



# Tri-County Central Office News

Bill was an agnostic, but some one asked him if he couldn't believe that there was some power bigger than himself—call it God or whatever he liked—that would help him not to drink.

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

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## Are We a Debating Society?

Why do we need a “forum for debate” in Alcoholics Anonymous? Has AA really become a debating society? There was once another group of alcoholics who had much success at helping drunks recover. Many of you know about the Washingtonians. Back in the 1840s they helped hundreds of thousands achieve sobriety. They, too, had one primary purpose—to help the alcoholic who was still suffering. Their program worked. Then they decided to introduce some secondary purposes into their movement. The membership couldn't agree on what these secondary purposes should be. Some thought this, some thought that. Their fellowship started arguing with itself. Unity was gone and pretty soon so was the Washingtonian movement. If we don't learn from history are we doomed to repeat it? Some say yes. In our book, *As Bill Sees It*, Bill said, “Though many of us had to struggle for sobriety, never yet has this Fellowship had to struggle for lost unity. Consequently, we sometimes take this one great gift for granted. We forget that should we lose our unity, the millions of alcoholics who still ‘do not know’ might never get their chance.” From the 1840s to the 1930s millions of alcoholics didn't have a chance because of the failed unity of the Washingtonians. The articles in the Grapevine under the heading “Is AA Changing?” suggest to me that we have a serious unity problem within our Fellowship—member debating against member, in print, in our “meeting in print.” Where has all this confusion come from? Have our Traditions, our very name become obsolete? Our early members, through trial and error and a lot of pain, laid down a set of spiritual principles called the Twelve Traditions so the future generations of AA would not have to go through the same difficult process of finding out what was best for the Fellowship. Let's look at our name. It isn't complicated. Alcoholics Anonymous. It states what we are. Our Preamble is very clear on our purpose, on what we do and what we do not do. And the Traditions—how well they cover what AA is and what AA is not, how we relate within the Fellowship and how we relate to the outside world. We can also refer to *AA Comes of Age*, which explains in depth the history of our three legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service. Do we need to reinvent the wheel? Can our Fellowship survive a major unity break? Would we be able to regroup and get our unity back or would we go the way of the Washingtonians? I do not believe that any one member sets out to destroy AA. Most Tradition breaks occur because members want to improve AA, make it better, more up to date, to keep it moving along in this changing world. But it is our ignorance of what AA really is that is tearing our unity apart. What are the main unity problems that we are hearing throughout our Fellowship today? Some are “How do we introduce ourselves?” and “What do we talk about at a meeting?” No one is trying to hurt AA by introducing themselves as an “alcoholic and addict.” Many of these people are just doing what we tell them to do—get honest—and then we turn around and say don't say this and don't say that! Just introduce yourself as *this*

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## Freedom from Alcohol

Somewhat over thirty-four years ago, I came to the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. I was sick, hurting, angry, and afraid. I remember so well the first meetings, and how I had to sit on my hands trying to control the shaking—how these people came to me, put their hands on my shoulder, and said, “Don't worry, it's going to be all right.” Then they took me aside and said, “We know something you don't know because we have been through it, but if you will do the things we say and accept our help, you will never find it necessary to take another drink.” Then they sat me down and talked about themselves and got me to tell a little bit about me. As we sat and talked back and forth, I soon found that I was the same as them, had been through the same things, been in the same places, hurt myself and others the same way. I thought, “My God, I'm never going to need another drink,” and to this date that has proven to be true. I am grateful that my sponsor was a person who was very well versed in the content of the Big Book and a man who firmly believed in the duties of a sponsor. What this man passed on to me was an understanding of the requirements of sobriety, not the cork in the bottle type we hear so much about, but the real sobriety that comes from practicing the program as it appears in the Big Book—the program that formed the basis of sobriety for our early members and worked so very well for so many years in the Fellowship. Today, however, such is not always the case. Many times new members are simply left to float aimlessly around the meetings, without ever really finding out about the true nature of their illness and more importantly, about recovery. They aren't given the opportunity to share in the program as it really and they aren't given the essential tools for change necessary for permanent sobriety. The problem is further aggravated by the infiltration into meetings of material from programs dealing with non-addictive problems—programs dealing with child abuse, codependency, and other hang-ups. These programs have absolutely nothing to do with sobriety, and as a matter of fact often go in a direction away from the principles of the Twelve Steps. Is it any wonder many of the newcomers are confused, particularly when these things are being brought in by members with some degree of sobriety who should know better? So where does the problem lie? The Big Book hasn't changed. The program in the Big Book hasn't changed. What has changed is that the message being transmitted at many meetings doesn't accurately reflect the principles of our primary purpose and the message we are asked to carry in our Twelfth Step, the message of having had a spiritual awakening as *the* result of working the Steps. All right then, what is the solution? There isn't any sense running from pillar to post, ranting and raving about how AA is going to hell in a hand basket, because all that happens is the creation of a lot of doubt and unrest. But there are things that can be done. As an individual I can't control many of the things that are changing but I can help ensure that if there are changes, they will be positive. For example, in a garden we

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

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

**(Special note: TBAIC literature is available for distribution at the TBAIC meeting which is usually held the second Saturday of each month or the 4th Thursday of the month from 5:50 pm to 6:50 pm at the Tri-County Central Office.)**

The January 16th meeting of TBAIC was opened by Susan O. leading the "Serenity Prayer".

