



# Tri-County Central Office News

MADE A DECISION TO TURN OUR WILL AND OUR LIVES OVER TO THE CARE OF GOD  
AS WE UNDERSTOOD HIM

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

**March, 2011**

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

## "A MAN OF THIRTY", PAGE 32 IN THE BIG BOOK

One of the most intriguing coincidences in AA history--although it's never mentioned - is that Bill and Lois Wilson attended Calvary Church Oxford Group meetings while a recovering alcoholic named Richard Peabody was treating clients at his home less than a block away, at 24 Gramercy Park. This was an important New York City connection for early AA understanding, but it actually had a Boston beginning under religious auspices. Peabody, who died in 1936, is best remembered today for his book, "The Common Sense of Drinking", which included important articles printed in medical journals in 1930 and 1931. Though he was a non-professional who came to be known as a "lay therapist," Peabody helped educate his generation of medical doctors about the hopelessness of the alcoholic's condition. He also won a very modest acceptance of lay therapists as co-workers with psychiatrists in treating alcoholics. He trained other recovering alcoholics to carry on the same work, and one of his best-known protégés was lay therapist Francis T. Chambers Jr., who worked in Philadelphia with Dr. E. A. Strecker. Peabody's contribution to AA has to be inferred from his writings and the coincidental events that accompanied his work. But since "The Common Sense of Drinking" preceded the AA Big Book by some years and was one of the most highly regarded early books about alcoholism, it's believed that Bill Wilson consulted it as he set about writing his own material. It is startling, for example, to find in Peabody's writings some of the phrases and ideas that have become part of AA. "Halfway measures are of no avail," Peabody wrote, in discussing what the alcoholic must do to recover. Did Bill Wilson use this same idea when he said, "Half measures availed us nothing" in the famous Chapter passage that now serves as an introduction to AA meetings? Peabody also put forth the idea that complete surrender had to precede getting sober: "The surrender to the fact that alcohol can no longer be indulged in without bringing disastrous results is of such importance that it requires extremely thoughtful consideration" (p.74). He deployed the "going-on-the-wagon point of view" as only a stopgap measure, and referred to failed attempts to teach alcoholics "to drink like gentlemen" (p.81). He emphasized the need for honesty. "Once the alcoholic takes up treatment," he wrote, "he must be absolutely honest in giving an account of his thoughts and actions, and he must take great precautions against

**From the Central Office  
SERVICE DESK  
A total of 561 phone calls  
were made to the  
Central Office in  
January  
227 for info on AA,  
0 for info on Al-Anon,  
6 messages for other  
inquiries,  
7 requesting a Twelfth Step call,  
321 after Office Hours calls.  
There were 269 walk-in visits as well.**

## The American Weekly, March 11, 1951

**(This is a magazine article about  
Dr. Bob Smith, AA's cofounder.)**

**Dr. Bob: His Only Monument Is a Plaque, but the  
Thousands He Helped Rescue From Alcoholism Will Never  
Forget Him.**

**By Booton Herndon**

lying ingeniously (rationalizing) to himself." Quoting another source, Peabody affirmed that frankness and honesty were a first principle of mental hygiene (p.97). Peabody also briefly mentioned (p.123) an unknown man who gave up drinking until he had made his fortune five years later. Resuming "moderate"

