



Tri-County Central Office News

A Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-County Central Office, Inc.
8019 North Himes Avenue Ste. 104, Tampa, Florida 33614-2763

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We Could Blow the Whole Thing

What if suddenly there was no AA? If, in some nightmare future, AA groups forgot all about the Twelve Traditions. Nothing in my life had prepared me for the six months through which I had just lived. Not my education, not my drinking, not my recovery in AA. I'd been assigned to the field as a representative for my company, to oversee the operation of an experimental system for mining copper in South America. It meant spending exactly 180 days cut off from civilization, living and working with a hard-drinking bunch of men from everywhere, assembled for the project. Fresh from the office, a lovely home and family, and an active life in AA locally, I was suddenly thrust into a dark and treacherous existence in a jungle camp, thousands of miles away. Right from the beginning, it was every man for himself. There were bosses and sub-bosses, some of whom knew only the authority born of physical violence. Cliques were everywhere, and because of the extreme isolation, men's nerves wore thin. Recreation ended in drunken brawls almost every night. In the morning, sick and hung over, everyone got back to work. I kept asking myself, "What's a nice AA like you doing in a place like this?" At the end of my stint, there was only one thought in my mind: How fast can I get to a meeting? As it happened, there was a day's layover on my trip home, and I knew there'd be a meeting somewhere nearby. I remember the feeling of excitement as, in the rented car, I pulled out of the hotel parking lot. My International AA Directory was safe at my side, and my anticipation grew as I found the street, and then the address of the meeting. What a welcome sight that church was, as I walked briskly to the side door. I could almost smell the coffee, and I reached for the handle. The door was locked. In fact, there wasn't a sign of life anywhere. I checked the directory, and it showed clearly I was in the right place. A glance at my watch told me the meeting scheduled should begin in ten minutes. I scratched my head--where was everyone?--and I walked back to the car. I stood on the street for a few minutes more, and when no one appeared, I shrugged and got in, and turned on the light. Well, I thought, there should be another meeting somewhere nearby. Looking down the list, I found a Step group across town. Within a few minutes, I pulled up to a large church, its lights beckoning everywhere. My enthusiasm was short-lived, however. A thorough search of the parish house revealed a number of empty rooms, one vestry meeting, and no AA to be found. The eerie feeling that had begun to grow in me now turned to anger. What the heck was going on here? I left the church and headed my car back out of town, toward my hotel. As I drove, I ranted and raved. Some way to treat a visitor! I was sure nothing like this could ever happen back home--we knew how to keep AA together a lot better! I was halfway through the blistering letter I'd fire off to the AA General Service Office upon my return home, as I pulled into the hotel lot and went to my room. Still grouching, I went to bed. The next morning, as I stepped out of the shower, I hadn't shaken off the indignant rage that haunted me. On an impulse, I looked at my watch. It was about half past ten in New York, and I knew GSO would be open. I picked up the phone, not trusting my anger to last till I

go to page Three

HISTORY OFFERS GOOD LESSON FOR A.A.

A.A.s need to warn each other about becoming too confident. Overconfidence can have sorry consequences. Individual A.A.s need to take the warning to heart; A.A. as an organization of individuals can also profit from it. All of us, attending meetings of our various groups, have heard, and taken part in, conversations like this: "D'ja see that story about A.A. in this week's Squint?" "Not yet, but Joe was talkin' about it. Any good?" "Yeah, a pretty good piece. You know, those editors must think we got somethin'." Sure, they wouldn't be giving us space, what with the war and all, if they didn't think a lot of their readers wanted to know about us." Rosy contentment settles over speakers and listeners. How many of the readers of The Grapevine have heard about the Washington Temperance Society? It was quite an organization in its time - in the 1840's. Its organizers called themselves "reformed drunkards" and they set about "reforming" other drunkards. Does the idea seem familiar? CLAIMED 100,000 IN 3 YEARS. They did all right, too, They got going in the spring of 1840, in Baltimore. In early 1843, they were claiming that they had persuaded 100,000 habitual drunkards to sign the pledge. Older temperance organizations had to stand aside - or climb onto the bandwagon. The new society was getting the headlines. It organized a mass meeting in City Hall Park in New York City in 1841 that attracted more than 4,000 listeners - the speakers stood on upturned rum kegs - and it had 1,800 new members when it closed its campaign in that city. There were triumphal parades in Boston - where historic Faneuil Hall was jammed to the doors to hear the speaker - and in other eastern cities, Speakers toured the West and South. The Press of the day gave the society uncounted columns of publicity. The society petered out. The "why" contains a lesson - and a moral - for A.A. There was no ONE reason, of course. A reason was that older temperance organizations hired some of the society's better speakers. That reason couldn't have wrecked the society if it had had its feet solidly on the ground. Another reason was that politicians looked hungrily at its swelling membership. Some of them climbed aboard the wagon (there is inference that in those times, at least, some politicians could qualify for membership) and they helped to wreck local groups through their efforts to line up votes. The Abolition movement was gaining strength and there was division within groups as men took their stand on the issue of slavery. The Washingtonians were confident. They rebuffed overtures of older temperance organizations, they scorned old methods. Local groups went their separate ways, made their own mistakes, learned their own lessons. Some, with larger membership, dipped into their treasuries to finance their own publications. There was no overall direction of educational policy. Editors of local society publications got into squabbles with editors of other temperance papers. FACTORS WITHIN There was division, in those times,