Buddy reported to Susan that all is well with the men's meetings at Falkenburg and Orient Jails.

Nancy B. has one new volunteer and the women's meetings at Falkenburg are being covered and there have been no problems.

Tom F. presented the Treasurer's Report. Collections from the previous month were \$2,161.00 and \$1,450.00 was spent on literature. A check from Steps to Freedom's New Year's Eve fundraiser is expected soon. He reminded the committee that he is rotating out of the Treasures position by December 2016 and that it was important to remember that the proper documents have to be continuously submitted to maintain TBAIC tax exempt status.

Ruth N. has 3 new volunteers to help with the meetings at the E. Pasco County women's facility. The new program director inquired about meetings at the men's facility. Since the men's facility is outside TBAIC's area, Ruth will check with the coordinator from that area about coverage for the men's facility and to offer our assistance if needed.

Jim S. received one call for Bridge the Gap requesting information. He received an email from Anita for four possible Bridge the Gap rides next week.

In new business, since TBAIC is no longer on District 2's website, Jim S. found that it would cost approximately \$300.00 per year to maintain a website that would be dedicated to TBAIC only. Sylvia L. volunteered to assist in publishing the website and will gather ideas on what information should be on the website. She would also be able to include an area available only to committee members, accessed by a password.

Jim S. also mentioned that Soberstock could use some volunteers from TBAIC.

Buddy H. is planning on putting together another softball tournament, in early May, if he is able to get a permit issued by the county. The cost would be \$100.00 per team, the same as last year.

ACTS (Drew Park Amethyst Respite Center) is requiring volunteers to have at least one year of sobriety. The facility is also discontinuing the 10:30 am meeting. The one year sobriety requirement is for all ACTS facilities.

Susan O. gave a quick overview of the topics covered at the recent district assembly meeting in Sarasota. The next assembly meeting will be in St. Petersburg.

"Today my actions consist of service and gratitude."  
 (A.A. In Prison Inmate To Inmate, Pg. 37)

**YTD Contributions to TBAIC \$2,161.01**  
**YTD Money Placed in Tri-County spending account \$1,450.00**  
**Money in Spending Account at Year End 2014 \$161.28**  
**YTD Money Spent on Literature \$1,461.60**  
**YTD Expenses \$158.05**  
**Pink Can Balance as of 12/12/2015 \$168.27**  
**Pink Can Balance as of 01/16/2016 \$721.23**

**Our Next Committee Meeting**

Is at 9:30 AM on **February 13th, 2016** 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 last Month:**

**AA 101 Group \$351.47; As Bill Sees It (Brandon) \$135.95; As Bill Sees It (Odessa) \$25.00; Brandon Big Book Study Group \$25.00; BYOB 12 x 12 \$28.00; Came To believe Group \$22.00; Good Day AA and Stay Alive Groups \$267.00; Hide A Way Group \$100.32; High Nooner's Group \$137.57; Keep it Simple Men's Group (YANA) \$41.48; Keystone Discussion Group \$84.50; Kingsway Group \$145.00; Live and Let Live Group \$71.75; Lunch Bunch Group \$46.00; Morning Meditation Group \$100.75; Odessa Group \$43.25; Old School Group \$198.35; Promises Meeting Group \$55.46; Tampa Bay Young People's Group \$128.61; Turning point Group (Zephyrhills) \$75.30; Wellspring Recovery Group \$78.00;**

**TBAIC 2014-2015 Committee Members**

<b>Susan O. - Chair</b>	<b>813-325-6538</b>
<b>Jim S. — Alternate Chair</b>	<b>813-679-9130</b>
<b>Tom F. — Treasurer</b>	<b>813-205-4945</b>
<b>Carolyn L. Alt. Treasurer</b>	<b>813-961-1144</b>
<b>Larry B. – Secretary</b>	<b>813-215-8423</b>
<b>Nancy B. — Alt. Secretary</b>	<b>813-872-0262</b>
<b>Open- Hills Jails -</b>	
<b>Buddy H. – Hillsborough County Jail</b>	<b>813-871-2514</b>
<b>Nancy B. — Hills Women's Jails</b>	<b>813-872-0262</b>
<b>Scott R. Detox &amp; Treatment</b>	<b>813-727-8839</b>
<b>Ruth N. - E Pasco Jail-Women's</b>	<b>813-629-1547</b>
<b>Chris D. - E Pasco Prison</b>	<b>813-857-5400</b>
<b>Michele S. --Women's Bridge The Gap</b>	<b>813-507-5796</b>
<b>Jim S. — Men's Bridge The Gap</b>	<b>813-679-9130</b>
<b>Open- Pre-Release</b>	
<b>Open- Juvenile</b>	

