



# Tri-County Central Office News

I ought to remind you that in AA, gratitude runs forward much more than backward. The best expression we can make of thanks is the carrying of the message to the next fellow...

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

March, 2017

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## Report From an Unemployed Monkey

I'm a Monkey. You can call me Moe. Until a short time ago I had a steady job, riding on the back of an alcoholic named B. Now I'm out of work, and I'm sad as hell. Let me tell you about it. I first climbed up on B.'s back about three years ago, just after he got sober. A lot of drunks have a monkey with them throughout their drinking careers, but B. was different. He was a high-bottom who really didn't suffer that much while he was on the booze. He drank just enough to avoid life and to make himself think he was fairly happy. But as the years went by he got bothered more and more by the feeling that something was missing. So one day he stopped drinking. His wife and kids were still with him at the time. He had a home in the suburbs, a steady job, friends, good health. When B. quit booze and joined AA, he hoped to find peace. But it didn't come. Instead, he got me. Man, was I happy! And B. ever sore! I got my first good hold on B. when he began to realize that he had a lousy marriage. For nine long years those three martinis each night had kept him from seeing that he was a third-class s.o.b. (which, to his wife, was worse than being married to a first-class s.o.b. whom she would have walked out on early in the game). In his early AA meetings, B. listened to tales of how sobriety had saved so many marriages. And because B.'s was falling apart, he got mad as hell—at God, AA, sobriety, the whole world. A year after B. joined AA, his wife took the kids and went back to her home town. Even then, B. refused to return to alcohol. He was a tough nut. But I still got my licks in. A monkey worth his salt doesn't need booze to help him do his work. He can raise hell even with a dry alcoholic. And that's just what I did. First I gave him so much rage and resentment that he developed colitis. You should have seen him squirm. Really gratifying! Then, not long after his wife left, he met this terrific AA gal. They really liked each other. But I kept on his back, so that about once a week B. would fly into a tantrum, pick a stupid fight with the girl, and almost wreck the whole business. He stayed miserable and confused. Beautiful! I solidified my position by keeping him so proud and aloof that, even into his second year of AA, he didn't really commit himself to the organization. He'd attend two or three meetings a week and go through the motions, but he wouldn't unbend and really give in to AA. He was still dry, but he wasn't serene. He was neither drunk nor sober, and he knew it. I'd keep telling him that he's be better off drinking, but he wouldn't buy that argument. A real fence-sitter. We'd perch up there together, and I had every confidence that sooner or later I'd topple him into the drunk-bin. My hopes really began to rise after he was two years sober. That's when I broke out my really big guns: boredom, lack of faith, impatience, and an unwillingness to believe that sobriety ultimately pays off. 'Face it, B.!' I'd tell him. "Here you are dry for two whole years, and what's it got you? Your wife's divorcing you, you're unhappy at work, your AA girlfriend is ready to quit you in disgust, and there' no end in sight. You've gone to a psychiatrist, a marathon, hundreds of AA meetings, and you've had dozens of AA friends

Go to page 3

## CHARLIE

Charlie wa out on parole. He came to our meeting on court order, was given a Big Book, and was encouraged to read it. The first few weeks his head was bowed in sorrow—and probably shame. Charlie could barely read, and getting through page after page of the Big Book was an almost impossible task for him. But as he read, and continued to show up at meetings, his head lifted and his eyes began to shine. We even saw a grin begin to appear—a toothless one, no doubt the result of countless barroom brawl. Most meetings Charlie would say, "I'm Charlie, I'm an alcoholic, and I pass." And then we old-timers would share our comments, our tidbits of wisdom, our Big Book quotes. One meeting, a few months later, we had chosen "serenity" as our topic. Delving into a deep discussion on peace of mind, we were brought back to earth by a now-sober Charlie who grinned and grinned again. He said, "I'm Charlie, I'm an alcoholic," and then he added this simple phrase, :Thanks to this program, my life is going all right, today!" And, you know, in all our sobriety, with all of our attempts at great wisdom, Charlie had stated what we all wanted most! We knew it by the recovery in him—by his uplifted head, his toothless smile, and by that statement. He had found that following a few simple suggestions—picking up a spiritual kit of tools—and leaving the results to a power greater than ourselves gives us all a life that is going all right, today.

N.R. , Benton, Ark.