go to page Three

TBAIC - District 2 - Hillsborough & East Pasco Counties

Hello everybody! My name is John O. and I am an alcoholic. This has been another exciting month and year for TBAIC, with lots to be grateful for, and even more to look forward to in the coming year and near future.

Lots of updates throughout TBAIC. All meetings at the Hillsborough County Faulkenburg Jail are going great and are being covered regularly. Nancy B. our Hillsborough County Women's Jail Coordinator was glad to announce that she now has 3 new women volunteers approved with PV numbers. This helped Nancy greatly because she is now able to cover every meeting. Although she gained 3 new volunteers, many more are still needed to help share the load of covering the meetings. Cass attended our meeting; she recently had a great first experience at taking meetings into Women's jails and strongly recommends it as good service work. Also she reported that the Monday and Thursday meetings would now start at 6:00 PM instead of 7:30 PM.

TBAIC is glad to announce two new coordinators. John D. is now our Detox coordinator and was ready for business. Also Rob T. will be taking over as the new Treatment Coordinator, Rob T. will be taking over for Carl who previously covered all of the Treatment facilities. Thank you Carl for your service. And thanks to both of our new coordinators for helping cover these facilities.

Chris D. our East Pasco Prison coordinator reported that everything is back to normal in East Pasco. Recently, they had gone two weeks without meetings in the facility due to internal issues but they are now back up and taking meetings in regularly.

We welcome all those interested in volunteering or becoming a part of TBAIC to our next business meeting on February 11th at 9:30 AM at the Tri-County Central Office. Thank you all for your hard work and support, and also for the opportunity to be of service.

Our Next Committee Meeting
 Is at 9:30 AM on February 11th at the Tri-County Central Office (near Himes & Waters). If you need more specific directions please call Tim @ 813-933-9123. The meeting usually lasts about an hour and it is the best way to get involved with service work, in Detox/Treatment/Jail/ Prison facilities. If you would like to join our committee **PLEASE COME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Pink Can Drive
 Our committee is 100% self supporting and receives no funds from the traditional pie charts or District 2 in accordance with our group conscious. If your home group has not made a pink can donation recently or if you are able to send an additional donation this year ... We will put it to great use!
 TBAIC, PO Box 26242, Tampa FL 33623

Thank you to those groups who have sent in a donation this Month:
 Came to Believe Group (\$62.00), Early Risers Group (\$45.22), Friday Night Live (\$34.00), Happy Hour Group – The Recovery Club (\$37.51) Kingsway Group (\$96.95), Living in the Solution (\$39.23), Meeting Place (\$22.28), Midday Matinee Group (\$447.00), Monday Night Madness (\$15.00), Noon Big Book (\$231.00), Old School Group (\$127.10), Ruskin Fellowship (\$96.00), Sister in Sobriety (\$17.50), Sober on Saturday (\$2.00), There is a Solution Group (\$77.00), Wellspring Recovery Group (\$99.72), Rush Hour Serenity Group (\$80.00).

TBAIC 2011 Committee Members

Buddy H. - Chair	813-871-2514
Bobby B. Alternate Chair	813-415-4961
Brian B. Treasurer	813-361-5884
Wayne H.— Alternate Treasurer	813-465-1462
John O. – Secretary	813-263-4998
Dick D. - Hills Jails - Emeritus	813-254-4423
Paul D. – Hillsborough County Jail	727-385-5529
Nancy B.— Hills Women's Jails	813-872-0262
Joh D. - Detox	813-526-5106
Michele C.—HCI Women's Prison	813-294-0806
Sandy B. - E Pasco Jail-Women's	813-727-1415
Chris D. - E Pasco Prison	813-857-5400
Rob T.—Treatment	813-453-6059
Michele S.— Women's Bridge TheGap	813-507-5796
Joel C.— Men's Bridge The Gap	813-525-8033
Robert - Pre-Release	616-808-0463
Joel C.— Juvenile	813-525-8033