The Corrections Committee needs all types of volunteers. We need people to attend meetings in the facilities, people to help spread the word about this type of service work. It is okay if you have never been to jail yourself! You can still help us. You can still carry A.A.'s message of hope to an alcoholic who is incarcerated. Let's face it: many of us who have never been arrested just never got caught!

**Are We a Debating Society?...continued from page 1**

and don't talk about *that!* In the beginning of sobriety the emphasis is on "I." I have to say thus and so because I have to remind myself of who and what I am. I can say what I want because I'm important and I have to help me. How do we get beyond the "I" into "we"? It happens when we start getting into the Traditions and find that "we" are just a small part of a larger picture, that our personal recovery depends upon AA as a whole. The Traditions lead us out of our self-centered "I" program into the whole of AA. We are shown that we must conform and why. They show us what is at stake. We see this is *not* a selfish program, in the sense of selfishness and self-centeredness. The "I" does have a part in insuring that AA is still around for the generations to come. For that, I am responsible. Tradition Five seems to be getting the most workout lately. This Tradition states that "each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." But what is our message today? Many meetings have turned into an extension of aftercare programs. We discuss anything under the sun, from "getting in touch with our feelings" to how abused we were as children, from co-dependence to poly-addictions. What is the AA message that we have to offer the alcoholic? Dr. Bob said it so well in his farewell message, when he emphasized "the simplicity of our program." Dr. Bob said, "Let's not louse it up with Freudian complexes and things that are interesting to the scientific mind, but have very little to do with our actual AA work." We share our recovery, through the working of the Twelve Steps with the newly sober alcoholic. What happens to singleness of purpose when we introduce ourselves with all our other addictions tacked on? We open the door to talk about the other addictions. If one alcoholic walks through our doors only to leave because he or she cannot identify with the members sitting around talking about *all* addictions, then we have *failed*. We are no longer AA and we need to close shop. We keep hearing that a drug is a drug, that alcohol is mentioned only in the First Step, that we are really talking about feelings, that all addicts have the same feelings. Yet the very beginning of recovery for each of us is one drunk talking to another. This is the whole foundation of our program. Without that moment of identification, there is no recovery. Through learning about the Traditions, we go beyond our own wants and needs and learn to fit into the whole of AA. A whole other spiritual world begins to unfold. The reasons for giving up one's self become clear when we start the journey toward the self-sacrifice and humility that is the spiritual foundation of our entire recovery. Then we can becoming of maximum service to God and to our fellow man and anything is possible—even unity!

Jude T., Waxahachie, Tex.  
Reprint Permission/ AA Grapevine/ February 1991

**My Name is Joe**

I can recall quite clearly the first visit from my two sponsors that day nearly two years ago when I first contacted AA. It was a cold New Year's Day and I guess my telephone call that morning had meant that they would miss the televised bowl football games. Anyway, it didn't take them long to get down to business after I let them in my one room apartment. ➡

**Freedom from Alcohol...continued from page 1**

remove or control undesirable weeds; in my personal sobriety, I remove the things that have been blocking me; and in my home group, by means of group inventory, I do something about the things that cause problems. At the group level, this might mean: 1) ensuring that the message being presented today is as good as the message that was here when we first needed it; 2) seeing to it that everyone coming through the door is given the chance to hear firsthand exactly what it is all about from persons with quality sobriety; and 3) making it known that a group is not interested in all this outside gobbledygook that has nothing to do with sobriety. We can't be all things to all people, so let's do the thing we do best and that is carry the message of recovery from alcohol. By being knowledgeable about our singleness of purpose, we can do much to help our group and AA as a whole. We can avoid the pitfalls that caused the demise of several other well-intentioned entities that started off with the aim of helping alcoholics, but failed because they drifted from their primary purpose. It would be beneficial for everyone to realize that AA can only last as long as it remains "a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other that they may solve their *common problem* and help others to *recover from alcoholism*." Perhaps the following from a piece of AA literature would help as well: "Sobriety—freedom from alcohol—through the teaching and practice of the Twelve Steps, is the sole purpose of an AA group."