The kindly faced man lying in the white hospital bed raised his hand to the light, studied it calmly and then remarked to the nurse standing by his bed: "I think this is it." Thus Dr. Robert Holbrook Smith recently passed from the world. So, finally, the story of "Dr. Bob, beloved by 120,000 members of Alcoholics Anonymous whom he had helped to find the way back to respectability and happiness, can be told. At the death of his wife, Anne, a year before, Dr. Smith's identity had been revealed, but the story of the co-founder of A.A. remained a secret. Dr. Bob was a boy in New England, 72 years ago, and his mother sent him to bed at 5 o'clock every evening. Just as regularly did he secretly arise, dress, and slip out the back way to continue the game with his boyhood pals. He learned early to revolt against authority. When he went away to college he became a steady drinker. He had always wanted to be a doctor but his strong willed mother had always opposed it, and it was three years after he graduated from Dartmouth before he got up the courage to go to medical school. He drank so continuously he just did manage to get his degree. Once he went off on such a protracted binge that his fraternity brothers had to send for his father to straighten him out. All this time Bob was corresponding with Anne, his high school sweetheart. That was as far as their courtship went. With the exception of two hard working years as an intern, he was seldom sober. Still, Anne, waiting for a miracle, married no one else. The miracle happened, apparently, after a year-long period of heavy drinking left him terrified and on the wagon. In 1915 when he was 35 years old and some 17 years after he had first met her, he married Anne and brought her to Akron with him as his bride. They were happy for several years - until the Eighteenth Amendment was passed. The Grapevine, the official magazine of Alcoholics Anonymous, explains in the weird logic of the alcoholic what happened then. Dr. Bob figured that since he'd soon be unable to get any more alcohol, he might as well drink up what there was. Despite prohibition, he never found it difficult to get more. From then on, he had a regular pattern. He began drinking every afternoon at four. Every morning he'd quite his tortured nerves with sedatives and, trembling, go to work to make enough money to buy alcohol for four o'clock. That went on for 15 years. In the meantime, a New York broker who had drunk himself out of prominence discovered that when he was trying to talk drunks into going on the wagon, he had less craving for liquor.

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**Go to page 3**

**TBAIC - District 2 - Hillsborough & East Pasco Counties  
 (877) AATAMPA or (877) 228-2672!**

Hello everybody! My name is John O. and I am an alcoholic. It has been another exciting month for TBAIC and it is my honor to be able to spread the good news.

Carl C reports that he coordinated with Scott D., our Detox Coordinator, on arranging bringing a meeting to the Acts Outpatient Facility just north of 56<sup>th</sup> St. He also reported that the Salvation Army was in need of Big Books.

Paul D could not make the meeting but reports that all Hillsborough Men's Jails' meetings are going well.

John S reports that the Riverside Academy meeting on Wednesday night is doing great. He was also glad to report that the Leslie Peter's halfway house, which had not had a meeting going into it, has been filled by John O. Also the ACTS juvenile detox Tuesday night commitment has been filled by Chris D, John S expressed gratitude toward all volunteers and their commitments.

East Pasco Women's Coordinator Cathleen C could not make it but reports that all meetings are being covered and going well.

Scott D reports that all meetings are going well. Insisting for anyone interested in volunteering for Detoxs to contact him.

Alternate chair, John S, has coordinated updating the TBAIC information on the new website for District 2 ([www.district2tampaaa.org](http://www.district2tampaaa.org)). As a reminder anyone interested in seeing exactly what TBAIC does, log onto the website and click the Institutions tab.

On a side note, Sober Stock will be March 18-20 and tickets are \$40 for the weekend. Proceeds go to supporting TBAIC. We also welcome all those interested in volunteering or becoming a part of TBAIC at our next business meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM at the Tri-County Central Office.

Thank you all for your hard work and support, and also for the opportunity to be of service.

**Treasurer's Report – February 12, 2011**

Year to Date Income Including 2010 Year End Balance	\$5,120.57
Less Prudent Reserve	- \$500.00
Less YTD Literature	- \$2,500.00
Less YTD Expenses	-\$130.82
Pink Can Current Balance	\$676.13
Spending Account Balance including 2010 Year End Balance	\$531.46

**Our Next Committee Meeting**

Is at 9:30 AM on March 12<sup>th</sup> at the Tri-County Central Office (near Himes & Waters). If you need more specific directions please call Tim @ 813-933-9123. The meeting usually lasts about an hour and it is the best way to get involved with service work, in Detox/Treatment/Jail/Prison facilities. If you would like to join our committee **PLEASE COME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**Pink Can Drive**

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

TBAIC, PO Box 26242, Tampa FL 33623

**Thank you to those groups** who have sent in a donation this Month: Big Book Noon 3333 Club, Midday Matinee Group, Monday Night Madness, Old School Group, Sisters in Sobriety, Sober on Saturday, There is a Solution Group, Town n Country Group, Wellspring Recovery Group, and Wesley Chapel Group.