Treasurer's Report – January 1st, 2012

Year to Date Income Including 2010 Year End Balance	\$3,861.31
Less Prudent Reserve	- \$ 500.00
Less YTD Literature	- \$2,000.00
Less YTD Expenses	- \$139.95
Pink Can Current Balance	\$1,501.26
Spending Account Balance Including 2010 Year End Balance	\$1,817.80

We Could Blow the Whole Thing..from page 1

returned home, and placed the call. The operator and I listened to the recording: "The number you have reached is not in service at this time." My shock was indescribable. A verifying operator obtained the same message, and I hung up. Now, for the first time, I was genuinely afraid. There was obviously something really wrong, and I wasn't sure I knew what to do. Funny, all I could think of was that old saw "Don't drink, and go to meetings." What a laugh! Later, I turned the car in at the airport and boarded a plane for home, arriving late that evening. Naturally, the first thing I did when I was settled in with my family was to get on the phone to some of my AA friends. There was no one home anywhere I called, and I felt the oddest sensation. I was suddenly in the Twilight Zone. Everything I knew about the AA program, all the tools I'd been using for the past few years, were suddenly gone! The next morning I was out early, and I drove to the roadside coffeehouse that had become the unofficial AA club. It had always provided an all-day meeting, of sorts, and surely there someone could tell me what was going on. There was only one car in the parking lot. I walked inside, and I saw only George T., who owned the place, sitting at the end of the counter. He greeted me warmly. "Well, hello, buddy. Where've you been? It's been an age since I've seen you!" I shook his hand eagerly but decided to skip the small talk. "George, what's going on?" I began at the beginning and told him of all the strange things that had happened to me. George never really changed expression, and when I finished my tale, he just looked at me. Then, staring into his coffee, he said, "Y'know, buddy, I'll bet you're the last guy on earth to hear the news, and I'm sure sorry I gotta be the one to tell you. It's all over, buddy--AA is just a figment of your alcoholic imagination now. It's all gone." I stared at him. "What are you saying?" "Just that, buddy. There is no more AA--not here, not anywhere!" "But--but how can that be?" I stammered. "Well now, that's a long story," George said, like a man retelling something for the umpteenth time. "It was a case of benign neglect, I guess you could say. Sort a slow, like a cancer, it was. You know, there was always lots a groups--thousands of them--and folks to carry the message all over the place. And that GSO office in New York to send out stuff. Who'd ever think a thing like that could just fall apart? But y'know, buddy, that's just what it did. It just went to seed and died," I couldn't speak. I just stared openmouthed at George. After a minute, he went on. "I guess it was in the spring, just after you left on that trip of yours, that we got a letter from New York appealing to all AAs for help. They said it felt like they were under attack from all sides, and the structure was beginning to fall apart. That rash of anonymity breaks, y'know, that started last fall--and that national telethon didn't help, with all those AAs getting their faces on TV. Seems like all our friends at the churches just started closing out our meetings faster than we could get new places. Didn't want any part of the 'new AA,' they said! "Then, in April, there was that last General Service Conference. Boy, it must've been something! See, there was this bloc of delegates that got together, nobody seemed to know how, and just took over! They said it was about time the real group conscience had its day. Threw out the whole board of trustees and did over the whole general service structure. Yep—they really did it, vote by vote. What a bunch of super salesmen! Of course, they were only the tip of the iceberg. It turned out they had a regular

(next column ↑)

We Could Blow the Whole Thing..continued

organized bunch of drunks all over the country. "Well, the rest was predictable. Before you could blink, they sent out a long 'restructure bulletin' from this new World AA Office, and they laid down a whole set of rules and new procedures, and began to badger the groups for pretty heavy 'donations.' In a few weeks, almost a third of all the groups in the whole Fellowship had already folded. They died like flies! The rest were all confused and couldn't cope with the load, plus all the bickering that broke out. Finally, I guess everybody just gave up. There've been some halfhearted attempts around town to keep it going, on an independent basis--y'know, in homes, here at the club--but believe me, it just ain't the same, if you know what I mean. Nobody feels like a part of anything anymore." I was stunned. When I finally found my voice, I said, "George, what happened to the Traditions? That's why we had the Twelve Traditions!" George blinked. "The Twelve what?" he asked. . . .Of course, it's all a fantasy. I'm not even a mining engineer. And one thing I've learned in AA is not to be an alarmist. Still, around the groups I attend, it does seem that we AAs sometimes get a little funny about the Traditions. That's what prompted me to wonder: What would happen if we all decided to let somebody else safeguard these twelve foundation stones? If you woke up one morning, and found there was simply no more AA, where would that leave you? Yeah, that's the feeling I got, too.