Pinky H., London, Ontario  
Reprint Permission/ AA Grapevine/ February 1992

"An alcoholic? Of, I don't think so. I've been drinking a little more than I should lately...you know, the holidays and all. And I guess I had a little too much last night. I had, uh, a slight accident as I pulled in the driveway and dented the front end of my car a little. They didn't talk much, but each of them had the knack of ending with the most pointed questions. Each question caught me off guard. "Blackouts? Well I, yeah, I guess you could call it that. Sometimes I don't remember everything that happened the night before. Oh, it usually comes to me sooner or later." Hmmm, blackouts! I've never heard of that word before. I filled their coffee cups—and saucers. "Sneak my drinks? No, nothing like that. Oh I've taken a drink by myself before, but, well, I.... "At parties? Well, yes, I suppose I drank more than some people. But most of them got just as tight as I did." Damn those guys. How'd they know these things? "Insanity? Oh God no. I've done a few silly things, sure. Practical jokes and that kind of stuff, you know. Well, sometimes I'd forget where my car was parked..." By this time you probably have a pretty good idea of what my real story was like that day I first came into contact with AA. I know now this is what I meant: "My name's Joe H. and I'm an alcoholic. With the help of AA I am sober this day and by the Grace of God I am being restored to sanity.

S.H., Huntington, Ind.  
Reprint Permission/ AA Grapevine/ February 1965

**NOTES FROM INSIDE THE CENTRAL OFFICE**

**January 12th, 2016** the Board of Directors for Central Office met:  
**BOARD MEMBERS** **REPRESENTING GROUP**

<b>BRETT B.</b>	<b>CHAIRPERSON</b>	<b>164 WESLEY CHAPEL GROUP</b>
<b>Excused</b>	<b>TREASURER</b>	<b>FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP</b>
<b>JIM W.</b>	<b>BOARD MEMBER</b>	<b>OLD SCHOOL GROUP</b>
<b>DIANE S.</b>	<b>BOARD MEMBER</b>	<b>FREEDOM IN SOBRIETY WOMEN'S</b>
<b>ROBERT L.</b>	<b>BOARD MEMBER</b>	<b>LATENIGHTERS GROUP</b>
<b>MINDY W.</b>	<b>BOARD MEMBER</b>	<b>STEP SISTERS IN SOBRIETY</b>
<b>Excused</b>	<b>BOARD MEMBER</b>	<b>MONDAY NIGHT MEN'S GROUP</b>
<b>Open Position</b>	<b>BOARD MEMBER</b>	
<b>Open Position</b>	<b>BOARD MEMBER</b>	
<b>Open Position</b>	<b>BOARD MEMBER</b>	

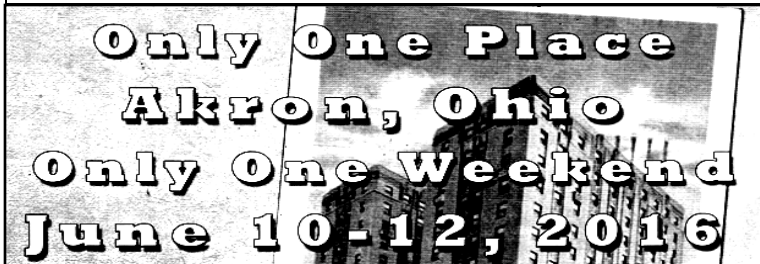
Robert our Vice-Chair open the **Board** meeting in the usual matter with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer and also asked everyone to bear with him still it was his first time chairing this meeting. The Office Manager presented the Office Managers Report. The report was seconded and approved. Several questions followed concerning the Anniversary Dinner...what was the general attendance, who is supplying paper products, fee for the church—etc. Secretary Report: Jim read the December Minutes. There were no questions. A motion to accept was made and all were in favor. Treasurer Report: Tim presented the December Treasurer's report. We were \$279.27 in the black for the month and we ended the year \$3,775.93 in the black. There were no questions. A motion to accept was made and all were in favor. Old Business: Old Business consisted around more discussion concerning the Anniversary Dinner. Also after some discussion a motion was made to give our accountant a \$50.00 gift card as appreciation for their service. Motion passed. New Business: None The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Robert opened the **Council** meeting in the usual matter with the Serenity Prayer followed by asking Isaac to read "What is Tri-County Central Office, followed by Dave reading "What is Central Office Representative." Secretary Report: Cindi presented the December minutes. A motion to accept was made and all were in favor. Two new Council Members were, Monica C.. from the Monday Night Madness Group and David Y. from the Solutions Group. Treasurer Report: Robert presented the December Treasurer's report. We were \$279.27 in the black for the month and we ended the year \$3,775.93 in the black. There were no questions. A motion to accept was made and all were in favor. Old Business: Old Business was all about getting ready for the Anniversary Dinner. Bob went over the Committee list and Cindi confirmed that they would be ready with the Cakewalk Raffle. New Business: No New Business. Several announcements were made. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**January 12th, 2016** the Central Office Representatives met:  
**COUNCIL MEMBERS** **REPRESENTING GROUP**

