



Tri-County Central Office News

Are we carrying the message to them or are we waiting somewhere comfortably, waiting for them to come to us?

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

June, 2016

Phone: 813- 933-9123 E-Mail: aainfo@aatampa-area.org Web Site: www.aatampa-area.org

Care and Treatment of Alcoholics

An interview delivered in a panel discussion before the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada at Philadelphia in 1951 by Sister Ignatia.

Nearly twelve years ago, one of the co-founders of Alcoholics Anonymous, Dr. Bob, was on our staff. He volunteered the information that he had a drinking problem. Dr. Bob had often discussed the problem of alcoholism with us, with regard to auto accidents and other tragedies caused by excessive drinking. Many of these cases had to be admitted to the hospital even though they were intoxicated. After talking with the families of these compulsive drinkers and realizing the misery, suffering, and sorrow brought into their homes and lives because of drinking, we became deeply interested as Dr. Bob unfolded a plan to us. This was in 1939, just about the time we were trying to pull out of the depression. Hospital beds were at a premium, without any prospect of adding our bed capacity. There was very little enthusiasm around the hospital about admitting people who were imbibing too freely. However, prompted by the grace of God, we very cautiously admitted one patient, under the care of Dr. Bob. The patient was placed in a two-bed room. The next morning, Dr. Bob came to the admitting office very timidly requested that the patient be moved to a spot where the men who came to visit him might talk with him privately. The only available space we could think of was a small room across the hall called the "flower room," where patients flowers were changed and arranged. We pushed the alcoholic's bed into this room. It was there that he received his first AA visitors. The men who came to visit him were such respectable, dignified-appearing men that we could hardly believe they had ever been addicted to alcohol. We then set aside a two-bed room, then a four-bed room, and later a six-bed ward. Today our AA ward has eight beds. It is simply a large room with accommodations in one end for the beds. At the opposite end of the room is a small lounge with comfortable chairs, a davenport, a "bar," a coffee urn, and an icebox. To the rear of this ward lounge is a room with a lavatory and shower; the new man is brought there for admission to the ward. An important point is that the new man is gotten out of his street clothes and into hospital attire *by other patients in the ward*. From the first, he is in care of understanding friends. The advantage for the older patients who help him is that they see themselves again as they were upon admission. Directly across the hall from our lounge is the choir loft of our chapel, which permits AA patients to make visits in hospital attire if and when they so desire, all in complete seclusion. Bearing in mind that the alcoholic is a person who is sick spiritually as well as physically, we believe that the ready access to spiritual healing may be a strong factor in his recovery. The ward is almost wholly self-operating. A nurses' aide comes in to make the beds, and an AA employee does the heavier cleaning; but the cleaning of ashtrays, the making of coffee (the coffee urn is in operation twenty-four hours each

Continued page 3

Service is the Reason

From the very beginning, Alcoholics Anonymous wasted no time nor effort in trying to determine the why of alcoholism or what causes the phenomenon. We were simply advised to accept the fact of our illness and get on with the recovery program. Not too many days gone by, I found myself thinking, "Why me?" It was not the old "Why me?" prompted by self-pity, but the realization that of all the people who were still suffering, somehow I was given sobriety. With an absolutely honest appraisal, I could in no way understand why I had been selected to enjoy the blessings of our sober life when people all around were still in the darkness of alcoholism. I found the answer in the very Steps of recovery I was encouraged to take, in the order they were written. The prayer in the Third Step in the Big Book held the key: "Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help..." Perhaps there *was* a reason. Just maybe, a purpose could be found right here. Soon, I was engulfed with the problems of defects and inventory. The purpose faded for a while, until I carefully read Step Seven. I believe I was at the time in desperate need to determine what was meant by humility and to just what degree one could humbly measure one's progress in that area. In those days, too, we argued a lot about *how* God was going to remove those defects, and we worried a lot while discussing the "very serious" difference between defects and shortcomings. There were those words in the prayer mentioned in the Big Book discussion of Step Six: "my usefulness to You and my fellows." The reason for my very existence must be to serve. Later on, that was clearly defined: "Our real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us." Service to God and my fellows is the reason I am given sobriety, and there is *no other reason*. If I fail to serve, my purpose in life will be unfulfilled, and no doubt life itself will be taken away. Long ago, I stopped praying for sobriety, because perhaps my Maker might think, "If he does know what he has got, why, I might as well take it back." Sooner or later, all our prayers might change from "What can You give me?" to "What have You got for me to do?" How best can I serve? I have always felt that if Recovery has taken place, Unity and Service must follow—completing the Three Legacies left to us by AA's co-founders. However, if Recovery is to be available in the group, Unity and Service must be part of that group. So which really comes first? Yet, for some unexplained reason, the word service is not well received in our Fellowship. Put on a service meeting, and the attendance is sparse. I wonder how many people would attend if a Regional Forum was called a "regional service meeting"? People talk about "getting involved in service." Service is looked upon in many places as something separate and to be endured only by a few. I believe deeply in the recovery miracle of our program. I have experienced that recovery in my life. I believe we have a great obligation to tell all people that we have a program of recovery that works. In many places, I shock our own members by saying I have