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**HISTORY OFFERS GOOD LESSON FOR A.A.
 continued from page One**

among the older organizations. Some of them plumped for total abstinence as a rule of conduct; others hedged and wanted to direct their efforts against use of spirituous liquors, accepting use of wines and beers as normal conduct. Some of the more hardy souls already were clamoring for legislation that would outlaw the traffic in beverage alcohol. All of these factions pulled and hauled on the society's members. Older temperance organizations were finding it increasingly difficult to interest the public in their aims. The Washingtonians with their unique methods - their missionary work among drunkards, their open-air parades and mass meetings, their "experience" programs that afforded a thrill-seeking public the opportunity of enjoying vicariously the degenerate experiences of sodden sinners - were stealing the show. The older organizations borrowed Washingtonian speakers and methods to draw larger audiences to their meetings. Because the Washingtonian movement, in its beginnings, was concerned only with the reclaiming of drunkards and held that it was none of its affair if others used alcohol who seemed to be little harmed by it, the makers and sellers of alcoholic beverages looked upon the new movement with a tolerant, even approving eye. The habitual drunk was no more welcome in the nineteenth century grog-shop than he is in the present day cocktail lounge.

ONE FATAL OMISSION But in its zeal to increase its membership as rapidly as possible, the society pledged many persons to total abstinence who were intemperate drinkers, probably, .

(go to page 6)

NOTES FROM INSIDE THE CENTRAL OFFICE

January 10th, 2012 the Board of Directors for Central Office met:		
BOARD MEMBERS		REPRESENTING GROUP
AL B.	CHAIRPERSON	MORNING MIRACLES GROUP
BRETT B.	VICE-CHAIR	164 GROUP WESLEY CHAPEL
STAN P.	TREASURER	INTO ACTION GROUP
WILLOW W.	BOARD MEMBER	SWAMP GROUP
GAIL F.	BOARD MEMBER	SOBER ON SATURDAY GROUP
LOIS M.	BOARD MEMBER	BACK TO BASICS GROUP
JIM M.	BOARD MEMBER	TAMPA PALMS BIG BOOK GP.
ROB L.	BOARD MEMBER	THE MEETING PLACE GROUP
OPEN	BOARD MEMBER	
OPEN	BOARD MEMBER	

Al opened the meeting in the usual matter by asking everyone to turn down their cell phones followed by the Serenity Prayer. Rob read the December minutes. There was no discussion. Stan presented the Treasurers report noting that we had come out \$275.00 to the good for the month. We were still over \$1800.00 in the red for the year. Stan followed by noting that our cost of sales was around 4.2% lower than last year and should good at some of the things we are doing this year compared to last year to look to where we can cut some expenses and live within our budget rather than continue to keep asking groups for more money. Willow asked, "are you saying our expenses have increased more than last year?" Stan, "looking at total expenses-only around \$1500.00 more than last year." Willow, "that sounds pretty reasonable with the cost of expenses." Stan, "may have to raise prices." Much discussion followed. Some ideas tossed around were price increases on the present material at the office, reducing the 20% discount at the Board & Council meeting and possibly cutting out Saturdays when the Office is open. Al suggested that some of the Board members get together in a few weeks at the Central Office to discuss these ideas and others at that time. This was agreed to do on the 21st of January. It was noted that any updates to the Anniversary Dinner would be discussed at the Council meeting. Jim asked if the Treasurers report had ever been approved? It was then seconded and approved. Rob asked how the budget report is produced. Jim asked about the base cost of running the Office. More discussion followed about the cost of operating the Office. Al was asked about the Inventory Day. Not many here but finished around 1:30pm. In New Business, Al asked if anyone had any tickets or money to turn in from Anniversary Ticket sales.

At the Council Meeting we were introduced to some of our newest Council Members: Laura LB from the Tampa Bay Speaker Group, Tina C. from the Serenity Group, Donna L. from the Sunshine Group, Christa G. from the Sober @ 7 Group and Pam C. from the Safe Haven Group. After the usual reading of minutes and reports, Al when over the details with the different Committees for the Anniversary Dinner making sure everyone was prepared for the February event. Not everyone was present but it looks like everything is covered. Al also asked if anyone had tickets or money to turn in from the Ticket sales. Discussion moved into the Founders Day event. Much discussion on what type of meeting format to followed, would would get as speakers, what to serve, cost, etc. Tim has the First Edition 11th Printing Big Book to use

January 10th, 2012 the Central Office Representatives met:
COUNCIL MEMBERS REPRESENTING GROUP

