



Tri-County Central Office News

Spring is right a round the corner

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

March 2013

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FROM HERE TO SERENITY

After observing and questioning and making constant efforts of my own for over five years in AA, I have come to the conclusion that nobody has serenity as a constant thing. But in AA, living by AA principles, we can and do gain serenity for periods of time; and these periods can be increasingly frequent and last longer and longer. Through AA, I have found a loving God. Seeking more and more to improve my conscious contact with Him, I have seen His miracles of help for me and for others. I have gained a faith that works wonders in practical matters. And I have improved in my personality in many ways. But do not in all ways. Not completely. I can be sitting in the bathtub, lose the soap under water, and, if I don't find it right away, blister the porcelain off the tub with sudden temper. I sit in judgment on others lots of times. And many's the occasion I think I am smart enough to run my life myself again and so louse up my day with failures and tensions. Other days, I remember and apply my AA principles and enjoy a serenity far beyond anything I ever knew. So it goes with all the other AAs, who have been in a while, that I have questioned or heard talk on the subject. It adds up...we're only human. For thirty-some years I built into my subconscious mind deep habit patterns of phoney thinking and phoney emotional reactions. It is going to take time to replace those phoney patterns with the healthy, genuine habits of AA. Meanwhile, I am far from 100% efficient. Mistakes will keep on being made. I will try to accept these in good spirit and *admit to the truth in my AA talks*. This will keep me off the pedestal and maybe will encourage some other guy who is discovering his humanity and mistaking it for special frailty. I think honest inventory will keep me from striking phoney poses on any serenity pedestal. The trouble is I sometimes forget to take the honest inventory. Then, I get to thinking that I'm brilliant, virtuous, know more than anybody else and, in all, am a pretty perfect guy, if only others realized it. But I'm lucky. I'm married. I get home and my wife says, "You're shirt-tail's out. And did you mail those letters? And, oh yes—you went out this morning with odd socks on." She thinks it is just wonderful how I keep getting the right shoes on the right feet. So there you are. How can you go on being a genius and the Perfect Man when you're the kind of guy who goes around with his shirt-tail out, forgets to mail letters, and wears odd socks? No. Taking serenity as an absolute term, I'd say I only have a little of it now and then. Of course, compared to the hell of anxiety which was all I ever knew in my drinking days, what I have now is terrific gain—but it is small measured against what can be. One thing is sure: going to lots of AA meetings and day by day seeking new and better ways to be comfortable, I won't be very likely to take that Drink Number One.

B.R., Baltimore, Md.

Permission to Reprint/ AA Grapevine/ March 1954

TURNING IT OVER

I reached the Third Step after trying to understand the first two. I had reflected on the First—I can't handle alcohol. In the Second, I had come to believe, slowly, in a Power that could restore me to sanity. Since I now did believe, it seemed a sensible idea to turn myself over completely to this Power. My own way of living had proved a disaster. Now I was willing to try the way of Someone Else. Doing that isn't complicated. If I have a toothache, I turn my problem over to a dentist. I don't question him; I know that he is not going to drill a hole in my shoulder, that his knowledge and skill will end the toothache. The idea of turning to someone more competent than I can apply to multiple areas. In their fields, the doctor, lawyer, CPA, plumber, butcher, and so on are all greater powers than I. Only my ingrown pride, arrogance, and conceit could deter me from admitting this. So now I made a decision to turn my will and life over to God, as I understood Him. There was no defensible reason for quibbling; I knew I should just try turning it over, and shut up. But then I asked myself: How? It wasn't enough to say the Third Step aloud, then sit back and wait for miracles. At first, I thought that since I was generously turning my life over, the Higher Power should quickly turn something over in return. The possibility that the Power, in taking such control, might cancel my free will and options (which I thought I cherished) didn't occur to me at that point. Time brought a little common sense. Some strictly one-day-at-a-time way of turning it over must be found. It took a lot of meditation to reach the concept I hold today: Only one day need (or can) be tackled. Each day when I wake, I am guided by a set of conditions that outline what I must do, or ought to do, in the normal course. These might include going to work, or working at home, or caring for the children. The conditions are different for each person. Since the Higher Power isn't going to write out instructions or give audible directions, I will have to proceed as best as I am able. Since I have free will, and certain duties have been laid out for me, I can either tackle them or rebel. The mother of several brats, or the guy whose boss just sneered at him, may feel free to rush out and board a bus to Seattle. But all history proves that those who run out on others, who quit cold in the clutch, whose collars get a bit tight, eventually pay a high price one way or another. It seems I must try to do the things that come along in the course of just one day. If I try to live one hour or one instant at a time, and do my best at each task with a cheerful and serene attitude, I believe I am implementing fully the spirit of the Third Step. I am turning my will and life over by doing all that has been placed within my reach today, which is apparently what He wants. No longer am I letting self-will and selfishness run riot. This is how I try to put myself to work on the Third Step. Others may in other ways try the same thing, groping for answers as I must do. I am a mediocre student and must think slowly and carefully. But with daily practice, my habit of reflection will become easier and at length constant, like breathing. And as Bill W. said, far from preventing anyone from exercising free will, such a daily effort of turning over everything in full trust will help lead to "those sterling qualities which can add up to greatness of spirit and action—true and lasting freedom under God, the freedom to find and do His will.