Reprint Permission/ AA Grapevine/ March 1991



"They're sharing their experiences."

The first thing we need when we come into AA is friends. These come quickly if we belong to a "home group" and attend the regular meetings. I do like to visit other groups and make new friends and hear, perhaps, new thoughts, but not at the expense of my home group meetings. It's the home group and the members of it who help pull us over the rough spots.

F.G., Taunus, West Germany

Reprint Permission/AA Grapevine/ March 1965

**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 February 11th (2017) meeting of TBAIC was opened by Chair Susan O.; leading the "Serenity Prayer".

Scott S. read the January minutes. Susan O. made motion to approve; group approved.

Linn D. distributed/reviewed the Treasurer's Report and contributions expenses. Susan O. made motion to approve; group approved.

The next Area 15 Quarterly Assembly, to be hosted by District-6, will be held on April 7th – 9th in Boca Raton.

The next TBAIC softball tournament is to be held in May @ Gadsden Park. Respective Home Groups fund a 12-person team with a \$100 donation; proceeds go to TBAIC.

Buddy H., Hillsborough County Men's Coordinator, indicated that things are running smooth at the Orient Road Jail and Faulkenburg Prisons.

Sydney has assumed the Hillsborough County Women's Jails & Prisons Coordinator role.

Ruth N., East Pasco County Women's Prisons Coordinator, reports that the recent meeting format change (combining all pods into 1-large meeting) is working out well i.e., active participation in the meetings.

Chris D., East Pasco Men's Prisons Coordinator, reports that the inmate are becoming actively involved. Two recently released inmates continue to attend meetings and are working the program.

Jim inquired as to the status of his application with the FL Department of Corrections. Tom F. indicated that it is in process; currently in the "Chaplin's Lap" status.

Jim indicated that there were three (3) Bridging the Gaps requested and accommodated. Also, signaled that Bridging the Gap could use additional contacts to help serve.

Susan O. announced that two (2) new facility request; New Beginnings Shelter and Memorial Hospital of Tampa (Psychiatric Ward).

Jim indicated that he recently used the TampaAA Facebook group to solicit coverage help. Would like to use it more in the future and was checking with the group to ensure there were no objections. Consensus was that this was ok if anonymity is protected.

Susan O. made a motion to close; group approved.

**Next Meeting**  
 March 11, 2017

YTD Contributions to the Pink Can	\$3225.53
YTD Literature purchases	\$2991.15
YTD Expenses	\$708.92
Pink Can balance as of 2/11/2017	\$1408.72

**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.**

**Our Next Committee Meeting**

**March 11th, 2017 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:**

AA101 \$268.00, As Bill Sees It (Brandon) \$59.50, Good Day AA & Staying Alive \$200.00, Hide a way Group \$248.32, Keystone Discussion Group \$40.00, Kingsway Group \$170.80, Live and Let Live \$10.00, New Beginnings (Brandon) \$65.92, Nooner's Group \$8.00, Old School Group \$125.17, Promises Meeting Group \$255.26, Ruskin Fellowship \$40.00, Staying Alive @ 5:45 \$200.00, TGIS Women's Group \$11.25, Women's Friendship Group \$105.86

**TBAIC 2014-2015 Committee Members**

Susan O. - Chair	813-325-6538
Jim S. — Alternate Chair	813-679-9130
Linn D. — Treasurer	813-777-3007
Open Alt. Treasurer	937-474-8358
Open – Secretary	813-215-8423
Nancy B. — Alt. Secretary	813-872-0262
Open- Hills Jails -	
Buddy H. – Hillsborough County Jail	813-871-2514
Cydney P. Hills Women's Jails	813-475-1136
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	