Go to page 3

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 May 14th meeting of TBAIC was opened by Chair Susan O. with the "Serenity Prayer".

Tom F. was unable to attend and furnished his Treasure's Report via email. Susan O. read aloud Tom's report. Items of note: this has been a great month for contributions and the literature supply has been fully stocked. A generous donation of Little Red Big Books came from Doug in Brandon. Tom will be working with Tim S. to reconcile the spending account with orders placed through Tri-County. Paperwork has been filed with the IRS to maintain TBAIC's tax exempt status.

Buddy H. reported to Susan that the men's meetings at Falkenburg and Orient Jails were being covered and all's going well.

Nancy B. left word with Jim S. that the Falkenburg women's meetings were being covered.

There's been a change in the volunteer process. Orientation for new volunteers will be monthly. There is at least a two week turnaround from the application date and background check before an orientation date is assigned. (Men volunteers contact Buddy H. 8138712514 and women volunteers contact Nancy B. 8138720262.)

Chris D. of East Pasco men's is having a great turnout with volunteers at Zephyrhills prison. A recent inmate that was released is in the St. Pete area with family and attends daily meetings. Another inmate is part of a work release program and has been working a full time job.

Jim S. of Bridge the Gap received four calls and two rides were given. Received a referral from District 5. It proved to be difficult since it was a Spanish speaking person. The caller was eventually helped.

Dale P. is still looking for help with the meeting he chairs on Wednesday night at ACTS (Drew Park). He chairs this meeting every other Wednesday.

Ruth N. of East Pasco women's has new volunteers. She has not yet been able to meet with the new program director at the facility. "Living Sober" is still working to get inmates involved in the meetings.

Cas K. addressed any concerns regarding Steps to Freedom's recent fundraising rummage sale and how the monies would be distributed to TBAIC. Only sale monies collected from AA members would be considered in any part of the monies contributed to TBAIC.

"We cannot subscribe to the belief that this life is a vale of tears, though it once was that for many of us." (Big Book, pg. 133)

YTD Contributions to TBAIC \$11,070.13
YTD Money Placed in Tri-County spending account \$9,344.92
Money in Spending Account at Year End 2015 \$55.02
YTD Money Spent on Literature \$9,313.05
YTD Expenses \$959.19
Pink Can Balance as of 12/12/2015 \$168.27
Pink Can Balance as of 05/14/2016 \$913.96

Our Next Committee Meeting

June 11th, 2016 9:30 AM on 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 \$193.08; Anonymous \$125.04; As Bill Sees It Group (Brandon) \$104.30; As Bill Sees It Monday Men's Group (Odessa) \$18.00; Brandon Big Book Step Study Group \$52.00; Came to Believe Group \$31.00; Early Riser Group \$186.41; Freedom in Sobriety Group \$62.24; Good Day AA and Stay Alive Groups \$271.00; Hide A Way Group \$102.60; High Nooner's Group \$80.58; Keystone Discussion Group \$58.83; Kingsway Group \$148.95; Lunch Bunch Group \$20.37; Morning Meditation Group \$86.06; Mustard Seed Group \$50.00; Noon Big Book (3333) \$63.19; Noontime Celebration \$110.00; Odessa Group \$33.75; Old School Group \$453.45; Promises Meeting Group \$88.49; Ruskin Fellowship Group \$41.00; Softball KISS Tournament Teams \$500.00; Sunshine Group \$25.27; Turning Point Group Zephyrhills 56.70; Wellspring Recovery Group \$86.00; Women's Friendship Group \$60.00;