W.C., Hull, Mass Permission to Reprint/ AA Grapevine/ March 1977

SUPPORT YOUR CENTRAL OFFICE

District 2 - Tampa Bay Area Institutions Committee covering Hillsborough & East Pasco Counties

(877) AATAMPA or (877) 228-2672!

We are not a glum lot! We have fun, at TBAIC, as we practice AA's Twelfth step;/ Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs./ TBAIC is a group of people committed to carrying the message into jails, detoxes and other facilities, and we feel good about giving back what was so freely given to us!

Bobby B is our current committee chair. My name is Janine M, I am an alcoholic and the newly elected alternate chair. I am excited about the opportunity to grow as I learn new and different ways to be of service. I am grateful for this opportunity.

If you haven't heard yet, about Soberstock, check it out at <http://www.soberstock.com/> This year's Soberstock will be held the weekend of March 15th- March 17th 2013. It is an annual AA event that features 3 days of camping, live music, and AA speakers. Proceeds go to support the Tampa Bay Area Institutions Committee and other local AA service entities. You can bring your kids, spouses, your whole family.

Also coming, April 20th, 2013 is our next Keep It Simple Softball Tournament. Our last tournament in October was a huge success. Registration is \$100 per team- must have four females per co-ed softball team. All proceeds go to TBAIC. Please remember that the cut off date for sending in your registration fee and information will be April 15th, 2013 and make your checks payable to TBAIC. You can drop off your registration at Tri-County Central Office, Inc. or call Buddy at 871-2514. We hope to see a lot of teams signed up!

Anyone looking to get active in AA can give one of the coordinators a call or come by our next meeting on the 2nd Saturday in March, 9:30 am, at Tri-County Central Office.
 In love and service,
 Janine M

Treasurer's Report – 02, 2013

YTD Pink Can Balance 02/13	\$ 2,516.00
Pink Can Balance December 31, 2012	\$ 881.73
Total Received –01 — 2013	\$ 3,898.33
Less Prudent Reserve	- \$ 500.00
Total Moved to Spending Account	- \$ 2,500.00
Total Paid-Operational Expense	- \$ 167.10
Pink Can Current Balance	\$ 731.23

Our Next Committee Meeting

Is at 9:30 AM on March 2nd, 2013 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 De-tox/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:

As Bill Sees It (\$42.92) Came to Believe (\$65.00) Experience, Strength & Hope (\$25.00) Freedom in Sobriety (\$67.32) Live & Let Live (\$82.00) Living in the Solution (\$17.83) Midday Matinee (\$237.00) Morning Meditation (\$61.00) Noon Big Book (\$138.00) Riverside (\$19.00) Sisters in Sobriety (\$26.55) Sober on Saturday(\$13.84) There is a Solution (\$32.00) Wellspring (\$54.02)

TBAIC 2012-2013 Committee Members

Bobby B. - Chair	813-415-4961
Janine M. Alternate Chair	813-455-6617
Ryan L.. Treasurer	813-230-3952
OPEN – Secretary	
Dick D. - Hills Jails - Emeritus	813-254-4423
OPEN – Hillsborough County Jail	
Nancy B.— Hills Women's Jails	813-872-0262
Ron G. - Detox & Treatment	813-802-1324 813-297-5112
Cathleen C. - E Pasco Jail-Women's	813-727-1415
Chris D. - E Pasco Prison	813-857-5400
Michele S. Women's Bridge The Gap	813-507-5796
Joel C.— Men's Bridge The Gap	813-965-5836
OPEN- Pre-Release	
Joel C.— Juvenile	813-965-5836