VIVIAN J.	FREEDOM IN SOBRIETY GROUP
GENE M.	LIVE & LET LIVE GROUP
BILL S.	OLD SCHOOL GROUP
TERRY F.	PRIMARY PURPOSE GROUP
RAY D.	CARDINAL GROUP
TRISH R.	LUNCH BUNCH GROUP
CHRISTOPHER T.	MONDAY NITE MADNESS GROUP
LORIE J.	REFLECTIONS GROUP
JOHN G.	TAMPA PALMS BIG BOOK GROUP
BERNIE H.	FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP
CHRISTA C.	EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP
DONNA L.	SUNSHINE GROUP
MARTY CASTRO	LIFE ENRICHMENT GROUP
CHRIS B.	NIGHTLY NEWCOMERS GROUP
LAURA LB	TAMPA BAY SPEAKER GROUP
BRANT W	164 GROUP WESLEY CHAPEL
MARTIN S.	SOBRENITY GROUP
WES M.	SOLUTIONS GROUP
BILL J.	EARLY RISERS GROUP
CHRISTA G.	SOBER @ 7 GROUP
JIM VK	CARROLLWOOD NS GROUP
ARLENE S.	LIVING IN THE SOLUTION GROUP
CARLOS G.	LIVING IN THE SOLUTION GROUP
DAVID M.	SERENITY GROUP
TINA C.	SERENITY GROUP
PAM C.	SAFE HAVEN GROUP
BONNIE C.	SUND-AA MATINEE

as the main raffle item for the event. Tickets are \$5.00 each and you do not have to be present at the event to win. Currently, the only place to purchase tickets will be at the Central Office until after the February Anniversary Dinner. Several of the groups had announcements and these can be seen on the Events page of our web site:

www.aatampa-area.org

Do You Have A Subscription To Our Newsletter "Tri-County Central Office News"? Why Not???-For \$5.00 You Will Receive 12 Issues. The "News" Is One Of The Few Ways Central Office Can Reach Our Individual Members. "Tri-County Central Office News" is a monthly newsletter of AA in Hillsborough and East Pasco County and the Tri-County Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is about, by and for members of the AA Fellowship. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to AA as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply any endorsement by either AA or the Tri-County Central Office. Still only \$ 5.00

ANNIVERSARY TIME

GROUP	Honors To	Date	Years
MIDDAY MATINEE GROUP	PATTI L.	02/08/77	35 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	BARBARA R.	02/07/07	5 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	RAY C.	02/23/04	8 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	JOYCE Q.	02/03/03	9 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	HALA L.	02/04/02	10 YRS
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP	KIMBERLY T.	02/14/08	4 YRS
INTO ACTION GROUP	PAULA B.	02/03/81	31 YRS
EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP	LINDA L.	02/28/01	11 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	CHRIS R.	02/04/10	2 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	JOHNNY G.	02/14/09	3 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	STEVE F.	02/13/05	7 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	GEORGE O.	02/20/98	14 YRS
THE DOVER GROUP	MIKE P.	02/01/88	24 YRS
THE DOVER GROUP	TOM N.	02/16/86	26 YRS
JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP	PAZETTA	02/20/02	10 YRS
JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP	KATHY A.	02/23/81	31 YRS
RIVERSIDE GROUP	DANA L.	02/14/07	5 YRS
RIVERSIDE GROUP	RAY B.	02/14/07	5 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	JOYCE Q.	02/03/03	9 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	WENDY M.	02/08/99	13 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	CHRIS W.	02/04/95	17 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	RICK L.	02/16/89	23 YRS

**SELF-SUPPORT-December
 End of the Year Report**

Bottom Line: We had an expense budget of \$94,364.39 for the 2011 year. Our actual expenses were \$96,509.11, leaving us -\$1,851.69 in the red.

© Back in 2004 our annual income was around \$59,000.00 and our annual expenses were around \$54,000.00. Today we have almost doubled both of these amounts. Why? That's easy. More Groups, more people in AA. In 1998 we had 174 Groups in the Hillsborough/East Pasco area. That was 364 meetings per week in our area. Today in December of 2011 we have **228** Groups with **594** meetings a week. Although we have lost some groups in the past year, that's still a lot of meetings and that's still a lot of Groups wanting material. This year to date contributions from Groups (**up to December 2011**) have totaled **\$73,205.75** for the year. That accounts for what **147** Groups in our area have contributed. **147 Groups out of 242**, plus the **94** AA'er's who contributed \$2278.25 in contributions anonymously or to the **20** AA members (\$389.00) who participated in the Birthday Plan or those Groups who put on an **All Groups meeting** or the **Red Chip Day**, or the **Tampa Bay Fall Roundup**, or the **Lake Yale Spring Meeting**, or the **Tampa Bid for FCYPAA**, or the annual **Old School Group Anniversary** or the **Annual Housecleaning Spiritual Retreat** or our annual **Tri-County Central Office Anniversary** or the **Soberstock** music & recovery event or any other fund raiser in order to help raise some funds for Central Office. Our Literature sales have also generated **\$78,281.73** of income to date. We here at Central Office know that those **147** Groups have always given to help Central Office and always will and we **Thank You** for your constant support and we **Thank** all of you who would rather buy your literature here than to order from other vendors. We are not trying to squeeze you for more money. We know we can always count on you. We just wanted to bring some awareness of our situation to those who may be new to A.A. or new to being a Treasurer or Trusted Servant to their Group or to those who do not understand what the 7th Tradition and Self-Supporting means. We apologize to those who have come in to the Office and we were out of the material you were expecting to be able to purchase. After cashing in an \$11,000.00 CD which was part of our Prudent Reserve, we have tried to maintain enough stock to ensure that we have plenty on hand, but we still occasionally run out of stuff. It's the nature of the beast...as our AA membership continues to grow in the Tampa Bay area, the demand for more and more material continues and we have to try and strive to keep up with the demand. That is only possible with your continued support through your contributions, special events that groups put on for the benefit of Central Office and the literature sales. tws:) Office Manager