**TBAIC 2010 Committee Members**

<b>Buddy H. - Chair</b>	<b>813-871-2514</b>
<b>John S.</b>	<b>813-562-5601</b>
<b>Brian B. Treasurer (interim)</b>	<b>813-361-5884</b>
<b>John O. – Secretary</b>	<b>813-263-4998</b>
<b>Dick D. - Hills Jails - Emeritus</b>	<b>813-254-4423</b>
<b>Paul D. – Hillsborough County Jail</b>	<b>727-385-5529</b>
<b>Jill J.— Hills Women's Jails</b>	<b>813-349-7048</b>
<b>Scott D. - Detox</b>	<b>813-403-2714</b>
<b>HCI Women's Prison</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>E Pasco Jail - Mens- POSITION</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>Cathleen C. - E Pasco Jail— Women's</b>	<b>813-727-1415</b>
<b>Chris D. - E Pasco Prison</b>	<b>813-857-5400</b>
<b>Carl C.—Treatment</b>	<b>813-215-9195</b>
<b>Curtis B.—Bridge The Gap</b>	<b>813-405-7966</b>
<b>Joe L. - Pre-Release</b>	<b>813-918-3489</b>
<b>John S.— Juvenile</b>	<b>813-562-5601</b>
<b>Heather B.—Alt. Juvenile</b>	<b>813-361-5884</b>