MORE EVENTS AROUND TOWN

SUWANNEE BIG BOOK WEEKEND

March 1st, 2nd, and 3rd 2013

The Conference and Retreat Center
Dowling Park, Florida

An in depth study of the first one-hundred sixty-four pages of the Big Book will be moderated by Willie S., Larry H. and Matthew C.

at Dowling Park, which is 12 miles west of Live Oak, on the Suwannee River.

To register or more Info--Contact: David H.
Phone number 727-204-6444

e-mail: suwaneebigbook@yahoo.com



Annual Housecleaning Spiritual Retreat for AA and Al-Anon

Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center
39034 County Road 452
Leesburg, Florida 34788

March 1-3, 2013

For Complete Info: www.retreatforaa-alanon.com

District 2 Archives

Presents: FRIDAY NITE MOVIES

Bill W. Movie

Date: Friday March-1-2013

Time: 9:30 pm
OXFORD EXCHANGE

420 W. Kennedy - Tampa.

Upstairs - Bernard Shaw Library

Parking - On Grand Central.

Tickets-Suggested Donation \$5.00.

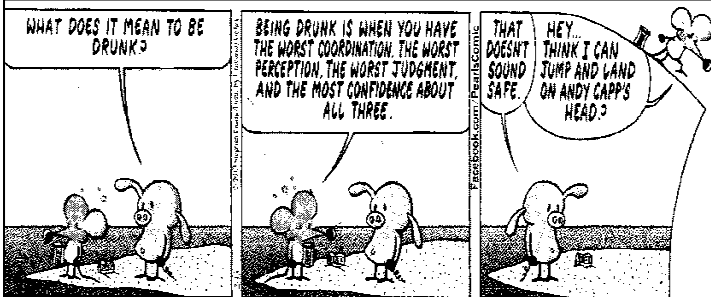
Concession - Popcorn, Sodas, H2O,

Candy, & Homemade Brownies.

Concession Opens - 9:00pm.

Movie Starts - 9:30pm.

All Proceeds Benefit Archive National Workshop
Trip To Springfield, Il.



Lio by Mark Tatulli

SOBERSTOCK 2013

An annual event of recovery including AA speakers, Live Bands, Free Food, Camping, Fellowship & Fun!!!

FRIDAY--SUNDAY--MARCH 15th, 16th & 17th, 2013

For Complete Details: www.soberstock.com

**2nd Annual St. Patrick's Day
Open All Groups Meeting**

Saturday, March 9th, 2013

Dinner starts 5:30 PM

Meeting at 7:15 PM



Guest Speaker: Mary L.

Special Anniversary Extravaganza

As Mary celebrates 40 years Sober

50/50 Raffle's

Only 100 tickets available for

\$15 Dinner contribution

Catered

Shepherd's Pie

Sides, Beverages & Deserts

Sponsored by:

Keystone Discussion Group

Proceeds donated to Central Office

Limited Dinner Tickets available
from Home Group members & Central Office

Keystone United Methodist Church

16301 Racetrack Road, Odessa 33556

Regular Meeting: Tuesday's 7:30 PM

Contact Al G. (813)843-2729



**The Friday Night Lights Group
4th Anniversary Celebration & Ice Cream**

Social to benefit Central Office

Friday, April 19th 2013

SPEAKER MEETING

7:30 P.M.

Sandy B.

Tampa, Florida

Ice Cream Social Immediately Following the Meeting
All contributions this night go to support Central Office.