**Report From an Unemployed Monkey....from page One**

try to help you. Man, what a drag! Why not have a drink? Go on a bender. Maybe if you really get hurt this time, you'll finally be able to get the program. You just need to suffer a little bit more, and hit a lower bottom. How about it, B.? Just one more drunk, and I promise you I'll never bother you again." I kept it up, and about the time he reached his thirty-month anniversary, I thought I had him. For short periods I'd let him think he was rid of me. Then, just when he felt steady, I'd hit him: wham! I'd climb up there and bring on the blackest, angriest depression you've ever seen. His guts would curl up in knots, he'd snarl at the AA girl, foul up at the office, and turn into one dark mass of hate and self-pity. He was nearing the end of his rope, and he knew it. He had ducked, and procrastinated, and tried all the gimmicks he knew. None of them had given him the answer. I began to close in for the kill. But he saw me coming. Although B. was like a lot of alcoholics in that he would have preferred the "easier, softer way," he was still tough. And smart. Just when I thought I had him nailed to the wall, B. pulled out his trump card: AA. It wasn't the old AA, the way he had worked it for two and half years, sitting at meetings and making the right noises and a lot of that superficial jazz. This time B. was scared. He was so shook-up he just threw in the towel, got rid of his rebellious pride, and (how I hate this word) *surrendered* to AA. Now B. goes to meetings almost every night of the week, and is really working the Twelve Steps. He's giving himself to other drunks, helping them in almost every way he can. He's slowly forgetting about himself, and he has stopped bargaining with AA and with God. He isn't nearly afraid and angry as he was. He's too busy. I can't even get near him, most days. But I'll keep an eye on him. He's fairly young, and he may slip. If only it weren't for that damnable AA! I can complete with AA as long as a member is only lukewarm to it. But once it really grabs him, I'm finished. If only he hadn't surrendered, I've have got him.

R.W.D., Calif.  
 Reprint Permission/ AA Grapevine/ March 1969

**Came To Believe**  
**Anniversary Celebration**  
**Breakfast (potluck) , Live Entertainment**  
**& Speaker Meeting**

**When:** Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>  
**Time:** 9am Setup, 10am Breakfast, 11am Meeting  
**Where:** 8800 Fountainview Estates Club House (go straight in until you see a sign then turn left which leads straight to club house)

**Please bring a dish to share.**  
 Homegroup members are providing drinks and bagels.

**Could You Make It?**

For over a year I have been a "Citizen Volunteer" for my state Department of Corrections work release program. The men and women inmates in this program have earned the privilege to work at a job outside the prison. Many will soon be paroled. On Monday nights I bring an AA meeting to these inmates, with as many "free world" AA people as I can gather. Sometimes this work is frustrating. I am the only active Citizen Volunteer at this prison. When I am sick or can't attend, there is no AA meeting. Recently, due to my illness, there was no meeting for a month. Imagine being an alcoholic inmate trying to stay sober and being unable to attend a meeting for an entire month. Could you make it? What are the reward of this work? There is the satisfaction of Twelfth Step work—planting the seed; not knowing when, if ever, it will sprout. There is the thrill of asking if anyone is attending their very first AA meeting, and having six or seven hands go up. And there is the joy of seeing a man, once imprisoned for thirty-five years, attending AA as a free man. Most of all, I have learned to trust and rely upon my Higher Power as a result of this meeting. Often I leave for this meeting completely empty of my own resources—tired, "brain-dead," alone. At the last minute, several AAs will volunteer to go along, and we have a terrific meeting, full of sharing by both outside AAs and inmates. Week after week, I am "amazingly lifted up," as Bill W. describes in the Big Book. The Higher Power is clearly involved with prison AA. There is a great need for help with prison meetings. In my state, AAs who are not on probation can become Citizen Volunteers with the state prison system, and sponsor regular AA meetings. Citizen Volunteers can also transport work release inmates to outside AA meetings. How great to assist a prisoner to find a home group and attend AA regularly, helping him to stay out of prison later! You can attend an AA meeting in prison, even if you are not a Citizen Volunteer. Or you can donate Big Books. Or get your home group involved. The rewards more than compensate for the frustrations. Best of all, I stay sober for today.

**Judy M., Tampa, Fla.**  
 Reprint Permission/ AA Grapevine/ March 1988  
**Editor's Note:** *A lot has changed within the legal system since 1988, if you are interested in attending or helping out with AA meetings in the jails, prisons, or treatment centers, contact numbers are provided to the Tampa Bay Area Institutions Committee on page 2 of this publication to answer any questions you may have.*