<b>AL B.</b>	<b>THURSDAY NIGHT BIG BOOK GROUP</b>
<b>CINDI M.</b>	<b>PRIMARY PURPOSE GROUP</b>
<b>BILL M.</b>	<b>AS BILL SEES IT GROUP</b>
<b>RUSS K.</b>	<b>MUSTARD SEED GROUP</b>
<b>STEVE S.</b>	<b>EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH, &amp; HOPE GROUP</b>
<b>BERNIE H.</b>	<b>FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP</b>
<b>MARLENE M.</b>	<b>TURNING POINT GROUP</b>
<b>CAROL J.</b>	<b>SISTERS IN SOBRIETY GROUP</b>
<b>CINDI L</b>	<b>VISITOR</b>
<b>CATHY K.</b>	<b>HIDE-A-WAY GROUP</b>
<b>MONICA C.</b>	<b>MONDAY NIGHT MADNESS GROUP</b>
<b>SUE Z.</b>	<b>CLEAN AIR GROUP</b>
<b>GREG R.</b>	<b>NEW DAY GROUP</b>
<b>EMILE L.</b>	<b>NEW DAY GROUP</b>
<b>BILL J.</b>	<b>EARLY RISERS GROUP</b>
<b>MERRICK M.</b>	<b>TAMPA BAY YOUNG PEOPLES GROUP</b>
<b>KARA H.</b>	<b>TOWN &amp; COUNTRY SISTERS IN SOBRIETY</b>
<b>JACK S.</b>	<b>THE MEETING PLACE GROUP</b>
<b>ISAAC M.</b>	<b>THE MEETING PLACE GROUP</b>
<b>DAVID Y.</b>	<b>SOLUTIONS GROUP</b>
<b>VIVIAN J.</b>	<b>FREEDOM IN SOBRIETY WOMEN'S GROUP</b>
<b>JERRY K.</b>	<b>SOBER @ 7 GROUP</b>
<b>FRED H.</b>	<b>OLD SCHOOL GROUP</b>
<b>JULIET S-B</b>	<b>SUNSHINE GROUP</b>
<b>BRIAN G.</b>	<b>SOBER ON SUNDAY GROUP</b>
<b>PAUL E.</b>	<b>LIVE &amp; LET LIVE GROUP</b>
<b>THOMAS M.</b>	<b>KEEP IT SIMPLE MEN'S GROUP</b>

**SPONSORSHIP:** A man in a hot air balloon realized that he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted another man below. He descended a bit more and shouted, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am." The man below replied, "You're in a hot air ball hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You're between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and between 59 and 60 degrees west longitude." "You must be a sponsor," said the balloonist. "I am," replied the man, "how did you know?" "Well," answered the balloonists, "everything you told me is, technically correct, but I've no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything, you've delayed my trip." The man below responded, "You must be a sponsee" "I am," replied the balloonist, "but how did you know?" "Well," said the man, "you don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise, which you've no idea how to keep, and you expect other people to solve your problems. The fact is you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it's my fault." **Thanks to Snowsnaik In God We Trust!**



**ANNIVERSARY TIME**

**It Works-It Really Does Ask them how they did it!!!**

GROUP	Honors To	Date	Years
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMENS	AMANDA F.	01/16/14	2 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMENS	PEGGY C.	01/01/14	2 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMENS	SHELLY P.	01/10/13	3 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMENS	KATHLEEN M.	01/01/13	3 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMENS	NANCY	01/13/11	5 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMENS	VAL M.	01/19/10	6 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMENS	LAURA M.	01/06/04	12 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMENS	JUNE T.	01/09/99	17 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMENS	STEPHANIE C.	01/29/91	25 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	ANDREA E.	01/05/15	1 YR
KEYSTONE GROUP	BILL B.	01/02/11	5 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	DAVID G.	01/24/95	21 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	TERRY M.	01/05/83	33 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	JEANETTE P.	01/01/15	1 YR
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	BRIAN K.	01/29/83	33 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	CHERYL T.	01/01/92	22 YRS
RIVERSIDE GROUP	SUSAN S.	01/28/10	6 YRS
RIVERSIDE GROUP	KIRK	01/08/05	11 YRS
FRIDAY NIGHT BIG BOOK	LYNN P.	01/11/08	8 YRS
JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP	SARAH G.	01/03/09	7 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY GROUP	BURKE	01/29/99	17 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY GROUP	ED S.	01/15/86	30 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY GROUP	ED P.	01/17/77	39 YRS