TBAIC 2014-2015 Committee Members

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

day), and the washing of coffee cups are all done by the patients themselves. Activity helps to eliminate brooding, and the volume of such work is never great at any time. The function of the lounge is to provide a place where the patient can chat with AA visitors and listen to informal talks. A secondary value, but a most important one to the *former* patient, is that by visiting current AA patients the former patient helps to perpetuate his own sobriety. The icebox is kept stocked with food and particularly with milk and citrus juices, for the alcoholic is frequently undernourished. The patients are encouraged to eat at will. The coffee urn and “bar” are the AA equivalents for the brass rail and bottles of drinking days.

First day—reality begins

Reality for the alcoholic is drinking. It is most important that the approach be made through another alcoholic; namely, a sponsor. The sponsor speaks the language of the alcoholic. He knows all the tricks of the “trade,” because of personal experience. Those of us who have anything to do with admitting these patients should rely upon the judgment of the sponsor as to when the patient is ready for the program, for the AA ward does not accept repeaters. Sponsors know this, hence they are very careful before bringing the patient to the hospital. Above all, he must have a *desire to stop drinking*. Wives, relatives, friends, and employers may try to high-pressure the alcoholic into accepting the program. Someone may even persuade the family doctor to use his influence with the hospital so that the prospect may be admitted into the alcoholic ward. The role of the sponsor is not an easy one. He tries to appease an exasperated wife; he talks with the employer, the landlord, the creditors, and others. He explains that this is not simply another sobering-up process. The sponsor assures them that with their cooperation and the help of his fellow AAs, his charge will be given a real opportunity to make a complete recovery. After registration, the sponsor escorts his patient to the AA ward. Two or three of the senior patients in the ward take over and welcome the new patient. Nothing is left undone to make him feel at home, and this reception inspires hope in his heart.

Second day—realization

The physical condition of the patient is usually much improved on the second day. His mind is beginning to clear. He feels encouraged because everyone seems interested in him. Visitors call on him, telling him, “This is how I made it.” Some of the visitors may be men with whom he used to drink. The power of example is a great incentive to the patient. He begins to say to himself, “If he can do it—so can I. But how am I going to make it?” At this point, he generally has a heart-to-heart talk with his sponsor. He acknowledges his utter *powerless* over alcohol. He honestly admits that he has tried innumerable times to drink normally and has always failed. He is finally ready, honestly and humbly, to admit defeat. His sponsor is delighted to know that his patient is really honest about his drinking. This may be the first time the patient has admitted the fact that he is powerless to help himself. The next step is to humbly turn to God. “Ask and you shall receive.” Patients have often said that this is the first time they have sincerely prayed. The “Our Father” takes on a new meaning at this point. They feel that they really belong.

[Top](#) ↑

Third day—moral inventory

The patient makes a searching and fearless inventory of himself. He faces the past honestly, admits to God, to himself, and to another human being the exact nature of his wrongs. He has done with alibis and reservations. “I am an alcoholic. What a joy to be honest! The truth will may you free.” Now he is sincerely asking God’s help and the help of his fellowman.

Fourth day—resolution

“Give us this day our daily bread.” This is interpreted by the alcoholic to mean, “I surely can stay sober today.” The past is finished. Now, with God’s help and the help of his fellow AAs, with his clear thinking, he can control his feelings and emotions. Reason now governs his life. Strong convictions are given him as to why he cannot take that *first drink*. He has learned from his fellow alcoholics that it more blessed to give than to receive, and that it is a privilege to help others. What a joy, too! He is kept so busy helping others that he does not have time to even think about a drink. What a transformation takes place in the lives of these men and women!

Fifth day—plans for the future

As he leaves the hospital, he must now face his problems. The way has been paved by the sponsor. The future is in God’s hands. He has learned to say, “O God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.” He is urged to guard against pride, self-pity, resentment, intolerance, and criticism; to attend meetings, to do Twelfth Step work. We have hospitalized well over 4,000 AA patients at St. Thomas. They have come to Akron from Alabama, South Carolina, Michigan, Maryland, Texas, and many other distant places. They would not have had to travel so far if their local hospitals had made it possible for them to receive the program nearer home. In conclusion, may God’s grace give to my weak words influence and strength that they penetrate the hearts of those who have it within their power to urge the establishment of this great apostolate in their respective hospitals.