<p><b>The American Weekly...continued from page One</b></p>	<p><b>EARLY AA RECOVERY RATES</b></p>
<p>business deal in 1935. The deal fell through and Bill found himself once more a failure, with only 2\$ in his pocket. He knew right away that he had his choice: find a drunk to talk to, or get drunk himself. Fortunately, he found a drunk, Dr. Bob. Bill moved in with Dr. Bob and straightened him out. When he and Dr. Bob wanted a drink, they'd go out and find a drunk to talk to. They sobered up a number of habitual drinkers in Akron that way and then their fame began reaching out to other cities. Slowly, gradually, the idea spread. Almost before Dr. Bob and Bill, the co-founders, were aware of it, Alcoholics Anonymous was a going concern. The book, Alcoholics Anonymous, was written. It is now in its 13th printing (1950-1951). People began to write in from all over the world. Some were alcoholics themselves, some were mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, husbands, wives or friends of alcoholics. They all got an answer. Dr. Bob, who had devoted half his life to drinking, still found himself a slave to alcohol - only now it was on the other fellow's breath. He personally visited some 5,000 in Akron hospitals, encouraging them. As his period of sobriety increased, more and more patients came to him, and it looked as though one part of his ambition, to own a convertible, might not be impossible after all. Finally he made it. Last year he got a new yellow convertible. The Grapevine pictures him, at the age of 71, speeding through the streets of Akron in it. "The long slim lines made even more rakish with the top down. No hat, his face to the sun, into the driveway he sped. Pebbles, flying, tires screeching, he'd swoosh to a stop. And, just then, before he put 150 miles on the gleaming yellow convertible, Dr. Bob's malignant disease took a turn for the worse and he had to give up driving. He died a few months later. ( November 16, 1950 ) Bill W. explained why there will be no imposing monument to this man who saved so many people from alcoholism. When it was once suggested, last year, Dr. Bob said: "Anne and I plan to be buried just like other folks." And so only a simple plaque in the alcoholic ward of St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, where Dr. Bob did so much of his work, commemorates his work as co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous.</p>	<p>Of alcoholics who came to A.A. (from 1935 to 1955) and really tried, 50% got sober at once and remained that way, 25% sobered up after some relapses, and among the remainder, those who stayed on with A.A. showed improvement. (Big Book, page xx.) Dr. G. Kirby Collier, psychiatrist: "I have felt that A.A. is a group unto themselves and their best results can be had under their own guidance, as a result of their philosophy. Any therapeutic or philosophic procedure which can prove a recovery rate of 50% to 60% must merit our consideration." (Big Book, page 569.) Records in Cleveland show that 93 percent of those who came to us (in the early days) never had a drink again. (Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers, page 261.) It is probably fair to say that 3 out of 4 who came during that period, and who have since remained with the groups, have recovered from their alcoholism. (Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol, Vol. 6, No. 2. A talk given by Bill Wilson, September 1945.) About two thousand recoveries now take place each month. Of those alcoholics who wish to get well and are emotionally capable of trying our method, 50 percent recover immediately, 25 percent after a few backslides. The remainder are improved if they continue active in A.A. Of the total who approach us, it is probable that only 25 per cent become A.A. members on the first contact. A list of seventy-five of our early failures today discloses that 70 returned to A.A. after one to ten years. We did not bring them back; they came of their own accord. (N.Y. State Journal of Medicine Vol. 50. A talk given by Bill Wilson, July 1950.) This is from the August 1946 AA Grapevine: "MINNEAPOLIS RECORD INDICATED THAT 75% ARE SUCCESSFUL IN A.A." The Minneapolis Group, in March 1943, inaugurated a system for keeping a record of the sobriety of members from three months on up. As a result, the following exact percentages have been arrived at:</p>
<p><b>"A MAN OF THIRTY", continued from page One</b></p>	<p>For the Year 1945 -</p>
<p>drinking, he was soon back in his alcoholic difficulties, losing his money in two or three years and dying of alcoholism a few years after that. This anecdotal account may have been the germ idea for the Big Book story (PP.32-33) about the "man of thirty" who gave up drinking until successful retirement at fifty-five, and then picked up the bottle again, with disastrous results. From "New Wine" by Mel B., pages 117 &amp; page 118, paragraphs 1-3 ***** <b>WHO WAS THE MAN OF THIRTY?</b> According to a talk Lee C. of California gave at he 25th Annual San Fernando Valley Convention this year, this story was dated by Bill from the chapter "First Steps" in Richard Peabody's "The Common Sense of Drinking." From Archie M.</p>	<p>5 year members - 100% successful, 0% slipped 4 year members - 100% successful, 0% slipped 3 year members - 100% successful, 0% slipped 2 year members - 89% successful, 11% slipped 18 month members - 90% successful, 10% slipped 1 year members - 80% successful, 20% slipped 9 month members - 82% successful, 18% slipped 6 month members - 70% successful, 30% slipped 3 month members - 48% successful, 52% slipped (Of those who slipped in 1945, only 16½ % have worked back to any degree of sobriety.) Overall Percentages -1943 - 78% successful, 22% slipped 1944 - 83% successful, 17% slipped 1945 - 77% successful, 23% slipped We now have an active membership of one hundred and thirteen alcoholics, eighty-three of whom have not had a drink since their first A. A. meeting. Five of these have been dry from two to four years, twenty-seven dry from one to two years, forty-one dry from six to twelve months and twenty-six dry three to six months. (From a letter dated 9/29/41 from Drs. A. Weise Hammer and C. Dudley Saul, who were Medical Directors at Philadelphia General Hospital. Philadelphia's first AA meeting was on 2/28/40.) <b>Ed. Note: Why are we not having the same success rate in Alcoholics Anonymous today as they had then?</b></p>
<p><b>To show other alcoholics <u>precisely</u> how we have recovered is the main purpose of this book. page xiii Alcoholics Anonymous</b></p>	