Faithworxs Church
202 Flamingo Drive
Apollo Beach, Florida

NOTES FROM INSIDE THE CENTRAL OFFICE

February 12th, 2013 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
EXCUSED	TREASURER	TURNING POINT GROUP
OPEN	BOARD MEMBER	
LOIS M.	BOARD MEMBER	BACK TO BASICS GROUP
OPEN	BOARD MEMBER	
OPEN	BOARD MEMBER	
BRIAN W.	BOARD MEMBER	ODESSA GROUP
J. KELLEY L.	BOARD MEMBER	CLEAN AIR GROUP
JIM McI	BOARD MEMBER	REFLECTIONS GROUP

February 12th 2013 the Central Office Representatives met:
COUNCIL MEMBERS REPRESENTING GROUP

VIVIAN J.	FREEDOM IN SOBRIETY GROUP
ANDREA C.	FRIDAY NIGHT STEP STUDY GROUP
RAY D.	CARDINAL GROUP
JOHN G.	TAMPA PALMS BIG BOOK GROUP
ROB L.	THE MEETING PLACE GROUP
BRIAN L.	HIGH NOONERS GROUP
BONNIE C.	NIGHTLY NEWCOMERS GROUP
LESLIE G.	PROMISES GROUP
BARBARA B.	SISTERS IN SOBRIETY GROUP
JEANNIE A.	OLD SCHOOL GROUP
TERRY F.	PRIMARY PURPOSE GROUP
JOE T.	SOBRIETY AT SUNRISE GROUP
TOM F.	WELLSPRING GROUP
MARK S.	HAPPY HOUR GROUP
PAUL G.	AS BILL SEES IT MEN'S GROUP
JOHN R.	AS BILL SEES IT MEN'S GROUP
MARY S.	RUSH HOUR SERENITY GROUP
CHERYL T.	CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP
DONNA L.	SUNSHINE GROUP
DAVE H.	NOON BIG BOOK GROUP
ALLAN D'H	LIVE & LET LIVE GROUP
TAMMY P.	TOWN & COUNTY SISTERS IN SOBRIETY
JULIE J.	TOWN & COUNTY SISTERS IN SOBRIETY
CHRISTOPHER E.	FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP
CHRISTA G.	SOBER @ 7 GROUP
THOMAS O.	SINCERITY GROUP
MIKE J.	SOLUTIONS GROUP
BILL J.	EARLY RISERS GROUP
STEVE T.	DRUID HILLS GROUP
JOHN F.	SOBRENITY GROUP
BRENT W.	164 GROUP WESLEY CHAPEL

Al opened the Board meeting in the usual matter by asking everyone if they had signed in and to turn down their cell phones. This was followed by the Serenity Prayer. Kelly read the January minutes. There were no questions, motion was made to accept and all were in favor. In lieu of the Treasurers absence, Tim presented the Treasurers report. We started the year off \$1,924.48 above our budget. Tim also made note that in the total sales of the Big Book Raffle, Tickets sales for the Anniversary Dinner, individual Group contributions, 7th Tradition Basket and a Soberstock raffle with everything dating back to September 2012 when we first started raffling tickets, the accumulated total we bought in was around \$3,761.00 before expenses. To date we have around \$934.65 in expenses with an estimated amount of \$400.00 not received yet. Still, all-in-all the Anniversary Dinner was a huge success with over 200 AA members and family in attendance. After the Treasurers report was accepted we moved into Old Business which there was none and then into New Business. New Business was a brief discussion on the upcoming Founders Day event in June. At the Council Meeting we were able to welcome our new Council Members..Andrea from the Friday Night Step Study Group, Joe T. from the Sobriety at Sunrise Group, Jeannie A. from the Old School Group, Mark J. from the Alpha Group, and Paul G. from the As Bill Sees It Men's Group. After all the normal stuff, reading of Minutes and Treasurers Report we moved into Old Business and discussion of the By Law changes. This took up most of the meeting with a lot of heated and somewhat feisty conversation. It was certainly not reflective of how most of our meetings have been conducted in the past. Eventually it was approved by the Council to move forward in making these changes to the By Law changes

Editors Note to all Members: Under the current By-Laws we are required to notify all groups of this action and to inform all groups of a special meeting time and place to hold the vote. The vote to amend the By-Laws will be held at an open meeting on March 12th 2013 at 7:00 pm at the regular Council meeting at Central Office. Any sober member of AA is welcome at this meeting, but only Council members will be allowed to vote. A 3/4% majority vote is needed to change the By-Laws. There will be no further need for discussion at this meeting concerning these changes. The changes to the By Laws have already been previously discussed and voted on by both the Board and the Council. All that will be needed now is either a "yes" or a "no" vote by the Representatives of all affiliated AA groups present at this meeting to be in compliance with Article XIV: A & B of our By Laws : Office Manager ☺

The **Sobrenity Group** will be hosting an
ALL GROUPS MEETING
Sunday March 17th, 2013
Located at: Winn Dixie Plaza
8410 North Armenia Avenue
(corner of Waters & Armenia)
St. Patti's Pot Luck Dinner
(please bring a covered dish to share)
Festivities will start around 1:30 pm after the Noon Meeting
Proceeds will go to the Central Office

This will be a good way to top off your day if you have been out at Soberstock all weekend..