Solutions Group & Our Place invites you to a **Superbowl Party**
 February 5th, 2012 4:30pm - Kick-Off @ 6:15pm
 Our Place 1009 Lithia Pinecrest Road Brandon, Florida
 Hamburgers & Hot Dogs provided please bring a side dish

Tampa Bid for FCYPAA presents **Sock Hop and Roll**
 Astro Skate and Fun Center 10001 66th St. N. Pinellas Park, FL 33782
 Time: Feb 11th, 2012 11pm-1am Tickets: \$10.00
 Please try to purchase tickets in advance there is limited space
 For more info call 813 400 3429

SUWANNEE BIG BOOK WEEKEND
March 2nd, 3rd, and 4th 2012
An in depth study of the first one-hundred sixty-four pages of the Big Book. Dowling Park, Florida, which is 12 miles west of Live Oak, Florida, on the Suwannee River.
Registration only (no lodging) per person is: \$20.00 Lodge: 1 Room: 1 or 2 persons \$180.00 Cabins: Per bed \$60.00

For more info (David H.) e-mail suwaneebigbook@yahoo.com

HISTORY OFFERS GOOD LESSON FOR A.A. continued from page 3

but who were not alcoholic in the present-day definition of the term. The Washingtonian movement might have survived, however, might have triumphed over its mistakes, and its enemies (and well wishers), except for one fatal omission. Its organizers believed they could get along without a Higher Power. It wasn't a particularly religious time. And inebriates, then as now, had generally lost touch with Him. Many of them, in fact, were outspoken in their denunciations of all of His works, especially as demonstrated in the activities and attitudes of so-called Christian folk. The meetings of the society's groups were conducted usually without reference to Him. Washingtonians were not atheists; it just hadn't occurred to them that God as we understand Him could help them to stay sober. In fact, some of them believed that if they invited God into their councils, sectarianism also would push its way in, and their movement would be taken over by one or another of the churches. The society wasn't on God's side and, consequently it disintegrated. SOURCE OF STRENGTH An editor of that day wrote: "That the exclusion of all religious forms and the entire abstraction of religion from temperance, was necessary for the reclamation of the drunkard, we have never believed.... The drunkard may have felt hostile to religion while in the barroom and amid the fumes of liquor, and he may feel so after he has reformed and been taught to believe that he is better than a Christian, but never did a poor drunkard go up in sincerity to sign the pledge, without feeling himself a prodigal, commencing a work of return to his Heavenly Father, and needing that Father's help: and who would not have gratefully knelt and listened to a prayer for that help on his new endeavors. And we believe that if the hundreds of thousands of signatures in our country had been accompanied with prayer and some religious enforcement, their power and efficiency would have been incomparably stronger." Is it necessarily true that there's nothing new under the sun," or that "history repeats itself?" A.A. is new, a new partnership with God in a useful endeavor. History NEED NOT repeat, in the case of A.A., the sorry story of the Washingtonians, rise and fall. There are, however, lessons to be learned from history. C.H.K., Lansing, Mich
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SUND-A.A.-MATINEE...Every Sunday @ 2:00 pm at The Club 3333 West Columbus Drive
Movies, popcorn, sodas & coffee **\$2.00 suggested donation**
All proceeds go to purchase literature for newcomers
Line-up of February Movies
February 5-Everything Must Go
February 12-You Kill Me
February 19-God As We Understand Him
February 26-Bill & Dr. Bob

SOBERSTOCK 8
Unity, Recovery, Music,
March 16th-18th, 2012

Complete Details: <http://www.soberstock.com/index.html>

MORE NEWS AROUND THE TOWN & THE AREA



The 164 USF GROUP
Wednesday, Feb 1, 2012 @ 7PM
Bill O. – AA History Presentation-
The Forwards & the Doctors Opinion
Wednesday, Feb 8, 2012 @ 7PM
Ray G – AA History Presentation-
Chapel Center
USF 12850 N 50th St Tampa, FL
33617