**NOTES FROM INSIDE THE CENTRAL OFFICE**

January 11th, 2011 the Board of Directors for Central Office met:  
**BOARD MEMBERS** **REPRESENTING GROUP**

AL B.	CHAIRPERSON	MORNING MIRACLES GROUP
CHRIS S.	VICE-CHAIR	NEW BEGINNINGS GROUP
STAN P.	TREASURER	INTO ACTION GROUP
WILLOW W.	BOARD MEMBER	SWAMP GROUP
Excused	BOARD MEMBER	SOBER ON SATURDAY GROUP
HUD R.	BOARD MEMBER	KEEP IT SIMPLE/PASS IT ON
CHRIS R.	BOARD MEMBER	IT'S IN THE BOOK GROUP
JIM M.	BOARD MEMBER	TAMPA PALMS BIG BOOK GP.
WENDY S.	BOARD MEMBER	HARBOR LIGHTS GROUP
ROBERT L.	BOARD MEMBER	THE MEETING PLACE GROUP

Chris S. our Vice-Chair opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Chris welcomed Al B. back to the Board. Rob read the January Minutes. There was no discussion, a motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. All were in favor. Stan presented the January Budget Reports. He informed the Board that Patti should be here in March with the final results of the January Audit. He also noted that the January contributions were almost \$8000.00 and we started the year off with \$802.00 in the black. A nice start to the year. Motion to accept the report was made. It was seconded and all were in favor. In Old Business we had elections for a new Board Chair. After a moment or two of silence, Al stated that he would serve. Hud made a motion to elect Al B. as the new Board Chair. It was seconded and all were in favor. Welcome back Al. Al reminded everyone that Board members should send in an Alternate when they were unable to attend the monthly meeting and that it is a big responsibility to the Central Office when you are asked to serve on the Board. Jim asked who keeps a record of the Board members when they are here or not here. It was noted that the Central Office manager does this by recording it in the monthly minutes and it's also noted in the monthly newsletter. Tim gave a brief report of the dealings at the District 2 General Service meeting, noting we (the District) now had new Officers and Committee Chairs. Also that the District Chair had presented a slightly different format to running the meeting and that it seemed to go rather smoothly. "I thoroughly enjoyed this meeting." Announcements were made and the meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer. The Council meeting opened also in the usual manner with the Serenity Prayer. Mike McA. from the Living in the Solution Group out of Ruskin was welcomed to the Council. John G. read the January Minutes. There was no discussion, a motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. All were in favor. Stan presented the January Budget Reports and noted that the January contributions were almost \$8000.00 and we started the year off with \$802.00 in the black. Everything looks good, the expenses are in line. Motion to accept the report was made. It was seconded and all were in favor. Tim when over the upcoming Anniversary Dinner and asked everyone to turn in their Dinner Tickets and any monies they had collected from the Ticket sales. Dick D. gave his presentation for the Tampa Bay Area Institutions Committee noting that they were the biggest purchaser's of literature from the Central Office.

January 11th, 2011 the Central Office Representatives met:  
**COUNCIL MEMBERS** **REPRESENTING GROUP**

VIVIAN J.	FREEDOM IN SOBRIETY GROUP
JAMIE H.	TAMPA SPEAKERS GROUP
CAROL M.	NEW BEGINNINGS GROUP (Our Club)
JASON O.	KEEP IT SIMPLE MEN'S GROUP
SOPHIA C.	EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP
ARLENE S.	LIVING IN THE SOLUTION GROUP
MIKE MCA	LIVING IN THE SOLUTION GROUP
BERNIE H.	FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP
JOHN DP	CARDINAL GROUP
STEVE J.	ODESSA GROUP
RICK D.	EARLY RISER'S GROUP
FRED L.	TEMPLE TERRACE MEN'S GROUP
EARLE W.	RIVERSIDE GROUP
JOHN G.	TAMPA PALMS BIG BOOK GROUP
JIM VK	CARROLLWOOD NS GROUP
ANNA M.	CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP
SCOTT A.	LIVE & LET LIVE GROUP
WES M.	SOLUTIONS GROUP
JOHN F.	SOBRENITY GROUP
JONATHAN L.	WELLSPRING GROUP
JOHN R.	AS BILL SEES IT GROUP
BILL S.	OLD SCHOOL GROUP
TERRY F.	PRIMARY PURPOSE GROUP
LAURA B.	TAMPA BAY YOUNG PEOPLES GROUP