Reprint Permission/ AA Grapevine/ June 1969

The Grapevine’s Twenty-Fifth Anniversary

Service is the Reason from page 1

recovered. I am no longer sick. I can no longer use the illness of alcoholism as an excuse for anything. There is a catch, however. If I fail to use my recovery in service to others, I will become sick again. So service becomes not only the reason for recovery, but the only way there is to maintain our recovery. When I look back on how our society outside of our Fellowship treated the alcoholic at the time of my coming to AA, I can see some progress. In all honesty, however, I don’t believe we are making much progress in developing new treatment methods that will greatly reduce the numbers who suffer so tragically and do not reach us. More than ever, we have a tremendous responsibility to carry our message. More than ever, we have to realize that it is we who have to care. Look, if you will, at the attitude in society today. Example: Recently, tremendous strides were announced

[Go to page 5](#)

NOTES FROM INSIDE THE CENTRAL OFFICE

May 10th, 2016 the Board of Directors for Central Office met:
BOARD MEMBERS **REPRESENTING GROUP**

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| BRETT B. | CHAIRPERSON | 164 WESLEY CHAPEL GROUP |
| ROBERT L. | VICE-CHAIR | LATENIGHTERS GROUP |
| AIDA S. | TREASURER | NEW WAY WOMENS GROUP |
| Excused | BOARD MEMBER | FREEDOM IN SOBRIETY WOMEN'S |
| MINDY W. | BOARD MEMBER | STEP SISTERS IN SOBRIETY |
| PETER F. | BOARD MEMBER | MONDAY NIGHT MEN'S GROUP |
| LARRY B. | BOARD MEMBER | AA 101 GROUP |
| PEDRO P. | BOARD MEMBER | LIVE & LET LIVE GROUP |
| Open | BOARD MEMBER | |
| Open | BOARD MEMBER | |

Brett opened the meeting in the usual matter by asking everyone to turn down their cell phones followed by the Serenity Prayer. This was followed with some general discussion. **Office Managers Report:** Adia presented the Office Managers Report. Discussion followed concerning the inability to get a venue to host the Founders Day Event. Different ideas of when and where and what other event we could put on in lieu of the Founders Day event. **Secretary Report:** Brett read the April minutes. There were no questions. Minutes were seconded and approved. **Treasurer Report:** Aida presented the April Treasurer's Report noting that we were \$556.31 in the black for the month There were no questions. The April Treasurer's report was seconded and approved. **Old Business:** Discussion resumed about what to do in lieu of not having Founders Day. A motion was made to check out MCC as a possible venue to hold an event in August. Pedro will look into this. Everyone was asked to look around for possible venues. **New Business:** Pedro announced that the Rainbow Recovery Club had recently moved and they had available spaces and times for anyone interested in doing meetings. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Brett opened the Council meeting in the usual matter with the Serenity Prayer, followed by asking everyone to turn down their cell phones followed by asking if anyone is new to the Council to please fill out the information sheet **Secretary Report:** Peter read the April minutes. It was a long report. Minutes were seconded and approved. **Treasurer Report:** Aida presented the April Treasurer's Report noting that we were \$556.31 in the black for the month There were no questions. The April Treasurer's report was seconded and approved. Brett gave some explanations of how our sales operate and the good job Aida was doing as the Treasurer. **Office Managers Report:** Tim presented the Office Managers Report. Motion to accept was seconded and approved. **Old Business:** Lots of discussion followed concerning the inability to get a venue to host the Founders Day Event. Different ideas of when and where and what other event we could put on in lieu of the Founders Day event. Everyone was asked to look around for possible venues and email Tim with the details. Plant City Keep it Simple Group volunteered to do clean up Kathie announced the death of a friend's daughter. Found the owner of the coffee mug someone had left. **New Business:** No new Business **District 2 Liaison Report:** Harold gave a brief overview of some of the things happening at District 2. And noted that the South Florida Area Delegate would be here June 5th at 3333 West Columbus Drive to give his annual report.