This kicks off 164USF's trip together as a group through the basic text of the AA Big Book. This is not a reading meeting, 164 USF is a Solution Based Meeting....Often considered a 'back to basics AA' format. We want to learn from each other how the Big Book impacts our lives. Come share with others what was shared so freely with you. The first week will be on AA History. Bill O. will give a presentation on the Forwards & the Doctors Opinion. February 8th will have Ray G., Archivist at Dr. Bob's Home with present a History of AA. Ray G. and his wife Ginny have a home in Newton Falls, Ohio, and also spend their winters in Seminole, Florida. Ray is the archivist at Dr. Bob's Home in Akron. For many years, Ray has been collecting, organizing, and displaying all kinds of A.A. Historical materials at such places as Archives 2000 in Minneapolis, Joe and Charlie Big Book Seminars, state and area A.A. conferences, and A.A. History Conferences. When Ray and Ginny appear, the collection is there for all to see, read, and have explained—even during the busy Founders Day period in Akron. The work is extensive and important.

GREAT EVENTS WILL COME TO PAST
Celebrating the 77th Anniversary of Alcoholics

Anonymous
June 8-10, 2012
Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel
111 West Fortune Street
Tampa, FL. 33602
813-223-1351
"What We Were Like"
"What Happened"
&
"WHAT We Are Like Now"
Presented by: Sandy B., Tampa, FL.
Bob B., St. Paul, MN
For Info:
<http://www.leestapesandcds.com/events/Great-Events-Tampa-2012.pdf>

ANNUAL HOUSECLEANING
Spiritual Retreat for A.A. & Al-Anon
March 9-11, 2012
Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center
39034 County Road Leesburg, FL. 34788
For Info: <http://www.retreatforaa-alanon.com/>