Tim gave a brief report has the District 2 Liaison noting we (the District) now had new Officers and Committee Chairs. Also that the District Chair had presented a slightly different format to running the meeting and that it seemed to go rather smoothly. As usual, all the Committees are looking for volunteers to serve on the different Committees and especially the Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community. Also folders were handed out to most everyone concerning the the idea of GSO producing a pamphlet for the Atheist/Agnostic. "Because I haven't looked over it yet, I prefer not to commit on it ." A few announcements were made and the meeting ended with the Lord' Prayer. The next meeting will be March 8th, 2011.

Our description of the alcoholic, the chapter to the agnostic, and our personal adventures before and after make clear three pertinent ideas:

- (A) That we were alcoholic and could not manage our own lives.
- (B) That probably no human power could relieved our alcoholism.
- (C) That God could and would if He were sought.

**ANNIVERSARY TIME**

GROUP	Honors To	Date	Years
THE DOVER GROUP	RICHARD C.	03/06/06	5 YRS
SATURDAY SERENITY SERENITY	DALE H.	03/31/92	19 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	LINDA H.	03/31/10	1 YR
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	GREG P.	03/09/10	1 YR
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	JOE H.	03/01/71	40 YRS
EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP	RILEY T.	03/19/01	10 YRS
EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP	DARLENE L.	03/18/95	16 YRS
EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP	MICHELE A.	03/28/88	23 YRS
EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP	DIANE T.	03/25/85	26 YRS
INTO ACTION GROUP	ANGELO M.	03/19/89	22 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	DONNA L.	03/27/06	5 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	SANDY B.	03/06/03	8 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	JAY D.	03/15/95	16 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	BOB W.	03/26/92	19 YRS
RIVERSIDE GROUP	BILL S.	03/20/09	2 YRS
RIVERSIDE GROUP	MATT F.	03/12/09	2 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY	STACIE S.	03/18/94	17 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY	MARY S.	03/12/87	24 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY	SHARON A.	03/24/77	34 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	BETTY W.	03/30/10	1 YR
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	PATRICIA F.	03/03/09	2 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	RUTHIE R.	03/17/05	6 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	SUE H.	03/28/03	8 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	RICHARD E.	03/26/88	23 YRS

**DISTRICT 2 GENERAL SERVICE MEETING**

Meets the First Sunday of each Month  
Club YANA

209 South Tampania Avenue  
GSR Sharing @ 2:00-3:00 pm  
DCM Sharing @ 2:00-3:00 pm  
Business Meeting @ 3:00-5:00pm  
Next Meeting—March 6th, 2011

“Tri-County Central Office News” is a monthly newsletter of AA in Hillsborough and East Pasco County and the Tri-County Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is about, by and for members of the AA Fellowship. **Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to AA as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply any endorsement by either AA or the Tri-County Central Office.**