May 10th, 2016 the Central Office Representatives met:
COUNCIL MEMBERS **REPRESENTING GROUP**

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| JULIE L. | 301/SUNRISE GROUP |
| JEFF B. | KEEP IT SIMPLE PLANT CITY GROUP |
| JON S. | KEEP IT SIMPLE PLANT CITY GROUP |
| HAROLD G. | DISTRICT 2 LIAISON |
| KATHIE N. | SOBRENITY GROUP |
| CINDI M. | PRIMARY PURPOSE GROUP |
| KARA H. | T & C SISTERS IN SOBRIETY GROUP |
| BERNIE H. | FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP |
| BILL L. | LIVE & LET LIVE GROUP |
| JEFF M. | CARDINAL GROUP |
| BILL J. | EARLY RISERS GROUP |
| ISAAC M. | NEXT DOOR GROUP |
| NANCY F. | CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP |
| SILVIA H. | NIGHTLY NEWCOMERS GROUP |
| CIERRA L. | SAFE HAVEN GROUP |
| MERRICK M. | TAMPA BAY YOUNG PEOPLES GROUP |
| TAMMY J. | PROMISES GROUP |
| OLA M. | TGIS GROUP |
| VIVIAN J. | FREEDOM IN SOBRIETY WOMEN'S GROUP |
| FRED H. | OLD SCHOOL GROUP |
| CATHY K. | HIDE-A-WAY GROUP |

Pedro announced that the Rainbow Recovery Club had recently moved and they had available spaces and times for anyone interested in doing meetings. Bernie announced the Friday Night Lights Ice Cream Social. Bill from Early Risers announced a couple of members would be celebrating 50 years of continuous sobriety. Kathie announced Sobrenity Groups Friday Night Bingo and an announcement was made for 301 House's Casino Night. Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer

The Birthday Club: Contributions to the Central Office help support the local services to members and groups throughout Hillsborough and East Pasco Counties and help ensure that the A.A. message is carried around our area. Members customarily contribute \$1, \$2 or even \$5 a year for each year of sobriety—others may give a penny or a nickel a day for each day of their sobriety. Ask your Treasurer if they have any Birthday envelopes available. We usually send one out when a group sends in their contribution to Central Office.

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.



ANNIVERSARY TIME

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

| GROUP | Honors To | Date | Years |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------|--------|
| CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP | COLLEEN | 06/22/15 | 1 YR |
| CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP | WENDY B. | 06/08/15 | 1 YR |
| CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP | BOB P. | 06/23/85 | 31 YRS |
| FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMEN | LAURA O. | 06/05/13 | 3 YRS |
| FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMEN | ANN O. | 06/03/13 | 3 YRS |
| FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMEN | DIANE M. | 06/21/11 | 5 YRS |
| FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMEN | JERI T. | 06/07/10 | 6 YRS |
| FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMEN | RHONDA R. | 06/18/93 | 23 YRS |
| FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMEN | KATHIE N. | 06/11/79 | 37 YRS |
| JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP | LINDA C. | 06/01/08 | 8 YRS |
| JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP | SANDY G. | 06/15/93 | 23 YRS |
| JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP | LINDA B. | 06/09/88 | 28 YRS |
| RIVERSIDE GROUP | TOM N. | 06/28/03 | 13 YRS |
| RIVERSIDE GROUP | MARCY | 06/13/99 | 17 YRS |
| MIDDAY MATINEE GROUP | GARRET W. | 06/2/10 | 6 YRS |
| RUSH HOUR SERENITY GROUP | JAMIE C. | 06/16/12 | 4 YRS |
| RUSH HOUR SERENITY GROUP | JAY M. | 06/01/86 | 30 YRS |
| MUSTARD SEED GROUP | GENE L. | 06/10/78 | 38 YRS |
| MONDAY NIGHT BLACKBELT | ERIC H. | 06/28/05 | 11 YRS |
| SOBER @ 7 GROUP | BILL M. | 06/29/99 | 17 YRS |
| SOBER @ 7 GROUP | JUDY K. | 06/24/93 | 23 YRS |
| SOBER @ 7 GROUP | JOHN L. | 06/07/89 | 27 YRS |
| SOBER @ 7 GROUP | WRAY W. | 06/10/84 | 32 YRS |
| SOBER @ 7 GROUP | DICK W. | 06/10/58 | 58 YRS |
| KEYSTONE GROUP | JOHN C. | 06/06/69 | 47 YRS |