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

Home Group	Honors To	Date	Years
T 'n' C SISTERS IN SOBRIETY	TAMMY P.	01/16/08	8 YRS
NEW WAY WOMEN'S GROUP	MARY H.	01/08/04	12 YRS
MID DAY MATINEE GROUP	PATTI L.	02/08/77	39 YRS



**From the Central Office  
SERVICE DESK**

A total of 201 phone calls were made to the Central Office in January  
191 for info on AA,  
2 for info on Al-Anon,  
5 messages for other inquiries,  
3 requesting a Twelfth Step call,  
There were 131 walk-ins visits as well.  
A total of 175 phone calls were made to the After Hours Hotline in January  
98 for info on AA,  
16 for info on Al-Anon,  
18 messages for other inquiries,  
43 requesting a Twelfth Step call,

**SELF-SUPPORT-January, 2016**

© Today in January of 2016 we have 218 Groups with 576 meetings a week. Contributions in January totaled \$6,282.33. That accounts for what 55 Groups out of 218 Groups in our area have contributed in January. This also takes into account the \$49.00 from the 3 members who contributed to the Birthday Club and the \$740.00 collected from Ticket Sales for our upcoming Anniversary Dinner. Our total income for January was \$15,053.52. Our Cost of Goods Sold was \$6,121.35. Subtracting the Cost of Goods Sold from our January income left us with a Gross Profit of \$8,932.17. Our Total Expenses for January were \$8,941.12. Subtracting our Expenses from our Gross Profit gave us a Net Income of minus --\$8.95 for the month of January. 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. Thank you for all of your support !!!

**WE STILL NEED 12 STEPPERS!!!**

There are hundreds, probably thousands of active alcoholics in our area. Many may never think they need our help or even want our help. But, just like you and I, there will be a few who desperately want and need our help. Many may reach for but not find the hand of A.A. We need to be there to help them when they are ready. Are you ready to help? Will you help? Come by the Office and fill out a 12 Step Form or email us and we will send you a form to fill out. Email: [aainfo@aatampa-area.org](mailto:aainfo@aatampa-area.org)

**Want to get involved in some Service Work? How about volunteering for the After-Hour Phones. Call Martin after Office Hours @ 813-933-9123 and get all the details.**

*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.*



**DO YOU HAVE A SUBSCRIPTION TO OUR NEWSLETTER "TRI-COUNTY CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS" ? WHY NOT???-FOR \$7.00 YOU WILL RECEIVE 12 ISSUES. THE "NEWS" IS ONE OF THE FEW WAYS CENTRAL OFFICE CAN REACH OUR INDIVIDUAL MEMBER'S. PLEASE HELP SUPPORT YOUR NEWSLETTER**

Central Office has decided to look for a few reliable men or women who would be willing to volunteer and come in once a week and sweep and mop the floors and clean the restrooms and vacuum the floors and generally clean up the Office. Stop by anytime and talk with Tim. :)



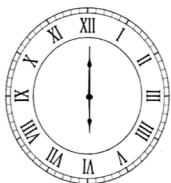
## MORE NEWS AROUND THE TOWN & THE AREA

### Valentine's Steak Dinner

presented by  
 Attitude of Gratitude and Safe Haven Groups  
 at 301 House

### and Speaker Meeting

Saturday, February 13, 2016



First Seating  
 6:00 pm



Second Seating

7:00 pm



### Menu

Steak ▣ Salad ▣ Baked Potato  
 Bread ▣ Dessert ▣ Drink

### Speakers

TJ M. and Ronnie B.  
 Begins 8:30 pm



Tickets are Pre-Sale ONLY

Contact Sue Z.

for additional info on ticket purchase  
 813-601-3113 ▣ srz4211@verizon.net

301 House ▣ 8601 Bowles Rd ▣ Tampa FL 33637  
 www.301House.org ▣ 813-988-7783



There will be no smoking in the building during dinner or the meeting



### Sobrenity Group's 30th Anniversary

Sunday, March 13, 2016

American Legion Post #111

3918 North Florida Avenue, Tampa, FL 33604

4:00 PM Fellowship

5:00 PM Dinner

7:00 PM Meeting

Guest Speakers

GENE L. • BOB C. • KEVIN D.

50/50 Raffle

Proceeds will be donated to Central Office

Menu by Affordable Catering

Stuffed Chicken Breast with Cream Sauce

Scalloped Potatoes, Broccoli and Beverages included

Ticket on Sale for \$20.00 per person

For more information contact: sobrenity30thanniversary@gmail.com

Rhonda W. (813) 601-6747 • Gus A. (813) 416-4228 • Patty P. (813) 784-7146

ALL Food & Drinks provided!  
 Speaker Meetings!  
 Outdoor Meetings!