AAs who carry the message often carry the Grapevine



**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**



**NOTES FROM INSIDE THE CENTRAL OFFICE**

February 14th, 2017 the Board of Directors for Central Office		
BOARD MEMBERS		REPRESENTING GROUP
LARRY B.	CHAIRPERSON	AA 101 GROUP
ROB L.	VICE-CHAIR	LATENIGHTERS GROUP
OPEN	TREASURER	
Excused	BOARD MEMBER	STEP SISTERS IN SOBRIETY WOMAN'S
PETER F.	BOARD MEMBER	MONDAY NIGHT MEN'S GROUP
Excused	BOARD MEMBER	LIVE & LET LIVE GROUP
BILL J.	BOARD MEMBER	EARLY RISERS GROUP
SUE Z.	BOARD MEMBER	CLEAN AIR GROUP
CINDY L.	BOARD MEMBER	SIMPLY SOBRIETY WOMAN'S GROUP
JANET S.	BOARD MEMBER	SOBER @ 7 GROUP

Larry B. opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer and then asked everyone to please turn down their cell phones. Office Managers Report: Tim presented the Office Managers report for January. There were no questions. Report was seconded and approved. **Secretary Report:** Peter presented the January minutes. There were no questions. A motion to accept was made, seconded and approved. **Treasurer Report:** Tim presented the January Treasurers Report. We were \$692.05 in the black for the month, a motion to accept was made, seconded and approved.. Larry presented the results from the 2016 audit. Elections for a new Treasurer were made. After some discussion and questions, Sue Z. volunteered to be our new Treasurer. A motion to accept was made, seconded and approved. Tim informed everyone that the perspective parties needed to get together so we could get the new Officers authorized for check signing. **Old Business:** Larry presented the results from the Tri-County Central Office Anniversary Dinner. Although the ticket sales—etc and the final count of the fund-raiser was good, there had been some problems with the food running out before everyone was served. Discussions followed on what we could do better for our upcoming events. One Board member noted that some people had showed displeasure in the food. It didn't taste good. **New Business:** None The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Larry opened the Council Meeting in the usual matter with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. He then asked for everyone to please turn down your cell phones. Information sheets were handed out to new Council members. New Council members and/or updated Council member information are as follows, Carlos M. from Friday Night Lights Group and Steve W. from the Sunshine Group. **Office Managers Report:** Bill read the Office Managers report for January. There were no questions. Report was seconded and approved. **Secretary Report:** Debbie read the January Council minutes. There were no questions. A motion to accept was made, seconded and approved. **Treasurer Report:** Tim presented the January Treasurers Report. We were \$692.05 in the black for the month. Sue Z. was introduced as our new Treasurer. A motion to accept was made, seconded and approved. **Old Business:** Old Business centered around the results of the Anniversary Dinner. Larry presented the financial results of the Dinner. It seems we cleared over \$3000.00 after expenses. A question was asked about how many people were there. Estimated over 220. A question was asked when the next event will take place. June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Christ the King Church. **New Business:** Harold introduced Steve as the new District 2 Central Office Liaison. Vivian noted that everyone should read a recent article in our Newsletter "We Could Blow the


February 14th, 2017 the Central Office Representatives met:	
COUNCIL MEMBERS	REPRESENTING GROUP
BRIAN L.	BARRACKS BRIGADE GROUP
CARLOS M.	FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP
CHRIS W.	NIGHTLY NEWCOMERS GROUP
RON H.	LIVE & LET LIVE GROUP
CATHY K.	HIDE-A-WAY GROUP
STEVE W.	SUNSHINE GROUP
MEGAN F.	WOMEN'S SOBLETEAGROUP
PEG S.	SUN CITY CENTER GROUP
LOGAN C.	FRIDAY NIGHT STEP STUDY GROUP
CARL L.	KEEP IT SIMPLE MEN'S GROUP
KARA H.	SISTERS IN SOBRIETY GROUP
JUSTIN M.	TAMPA BAY YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP
AMANDA L.	MUSTARD SEED GROUP
HAROLD G.	WESLEY CHAPEL GROUP
RAY D.	KEYSTONE GROUP
TAMMY J.	PROMISES GROUP
MARY N.	FREEDOM IN SOBRIETY GROUP
DEBBIE S.	TO IMPROVE OUR CONSCIOUS CONTACT
KATHIE N.	SOBRENITY GROUP
VIVIAN J.	NEW BEGINNINGS WOMEN'S GROUP
LARRY G.	LIVING IN THE SOLUTION GROUP
JACK J.	OLD SCHOOL GROUP


Whole Thing." Cathy noted that she was amazed at how many people don't know District General Service and studying the Traditions. Some more discussion followed with a few members announcing their meetings—etc. It was noted that TBYP Group was moving. A few announcements for events were made. *Everyone is reminded to call your literature order in early a day or two before the meeting, that way can have it packed and ready for you.* The next Council Meeting will be **March 14th, 2017** at 7:00 pm at the Central Office Suite # 104 South-East corner of building.