Group	DEC	Y T D	Group	DEC	Y T D	Group	DEC	Y T D
11th Step Meeting- Christ King		300.00	Just What I Wanted Big Book		85.94	Saturday Night Candlelight	11.00	44.84
11th Step Meeting - SCC			It's In the Book Group		215.00	Saturday Night Fever Group		650.00
11th Step Meeting--Sun City			Keep It Simple/Pass It On R.		370.93	Saturday Night Live Group		260.00
12 Steps to Growth Group		200.00	Keep It Simple - YANA	75.00	612.50	Serenity Group MLK		65.47
164 Group		171.00	Keep It Simple Group (Dade)			Sisters in Sobriety Group		162.00
A.A. 101 Group		461.29	Keystone Group	260.00	1535.00	Sober @ 7 Group	174.69	653.62
All Groups--Safe Haven	1,403.16	2,231.16	Kingsway Group			Sober on Saturday Group		1343.30
Anniversary/Old School Gp.		1,050.00	Lake Yale Spring Meetings	2,000.00	2000.00	Sober on Sunday Group		420.00
Alpha Group	10.00	220.00	LateNighters Group	67.68	347.50	SOBERSTOCK		1300.00
Anniversary Dinner 2011		2679.70	Lemon Tree Group		437.00	Sobrenity Group	40.94	568.96
Anniversary Dinner 2012		50.00	Life Enrichment Group		281.99	Softball Tournament / CO		1257.60
Annual Housecleaning Retreat		100.00	Little Red Book Group			Solutions Group	472.29	1719.91
Anonymous Donations	53.40	2,278.55	Live and Let Live Group		1220.39	Southshore Men's Group		193.00
As Bill Sees It--Brandon	200.00	750.00	Living in the Solution Group	150.00	1211.50	Southside Men's Group		710.00
As Bill Sees It Mens -Odessa	374.21	1,040.52	Living Sober/As Bill Sees It		264.00	Southside Men's Group # 2		360.00
Attitude of Gratitude Group		400.00	Lunch Bunch Group		100.00	Southside Men's Group # 3		70.00
Back to Basics Group - Tampa		312.50	Mainly Sober Group - Zhills			Spiritual Development Group	100.00	250.00
Barracks Brigade Group	50.00	550.00	Mac Dill Group		10.00	Spiritual Growth Group		375.00
Bel-Mar Group		85.15	Mid Day Matinee Group		2998.40	Spiritual Progress Goup		
Beginners Step Group		150.00	Monday Nite Madness 3333		125.00	Step Sisters in Sobriety		92.95
Bill D's Group		309.00	Morning Express Group		661.42	Step at a Time Group		726.00
BIRTHDAY PLAN		389.00	Morning Group - Zephyrhills		100.00	Stepping Stones Group (w)		133.00
Brandon Men's Blackbelt Mt.		65.00	Morning Meditation Meeting	3.04	3.04	Sun City Center Group	125.00	785.00
Brandon Sat. Night Group			Morning Miracles Group		899.70	Sunday Afternoon Meeting		234.00
Brandon Tues. Big Book Grp		151.00	My Turn Group		400.00	Sunday Speakers - 3333	80.00	960.00
BYO 12 & 12 Group		261.90	New Beginnings - Brandon		702.00	Sunshine Group		1040.00
Came To Believe Group		625.00	New Beginnings Women's	10.05	39.40	Tampa Bay Fall Roundup		500.00
Cardinal Group - Odessa		1,432.73	New Beginnings-(5:45)Joe's	188.64	1979.13	Tampa Bay Speakers Group		150.03
Carrollwood NS Group		455.60	Newcomers Group (Joe's Club)		140.08	Tampa Bay Young Peoples		1180.54
Chancey Road AA Group		187.00	New Day Group	26.00	306.36	Tampa Bid for FCYPAA	56.35	56.35
Clair-Mel Positive Thinkers Gp.		200.00	New Way Women's Group			Tampa Palms Big Book		521.34
Dade City Step Group			Noon AA Group Brandon			Tampa Palms Men's Group		304.34
Design for Living Grp - Joe's			Noon Big Book Group		649.18	Temple Terrace Men's Group		50.00
District 2 General Service			Nooners Group--Riverview		80.50	TGIS Women's Group	214.64	412.64
Dover Group		70.60	Nooners Group--Tampa		339.00	Thank God it's Friday Group	50.00	75.00
Druid Hills Group			Noontime Celebration Group		650.00	The 164 Group		90.00
Early Risers Group - Joe's		311.96	North Brandon Open Forum		20.00	The Day Before Group		1.00
Easy Does It Group	13.02	13.02	Northdale Group		97.50	The Meeting Place Group	152.80	461.40
Expect a Miracle Group		357.00	Odessa Group		456.30	The Next Frontier Group	195.00	390.00
Fill the Gap Group		130.53	Old School Group		682.50	There is a Solution Group		
Fireside Group		41.00	Oldtimer's Group - Joe's Club		162.50	There is a Solution Group 3333		
Freedom in Sobriety Group		105.51	On the Way Home -Tampa 5:30		869.00	Thurs. AM Discusion Group		12.44
Friday Night AA @ 8 Group			One Day at a Time Group		230.00	Town & Country Sisters in Sobriety		225.00
Friday Night Lights Group		1,006.85	One Day at a Time Mtg.		75.00	Town & Country Wed. Group		139.50
Friday Women's Friendship	200.00	230.00	Palma Ceia Group	0.97	322.70	Tuesday Night Big Book Study		140.55
Gifts of Sobriety Group		479.00	Palma Ceia 12 Step Group		200.00	Tuesday Serenity Group		
Good Day AA Group			Palma Ceia Big Book Study	200.00	1100.00	Turning Point Group -Z-Hills		525.00
Good Start Group - YANA			Pass It On Group - Plant City			Uptown/Downtown Group		80.00
Happy Hour Group Brandon		62.63	Pilgrim Group - St Leo's Univ.		150.00	Valrico Fri. Morning Group		395.00
Happy Hour Group YANA		100.00	Plank Owners Group		100.00	Valrico/Brandon Wed. Night Group	91.84	241.84
Harbor Lights Group		21.00	Primary Purpose Group		121.75	Village 12 Step Group		370.89
Helping Hands Gp.-Plant City		135.00	Promises Meeting		80.00	Warrior's Group		1.34
Hide-A-Way Group		150.00	Prosperity AA Group	174.00	304.00	Weedpatch Group		100.00
High Nooners Group	200.00	1750.00	Red Chip Day Donation		267.45	Wellspring Group		195.21
Higher Learning Group			Red Door Group		100.00	Wednesday Night Step Workshop	156.00	156.00
Hour Glass Group		25.00	Reflections Group-Lake Mag		275.00	Wesley Chapel Group		710.00
I.D.A.A.			Riverside Group		537.60	West Side Winners Group		50.00
In the Wind Group		32.05	Riverview Sisterhood in Sobriety		36.25	With Room to Grow Group		1000.00
Into Action Group		10.00	Rush Hour Serenity Group		1260.95	Women's Friendship Group		533.74
It's in the Book Men's Group		215.00	Ruskin Fellowship Group		800.00	Women's Perspective Conference		34.09
Just for Today Group			Safe Haven Group		366.70			
TOTAL	2,503.79		TOTAL	3155.38		TOTAL	1920.55	
	YTD TOTAL	22,352.25		YTD TOTAL	27380.16		YTD TOTAL	23477.89
						Grand Total for Month	7579.72	
						Grand Total for Year		73210.30