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

| Home Group | Honors To | Date | Years |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------|--------|
| EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH & HOPE | STEVE S. | 04/20/11 | 5 YRS |
| FREEDOM IN SOBRIETY GROUP | VIVIAN J. | 05/16/89 | 27 YRS |
| YOUR NAME COULD BE HERE | ☺👉 | ☺👉 | ☺👉 |

From the Central Office SERVICE DESK

A total of 209 phone calls were made to the Central Office in May: 193 for info on AA, 1 for info on Al-Anon, 10 messages for other inquiries, 5 requesting a Twelfth Step call, There were 84 walk-ins visits as well.

A total of 184 phone calls were made to the After Hours Hotline in May: 124 for info on AA, 14 for info on Al-Anon, 8 messages for other inquiries, 38 requesting a Twelfth Step call.

SELF-SUPPORT-May, 2016

© Today in May of 2016 we have 218 Groups with 576 meetings a week. Contributions in May totaled \$4,249.02. That accounts for what 38 Groups out of 218 Groups in our area have contributed in May. This also takes into account the \$46.00 from the 3 members who contributed to the Birthday Club. Our total income for May was \$9,539.75. Our Cost of Goods Sold was \$4,120.62. Subtracting the Cost of Goods Sold from our May income left us with a Gross Profit of \$5,419.13. Our Total Expenses for May were \$6,974.55. Subtracting our Expenses from our Gross Profit gave us a Net Income of minus-\$1,555.42. for the month of May. 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!!!

Service is the Reason from page 3

in the treatment of heart disease. This breakthrough was so great that death from recurrent heart attacks could be reduced by fifty percent. This news did not even rate a cover story. *Newsweek* carried a feature story that week on "Sex on Television." More and more, we respond only to what is happening to us. So let's not expect that even in the face of our current epidemic of alcoholism, there is going to be a great public outcry. The recovery of millions of alcoholics depends upon us. That is an obligation, a responsibility that is mind-boggling. Alcoholics Anonymous is truly a "beacon light of hope for mankind." If each member works through the group—through recovery to service—we cannot number the lives that can be touched. Few human beings will ever enjoy the privilege that is ours. At first, I did not even know we had a Third Legacy. Then I became aware that the people who were active in serving the Fellowship were the very people I thought of when I heard the words "If you want what we have..." Their example and that of countless others have led me in my journey with this great Fellowship. People like Bern Smith (one of AA's early nonalcoholic trustees) believed in giving their all. Remember Bern saying, "When they put me on the scrap heap of life, I want to be all used up." Many times, my sponsor and I have been criticized by our mutual friends outside AA for doing what we do: nearly every weekend away from home and family; hours on end spent in airports. We discuss this, and every time we do, we come up with the same answer. We see what happens to people who do "retire," and we always say we had best keep doing what we are doing. You know, we haven't had a drink for a total of forty-six years between us. No one will ever be able to say it any better than, nor, in fact, nearly as well as our co-founder Bill. "God will constantly disclose more to you and to us. Ask Him in your morning meditation what you can do each day for the man who is still sick."

**M.C., Winnipeg, Man.
 Reprint Permission/ AA Grapevine/ June 1979
 The Grapevine's 35th Anniversary**

**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**

MORE NEWS AROUND THE TOWN & THE AREA

Steps to Freedom

A New Spin On The 12 Step Workshop

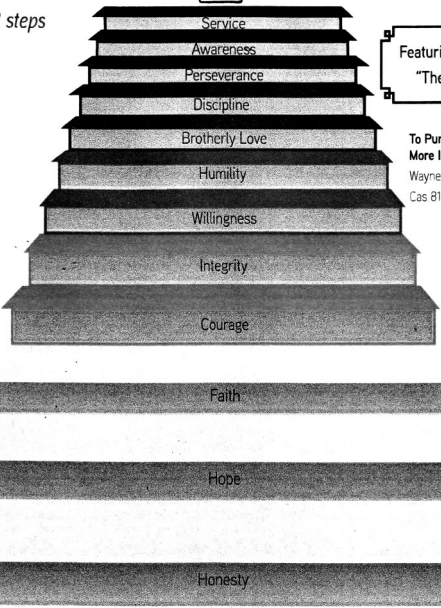
When: Saturday, June 18, 2016
 Time: 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
 Where: Christ The King Church,
 821 S. Dale Mabry Hwy.,
 Tampa, FL