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

**13th ANNUAL SOBERSTOCK 2017**  
Friday - Sunday,  
March 17th, 18th & 19th, 2017  
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.



 SOUTH FLORIDA AREA 15  
GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY  
April 7-9, 2017

Hosted by District 6  
Boca Raton Marriott at Boca Center  
5150 Town Center Circle, Boca Raton, Florida 33486  
Registration: Fri. 4:00 pm-8:30 pm, Sat. 8:00 am-8:30 pm, Sun. 7:00 am-9:00 am

Action is The Key Word

 **31st ANNUAL TAMPA BAY FALL ROUNDUP LABOR DAY WEEKEND**  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2017  
"SHERATON TAMPA EAST HOTEL" 10221 PRINCESS PALM AVE. TAMPA, FL 33610

**ANNIVERSARY TIME**

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

GROUP	Honors To	Date	Years
HIDE-A-WAY GROUP	MARY C.	03/21/01	16 YRS
RIVERSIDE GROUP	MELISSA W.	03/27/15	2 YRS
RIVERSIDE GROUP	BILL	03/14/13	4 YRS
RIVERSIDE GROUP	JOE D.	03/03/09	8 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY GROUP	PHIL C.	03/10/01	16 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY GROUP	MARY S.	03/12/87	30 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY GROUP	SHARON A.	03/24/77	40 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMENS	RHONDA C.	03/26/09	8 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMENS	SUE T.	03/19/90	27 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMENS	JOANIE	03/12/84	33 YRS
JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP	TRICIA S.	03/18/08	9 YRS
JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP	MELINDA R.	03/03/05	12 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	DAWN F.	03/24/14	3 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	PHILIP S.	03/18/12	5 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	LINDA H.	03/31/10	7 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	JOE McS	03/01/71	46 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	JOSE G.	03/16/10	7 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	BOB S.	03/28/95	22 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	GREG O.	03/21/93	24 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	JIM G.	03/18/86	31 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	RAY D.	03/29/15	2 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	CHRIS L.	03/13/15	2 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	PATTY E.	03/24/13	4 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	BOB W.	03/28/92	25 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	MARY L.	03/09/73	44YRS

**SELF-SUPPORT-February, 2017**

© Today in February of 2017 we have 225 Groups with 559 meetings a week. Contributions in February totaled \$7,329.73. That accounts for what 23 Groups out of 225 Groups in our area have contributed in February. This also takes into account the \$40.00 from 1 member who contributed to the Birthday Club and \$833.12 from the Soberilla 12 Step Workshop. Also included in this amount is \$3,961.44 collected from the Tri-County Central Office Anniversary Dinner. Our total income for February was \$13,934.26. Our Cost of Goods Sold was \$4,865.46. Subtracting the Cost of Goods Sold from our February income left us with a Gross Profit of \$9,068.46. Our Total Expenses for February were \$8,587.47. Subtracting our Expenses from our Gross Profit gave us a Net Income of plus+\$480.99 for the month of February. **To put things in a more realistic perspective**, if it wasn't for the \$40.00 from 1 member who had contributed to the Birthday Club, the \$833.12 collected from the Soberilla 12 Step Workshop, and the \$3,961.44 collected from the Tri-County Central Office Anniversary Dinner, we would have been \$2,024.29 in the red for the month. That's why your contributions matter. No matter how good we might be doing from one month to another, it takes your consistent contributions to keep us operating on a steady level. 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 continue 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 !!!

**SUPPORT YOUR CENTRAL OFFICE**

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

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)

**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 or call or email your Central Office. **933-9123...aainfo@aatampa-area.org**

*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.*

**SUPPORT YOUR 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.**

**Notice to all groups....**

currently at the time of this printing, we have been experiencing many problems with our web site, email and our FTP which is used for making changes on our web site. The web host we were with got brought out by another company. Well, things did not go according to their plans and they have had many problems migrating everything over into their system. We hope that they can get everything up soon, so please bear with us if no one has answered any emails lately or the web site periodically goes down. Trust me, it's more of a pain for us than you. At least you are not getting all the calls asking what's going on. As they say, "This too shall past." © While I'm at it, I apologize for getting the February newsletter out late. There was a communication breakdown between us and our printer and I didn't get the newsletter back until the end of the month. My bad! ☺🙏



## MORE NEWS AROUND THE TOWN & THE AREA

### Sweet Surrender



(AKA The Music Meeting)

### Spring Fling

Enrich your program with some music, food, fellowship, experience, strength, and hope!