## 12TH ANNUAL SOBERSTOCK 2016

Live Bands! Karaoke!  
 Tent Camping ONLY!  
 (No RV's/Popups!)



Friday - Sunday,

March 11th, 12th & 13th, 2016

A 3-day weekend AA/Alanon/Alateen event  
 featuring speakers, meetings, bands,  
 food & fellowship.



This festival is open to all members of AA/Alanon and their families.  
 Proceeds of this function will purchase Big Books and other AA literature  
 for District 2 Jails & Institutions  
 remaining profits going to the area pie chart.

When: Friday, March 11th, 12th & 13th, 2016 - Gates open at Noon on Friday! Event ends on Sunday at Noon.

Where: "Camp Brorein" - 16901 Boy Scout Rd. Odessa, FL 33556 - SEE MAP ON BACK OF THIS FLYER

What to bring: Tents, blankets, coolers, chairs, LANTERNS, bug spray, snacks, NO PETS, NO cabins at this facility.

What we provide: Refreshments, Camp Style Meals - Fri. lunch & dinner, Sat. breakfast, lunch and dinner, & Sunday breakfast.

## ANNUAL HOUSECLEANING

### LAKE YALE CONFERENCE CENTER, FL

### MARCH 11-13, 2016

Online Registration Available:  
[www.retreatforaa-alanon.com](http://www.retreatforaa-alanon.com)

### Sobersticks Spring in 8

### April 8,9,10th

Fun and fellowship all weekend with camping,  
 canoeing, campfires, morning meditation  
 meetings and 8 pm campfire meetings.

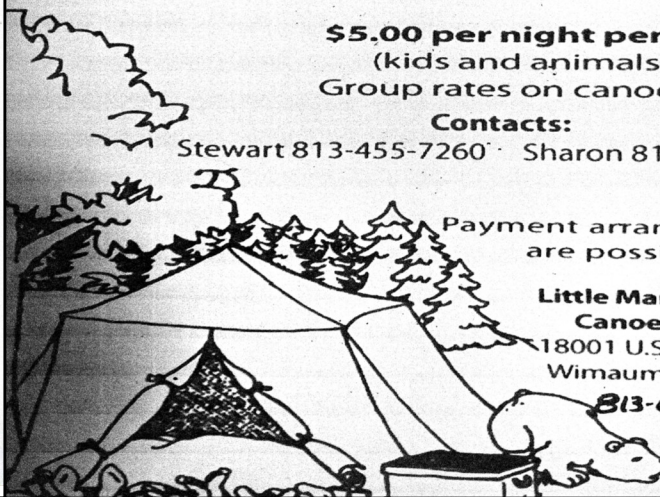
**\$5.00 per night per person**  
 (kids and animals are free)  
 Group rates on canoe rentals.

Contacts:

Stewart 813-455-7260 • Sharon 813-943-9838

Payment arrangements  
 are possible.

Little Manatee River  
 Canoe Outpost  
 18001 U.S. Hwy 301 S.  
 Wimauma, FL 33598  
 813-634-2228