Space Limited - Get your ticket now!
 In Advance: \$10
 At Door: \$15
 Lunch Included
 50/50 Raffle
 Sobriety Countdown
 Recovery Merchandise For Sale
 Workbook/CD for Sale
 STF Shirt for Sale

6 speakers
 6 cities
 12 steps

- Steps 12**
Donna W.
Lakeland, FL
- Steps 10 & 11**
Jack M.
Tampa, FL
- Steps 8 & 9**
Mison W.
Sarasota, FL
- Steps 6 & 7**
Sheryl R.
Springhill, FL
- Steps 4 & 5**
Kevin I.
Brooksville, FL
- Steps 1, 2, & 3**
Rachel F.
Miami, FL



Featuring Max. A
 "The Voice"

To Purchase Ticket/For
 More Information:
 Wayne 813-465-1462
 Cas 813-465-0512

Come Join Us For The Promises 6th Anniversary Celebration

Guest Speakers Grace & Mr. Z from NYC
 recent speakers at the 80th AA International Convention

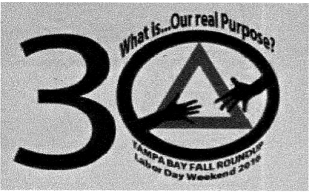
Sunday June 26th 2016

Dinner starts at 6pm
 Speakers at 7:30pm



Holy Innocence Church 604 N. Valrico Rd. Valrico, FL 33594
 Contact Nes 813-507-6408 or Chris 813-494-2932

50/50 Raffle, Food & Fellowship
 (please bring a covered dish to share)



30th ANNUAL TAMPA BAY FALL ROUNDUP WHAT IS... OUR REAL PURPOSE?

Friday, Sept., 2, 2016 to Monday, Sept., 5, 2016
 FRIDAY 1PM REGISTRATION OPENS / 3PM SPEAKER

Register online at:

www.tampabayfallroundup.com

SHERATON TAMPA EAST HOTEL 10221 Princess Palm Ave. Tampa, FL.33610

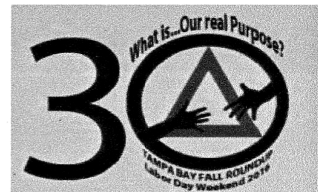
Traditional King/Double \$102 (1-2 guests) \$112 (3-4 guests)
 Junior Suite 3rd/4th Floor (Limited number avail)
 \$122 (1-2 guests) \$132 (3-4 guests)

Complimentary Breakfast Buffet included with all room rates
 Complimentary Guestroom Internet Access

Enjoy the heated pool & the Core Performance fitness room
 Call 1-800-325-3535 and identify yourself with The Tampa Bay Fall Roundup

Online: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/TBFR2016>
 SPECIAL ROOM RATE CUTOFF 8/26/2016

- SPEAKERS**
 Wayne H Tpa, FL
 Kelly LaC Cape Coral FL
 Bill S Austin Tx
 Kelley B St Pete FL
 Ellen C (AFG) Addison Tx
- BANQUET SPEAKER**
 Clancy I Los Angeles Ca
- Adam T Chico, Ca
 Georgia B
 La Crescenta, Ca.
 Karl M Covina Ca
 Rose E., Spring Hill, FL.
- Monday meeting only...
**OPEN TO THE
 AA COMMUNITY
 NO REG FEE REQUIRED**



AA, AFG, AI-Ateen Meetings
 AA Movies All Weekend

Friday
 TALENT SHOW 10pm
 SIGN UP ONLINE OR BY
 7PM AT REGISTRATION TABLE

Saturday
 6:45am Meditation - Carmen L.
 7am 5K Walk/Run*
 8am Golf Tournament *
 6:30pm Speaker Banquet *
 10pm Dance - DJ- Keith Bryan
 The JAM-Mobile.com

Sunday
 6:45am Meditation - Carmen L.
 4:30pm - Karaoke KJ-Keith Bryan
 5:00pm Poolside Dinner Buffet *
 10 pm Play "Win It In A Minute"

YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO ATTEND ALL MEETINGS (Monday excluded) AND EVENTS. NO EXCEPTIONS