**Speaker: Jaten**

**Thursday, March 23**

Catered Dinner from  
Riverview Fresh Market Provided

Doors Open: 5:45

Dinner: 6:00

Speaker: 7:00

**New Hope United Methodist Church  
Meeting Hall (next to the church)  
121 North Knights Avenue, Brandon, Florida**

### Sobersticks *SPRING-IN*

**April 7-9 Th. 2017**

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

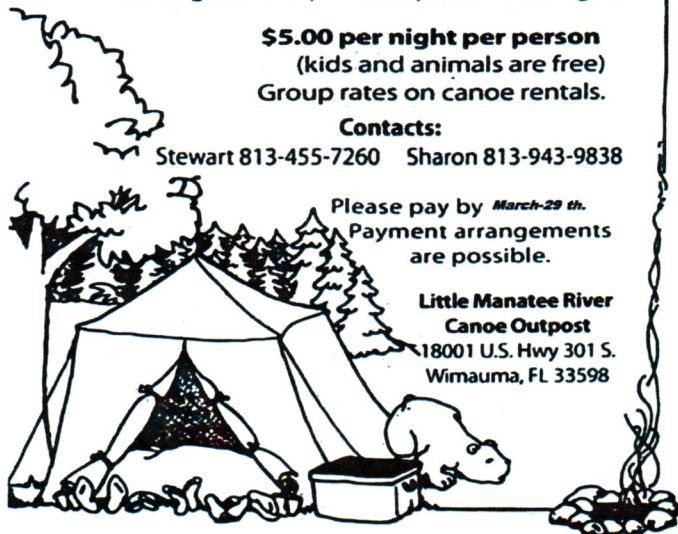
**\$5.00 per night per person**  
(kids and animals are free)  
Group rates on canoe rentals.

**Contacts:**

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

Please pay by *March-29 th.*  
Payment arrangements  
are possible.

**Little Manatee River  
Canoe Outpost**  
18001 U.S. Hwy 301 S.  
Wimauma, FL 33598



**DICK D. MEMORIAL- KEEP IT SIMPLE**

## CO-ED SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT SATURDAY May 6, 2017

**Gasden Park**  
6901 South MacDill Avenue,  
Tampa, FL, 33611

**From 8:30 AM TILL WE ARE DONE**

**COST \$100.00 per Team**

For a team of 12 players that's only \$8.33 per player

Contact Susan O. 813-325-6538

Buddy H. 813-871-2514

or Tim @ Central Office 813-933-9123

*Deadline to Register is May 1st, 2017*

This tournament is a fund-raising event for the Tampa Bay Area Institutional Committee (TBAIC) which carries the message into jails, prisons, detox centers and hospitals\*  
*ALL* money raised is spent to buy and place pocket sized Big Books, 12 x 12s and AA literature in these facilities.

Even if you don't plan on playing ball, come on out, support your team and enjoy a day of fun and fellowship while supporting our 5th Tradition!  
There will be a 50/50 raffle to win

## Steps to Freedom

12 Steps Speaker Workshop

**Saturday, June 17, 2017 | 9am-4:30 PM**

**Tickets**

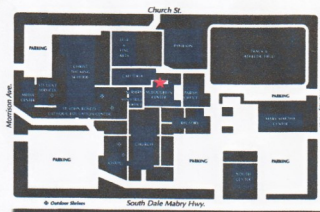
\$15.00 in advance  
\$20.00 at the door

### Speakers

Steps 1,2&3 | Roger Hightower, Seminole, FL  
Steps 4&5 | Doug F., Brandon, FL  
Steps 6&7 | TBD  
Steps 8&9 | Kelly, Treasure Island, FL  
Steps 10&11 | Steve, Springhill, FL  
Step 12 | TBD

### Location

Christ the King Church | McLoughlin Center  
821 S. Dale Mabry, Tampa, FL 33609



### Refreshments

Coffee & pastries  
Lunch



