer the phones, arrange for speakers and sell the literature. There is a cheerful atmosphere for anyone who comes in and the coffee pot is always on.

INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVES

The Representatives are elected from the A.A. Groups at least once a year. Generally they serve for a 1-year term along with an alternate. They report back to the Group all the information given them at the Meeting. The Minutes from these meetings are printed in the NEWSLETTER and mailed to each A.A. Group in the Metroplex.

The I/G Reps elect the Trustees for the Board each November. On even numbered years, 6 members are elected and on odd numbered years, 5 are elected. Trustees serve a 2-year term.

As an Intergroup Representative, you make decisions for your Group with your vote not only by electing the Board of Trustees each year but also by voting on all amendments to the By-laws. All actions and policies presented by the Board of Trustees must be voted on by the Intergroup Representatives. The Board of Trustees does not act independently of the I/G Representatives.

The Intergroup Office operates by the A.A. World Service Manual as described on pages 88-89. We provide services through our Committees: Public Information, Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C.), Special Events, Treatment Centers and Correctional Institutions.

The Intergroup Office provides a NEWSLETTER which offers information on all the current events of A.A. in the Metroplex. Intergroup also publishes a Directory of all the A.A. Groups and their schedule of meetings in Dallas and the surrounding vicinity.

The Intergroup Office provides both Conference approved and other literature requested by the A.A. Groups in the Dallas Metroplex. Chips, birthday medallions, cassette tapes, calendars and other gift items are also provided at the request of A.A. Groups through their Intergroup Representatives.

The Intergroup Office is a service center. Our primary purpose is to serve and to be available to all who need the help of Alcoholics Anonymous.