Group	JAN	Y T D	Group	JAN	Y T D	Group	JAN	Y T D
11th Step Group- Christ King	195.00	195.00	Keystone Group			Sisters in Sobriety Group	20.00	20.00
11th Step Retreat			Keystone All Groups			Sober @ 6 Group	160.00	160.00
301House Groups Fundraiser			Kingsway Group	135.00	135.00	Sober @ 7 Group		
A.A. 101 Group	408.61	408.61	Last Call Meeting			Sober @ 7 Group All Groups		
A.A. 102 Group			LateNights Group	28.75	28.75	Sober on Saturday Group	54.75	54.75
PC Keep it Simple All Gps Mtg			Late Night Red Door Group			Sober on Sunday Group		
Alpha Group	60.00	60.00	Lemon Tree Group			Sober Rewards Group		
Anniversary Dinner 2016	740.00	740.00	Live and Let Live Group			Sober Spirits Group		
7th Tradition Basket			Living in the Solution			Soberstock Committee		
Trico 50/50 Raffle 2015			LivingSober/As Bill Sees It			Sobriety at Sunrise Group		
Cakewalk RaffleEvent 2015			Lunch Bunch Group			Sobriety at Sunset Group	143.34	143.34
Soberstock Basket Raffle 2014			Lutz @ Noon	16.00	16.00	Sobrenity Group		
Housecleaning Retreat			Mad Dogs Group			Solutions Group	229.57	229.57
Anonymous Donations	64.00	64.00	Mapledale Group			Southshore Men's Group		
As Bill Sees It--Brandon	231.48	231.48	Mid Day Matinee Group			Southside Men's Group		
As Bill Sees It Mens Odessa	119.80	119.80	Monday Night Madness	0.13	0.13	Southside Men's Group # 2	80.00	80.00
Attitude of Gratitude Group			Morning Express Group			Southside Men's Group # 3		
Barracks Brigade Group			Morning Group -Zephyrhill			Spiritual Development Gp.		
Bel-Mar Group			Mustard Seed Group			Spiritual Growth Group		
Bill & Bob's Excellent Adventure	400.00	400.00	New Beginnings - Brandon			Spiritual Progress Goup	20.15	20.15
Bill D's Group			New Beginnings Women's	70.00	70.00	Step Sisters in Sobriety	65.00	65.00
BIRTHDAY CLUB	49.00	49.00	New Beginnings-(5:45)Joe's			Step at a Time Group		
Brandon Men's Blackbelt			New Beginnings-(Our Club)			Stepping Stones Group (w)	104.70	104.70
Brandon Tues. Big Book			New Day Group			Sunday Speakers - 3333	50.00	50.00
BYO 12 & 12 Group	72.00	72.00	New Hope Big Book			Sunshine Group		
Came To Believe Group	198.60	198.60	New Tampa Monday Night Men's			Suvivors Big Book Group		
Cardinal Group - Odessa	200.00	200.00	New Way Women's Group	200.00	200.00	Sweet Surrender Group		
Carrollwood Group			Nightly Newcomers Group	100.51	100.51	Tampa Bay Speakers Gp.		
Clair-Mel Positive Thinkers			Nooners Group--Riverview	55.58	55.58	Tampa Bay Young Peoples	215.39	215.39
Clean Air Group			Nooners Group--Tampa	150.00	150.00	Tampa Palms Big Book		
Design for Living Group			Noontime Celebration Gp.			TGIS Women's Group		
Dover Group			N. Brandon Open Forum	30.00	30.00	Thank God it's Friday Group		
Early Risers Group - Joe's	110.15	110.15	Northdale Group			The 164 Group		
Expect a Miracle Group			Odessa Group			The 164 12 Step Workshop		
Expierence, Strength & Hope			Old School Group			The 164 Group USF		
FCYPAA Convention	248.36	248.36	Old School Group All Gps			The Meeting Place Group		
Fireside Group			Oldtimer's Group - JC			The Next Frontier Group		
Founders Day Event			On the Way Home Tpa 5:30			T & C Sisters in Sobriety	20.00	20.00
Freedom in Sobriety Group			One Day at a Time Group	200.00	200.00	Town & Country Men's Group		
Friday Night Lights Group	49.00	49.00	Palma Ceia Group	122.27	122.27	Town & Country Wed. Group	300.00	300.00
Friday Night Lights Ice Cream			Palma Ceia Big Book Study			Tues Big Book Study Gp.		
Friday Night Lights Movie Night			Pilgrim Group -St Leo's			Turning Point Group -Z-H.		
Friday Night Step Study Group			Plant City Keep it Simple			Uptown/Downtown Group		
Friday Night Women's Gp.			Primary Purpose Group			Valrico Fri. Morning Group		
Friday Women's Friendship			Promises Meeting Group			Valrico/Brandon Wednesday Night	81.25	81.25
Gifts of Sobriety Group			Prosperity AA Group	60.00	60.00	Village 12 Step Group		
Good Start Group			Red Chip Day			Warrior's Group		
Grapevine Gals Group	38.50	38.50	Reflections Group-Lake Mag	52.65	52.65	We Have a Way Out Group		
Happy Hour Group YANA			Riverside Group			Weedpatch Group		
Helping Hands Gp.-P.C.			Rush Hour Serenity Group			Wed Night Step Workshop		
Hide-A-Way Group			Safe Haven Group			Wellspring Group	0.67	0.67
High Nooners Group			Saturday Night Fever Gp.			Wesley Chapel Group	275.60	275.60
HOW Group			Saturday Night Live Group	100.00	100.00	Wesley Chapel Gp B.B. Raffle		
International Doctors of AA			Seekers of Serenity II Group	11.79	11.79	With Room to Grow Group		
It's in the Book Men's Gp.	123.00	123.00	Seminole Heights Big Book	30.00		Women's Friendship Group		
Just What I Wanted Big Book						YaYa Sisterhood of Sobriety	65.00	65.00
Keep It Simple - YANA								
Keep It Simple/Pass It On	269.49	269.49						
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,576.99</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,362.68</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,885.42</b>	
	<b>YTD Total</b>	<b>3,576.99</b>		<b>YTD Total</b>	<b>1332.68</b>		<b>YTD Total</b>	<b>1,885.42</b>
						<b>Grand Total for Month</b>	<b>6,825.09</b>	
						<b>Grand Total for Year</b>		<b>6,825.09</b>