ANNIVERSARY TIME

SELF-SUPPORT-JANUARY 2013

GROUP	Honors To	Date	Years
DOVER GROUP	RICHARD C.	03/06/06	7 YRS
KEYSTONE DISCUSSION GROUP	DONNA L.	03/27/06	7 YRS
KEYSTONE DISCUSSION GROUP	JAY D.	03/15/95	18 YRS
KEYSTONE DISCUSSION GROUP	BOB W.	03/26/92	21 YRS
RIVERVIEW GROUP	BILL S.	03/20/09	4 YRS
RIVERVIEW GROUP	MATT F.	03/12/09	4 YRS
JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP	TRICIA S.	03/18/08	5 YRS
JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP	MELINDA R.	03/03/05	8 YRS
INTO ACTION GROUP	ANGELO M.	03/19/89	24 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY GROUP	STACIE S.	03/16/94	19 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY GROUP	MARY S.	03/12/87	26 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY GROUP	SHARON A.	03/24/77	36 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	SUE H.	03/28/03	10 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	BOB S.	03/28/95	18 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	PHILIP S.	03/18/12	1 YR
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	JOEL E.	03/28/11	2 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	GREG P.	03/09/10	3 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	LINDA H.	03/31/10	3 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	RONALD E.	03/07/07	6 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	JOE McS	03/01/71	42 YRS
THE MEETING PLACE GROUP	MARY L.	03/09/73	40 YRS
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP	KEVIN P.	03/18/09	4 YRS
EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP	TRISH	03/25/10	3 YRS
EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP	RON M.	03/01/06	7 YRS
EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP	RILEY T.	03/19/01	12 YRS
EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP	DARLENE L.	03/18/95	18 YRS
EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP	MICHELE A.	03/28/88	25 YRS
EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP	DIANE I.	03/25/85	28 YRS

A BIRTHDAY CLUB SUPPORTER TO CENTRAL OFFICE
ONE DOLLAR FOR EACH YEAR OF SOBRIETY

Home Group	Honors To	Date	Years
T & C SISTERS IN SOBRIETY	TAMMY P.	01/16/08	5 YRS
LATE-NITERS GROUP	ROBERT L.	04/16/09	4 YRS

Central Office provides a number of services acting as a clearing house for the convenience of members and groups, provides phone service for twelfth step calls and other inquires, helps with the coordination of group activities and keeps track of meeting times and changes and the printing of the schedules. We also edit and print our monthly newsletter. In addition we sell all Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Conference Approved Literature and some other materials requested by our AA members.

☺ 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 January of 2013 we have **215** Groups with **600** 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 and more groups are being formed as we speak. This year to date contributions from Groups (January,2013) have totaled \$6,928.59 for the year. That accounts for what **42** Groups out of 215 Groups in our area have contributed plus the 2 AAer's who contributed \$50.77 in contributions anonymously and and the \$1200.00 we generated from ticket sales, the 7th Tradition Basket and a raffle at our Anniversary Dinner. And the \$117.00 from the 5 members who have participated in the Birthday Plan thus far. Our Literature sales for January bought in \$6,463.89 plus \$15.00 in Newsletter subscriptions. Contributions were \$6,928.59. Our total income for January was \$13,419.72. Our Cost of Goods Sold was \$4,301.56. Subtracting the Cost of Goods Sold from our January income left us with a Gross Profit of \$9,118.16. Our Expenses for January were \$7,193.48. Subtracting our Expenses from our Gross Profit gave us a Net Income of **plus** \$1,924.48 for the month of January. A good way to start the year, but this too shall past ☺As I have stated in the past, 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. 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 and services continue to expand 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. Thanks!

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 Affordable enough to give to those you sponsor.

