

Submitted by Bryan S. 2008, Intergroup co-chair  
Updated August 2010 by Rita W, Website Chair  
Updated March 2013 by Rita W, Website Chair

## NIAGARA DISTRICT INTERGROUP WEBSITE HISTORY

Jan. 21/07 – The topic of a Niagara District website was discussed at the last Intergroup meeting but no action was taken. Both District 12 & 13 are putting together an ad-hoc committee to investigate the feasibility and procedures for building a Niagara District website.

Feb. 18/07 – The topic of a Niagara District Website was discussed again at Intergroup. Gerard and Bryan S. were nominated to sit on the ad-hoc committee.

April 15/07 – First official website ad-hoc committee meeting April 4<sup>th</sup>. In attendance was Leo R. (District 13), Mark P (District 12), Mike W. (Area 86 Newsletter/Website Chair) and Bryan S. (Intergroup). There was lengthy discussion on options and possible design features. The first year will be most costly due to design fee. Much consideration was given to discussion on what we want available on our website so this is not a recurring cost.

June 17/07 – Bryan S. assumed responsibility for the aaniagara website. Ryan M. from Fenwick Group assisted as liaison with the Webmaster. Projected costing: balance of the design fee \$149, one year web hosting fee \$180, domain registration of \$15. Recurring fees will be the Web hosting fee and domain registration. The Webmaster has offered to assist with changes and fine tuning of the website.

Aug. 19/07 – The website aaniagara.org is up and running, went live in July 2007! Special thanks go to Ryan M. of Fenwick. Ryan spent many hours assisting the Webmaster and inputting our AA information to create the site. Ryan also responds to all emails through the website.

April 20/08 – Bryan S., Intergroup co-chair, attended a meeting of the newly formed Website Committee along with Joe B, Dist 12 Alt. DCM; Ron L., Dist 13 Alt DCM. The new committee is busy establishing guidelines and job descriptions. Being a new venture, all are learning and recording as we move along, making every effort to follow the 12 Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Updated August 2010 by Rita W., Website Chair

The early days were challenges! Websites were fairly new to the world of AA as well as to our districts. In fact, GSO did not publish their Internet Guidelines (MG-18) until June of 2008, so our web-based research was intermittent. Local web shared experience was not yet plentiful.

As a committee we approached this new form of attraction by referring to a few lines within the FAQ's about A.A. web Sites on the GSO website, which stated "It is helpful to remember that there is no need to let the speed of this technology dictate the speed of our actions."

2008 was busy for the committee, putting guidelines in place, and identifying our purpose. We determined that we could best carry the AA message to its members by presenting, in a pleasing format, the most current and consistent information on local AA meetings, local and area Service meetings, local and area events and group anniversaries. We wished to convey the message to the community that there is hope in AA; we are alive and well in this community; we are present and we can help.

In April of 2008 Susan S. came aboard as our Webmaster. Our committee in April consisted of Susan S., Rita W. and Ian G.

In August 2008 there were several changes to the committee. Phil H. joined us and became our archives master. Ian needed to step down due to work commitments and Rita assumed the chairperson's position. Justine B. joined us for a brief term.

Hands on access to our website came in June of 2008. Since that time, and with the addition of our "ideas and concepts" committee member, Dale K., the changes and updates have been plentiful. From a basic, very attractive home page and a list of local meetings we have implemented the following changes:

- Pen San meeting list, always updated with past dates removed
- Interactive maps have been introduced with GPS friendly addresses
- A pdf format meeting list was created and posted. Members may print the most current meeting list at their own convenience.
- An Events page was created, displaying local and out of district events
- We provide electronic archiving services to Districts 12, 13 and Intergroup for their minutes. Electronic files of minutes of past service meetings are stored on the server, but not available to the general public.
- An Anniversaries page was added. Group Anniversaries are posted up and past dated anniversaries are removed in a timely fashion.
- Guidelines have been written, revised, and incorporated into Intergroup Procedures and Operations
- A Miscellaneous Page was created. This page hosts Guidelines submitted for District 12, District 13, Intergroup and the District 13 Round Up Guidelines
- Group Histories also appear on the Miscellaneous Page. We added our first history in July 2010, courtesy of the Merritton Group.
- Individual anniversaries were added to the anniversaries page July 2010 with increasing interest
- From July 2010 until present (these points are added March 2013) our little website has grown! The Miscellaneous page has been replaced with a Service Opportunities Page. We have added information about our local services and email links to request additional information.

- Updates to our meeting list and events pages occur on an almost daily basis and we are coordinating our efforts with those of Print Media to ensure consistency between the website and the published meeting lists.
- Our statistics continue to prove our usefulness. We currently average over 100 unique visitors daily. Feedback from the groups indicate that group representatives are turning more and more frequently to our pdf Meeting list for distribution at their meetings. They also use the website to announce changes in meeting times, locations or closures.
- A request for comments has been added to our Contact Us page and we have provided a “Submit Box” for those who would like to leave their comments, concerns and suggestions anonymously.
- A new Bridging the Gap page is under construction – targeted to go live in 2013.
- We continue to abide by and respect our AA Traditions, do not participate in social media (facebook, twitter, open forums, etc.)

Our website continues to reach out and grow, and to service our members as well as our community and God-Willing, will continue to do so for many years to come.