**Still only \$ 5.00**

*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.*

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR CENTRAL OFFICE**

**On Tradition Three**

**“The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.”**

Editorial by Bill W. A.A. Grapevine, February, 1948

This is a sweeping statement indeed; it takes in a lot of territory. Some people might think it too idealistic to be practical. It tells every alcoholic in the world that he may become, and remain, a member of Alcoholics Anonymous *so long as he says so*. In short, Alcoholics Anonymous has no membership rule. Why is this so? Our answer is simple and practical. Even in self protection, we do not wish to erect the slightest barrier between ourselves and the brother alcoholic who still suffers. We know that society has been demanding that he conform to its laws and conventions. But the essence of his alcoholic malady is the fact that he has been unable or unwilling to conform either to the laws of man or God. If he is anything, the sick alcoholic is a rebellious nonconformist. How well we understand that; every member of Alcoholics Anonymous was once a rebel himself. Hence we cannot offer to meet him at any half-way mark. We must enter the dark cave where he is and show him that we understand. We realize that he is altogether too weak and confused to jump hurdles. If we raise obstacles, he might stay away and perish. He might be denied his priceless opportunity. So when he asks, "Are there any conditions?" we joyfully reply, "No, not a one." When skeptically he comes back saying, "But certainly there must be things that I have to do and believe," we quickly answer, "In Alcoholics Anonymous there are no *musts*." Cynically, perhaps, he then inquires, "What is this all going to cost me?" We are able to laugh and say, "Nothing at all, there are no fees and dues." Thus, in a brief hour, is our friend disarmed of his suspicion and rebellion. His eyes begin to open on a new world of friendship and understanding. Bankrupt idealist that he has been, his ideal is no longer a dream. After years of lonely search it now stands revealed. The reality of Alcoholics Anonymous bursts upon him. For Alcoholics Anonymous is saying, "We have something priceless to give, if only you will receive." That is all. But to our new friend, it is everything. Without more ado, he becomes one of us. Our membership tradition does contain, however, one vitally important qualification. That qualification relates to the use of our name, Alcoholics Anonymous. We believe that any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation. Here our purpose is clear and unequivocal. For obvious reasons we wish the name Alcoholics Anonymous to be used only in connection with straight A.A. activities. One can think of no A.A. member who would like, for example, to see the formation of "dry" A.A. groups, "wet" A.A. groups, Republican A.A. groups, Communist A.A. groups. Few, if any, would wish our groups to be designated by religious denominations. We cannot lend the A.A. name, even indirectly to other activities, however worthy. If we do so we shall become hopelessly compromised and divided. We think that A.A. should offer its experience to the whole world for whatever use can be made of it. But not its name. Nothing could be more certain. Let us of A.A. therefore resolve that we shall always be inclusive, and never exclusive, offering all we have to all men save our title. May all barriers be thus leveled, may our unity thus be preserved. And may God grant us a long life --and a useful one!

**Bill W. The A.A. Grapevine, February, 1948**



# MORE NEWS AROUND THE TOWN & THE AREA

## SUWANNEE BIG BOOK WEEKEND

March 4th, 5th, and 6<sup>th</sup> 2011  
Dowling Park, Florida

An in depth study of the first one-hundred sixty-four pages of the Big Book will be moderated by Marco W. , Willie S. and Larry H. at Dowling Park, which is 12 miles west of Live Oak, Florida, on the Suwannee River. The first session begins at 7 p.m. on Friday and ends Sunday at noon. There will be a pot luck dinner Saturday featuring deep fried turkey and whatever we provide. (There is a grocery store and a restaurant on the property.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration only (no lodging) per person is: \$15.00

1 Room: 1 or 2 persons \$170.00  
3 persons \$185.00  
4 persons \$200.00

Please mail this form and a check to:  
David Hollister: 357 41<sup>st</sup>. Ave. St. Pete Beach, Fl 33706  
Phone number 727-360-4754  
e-mail suwaneebigbook@yahoo.com

## Spring into Sobriety Women's Conference

Date: May 20<sup>th</sup> – May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011  
Time: Friday, 2 pm – Sunday, 12 noon  
1<sup>st</sup> Meeting starts 3:30pm  
Place: Day Spring  
8411 25<sup>th</sup> St E.  
Parrish, Florida 34219  
www.SISConference.com

## Welcome to the 55rd Florida State Convention July 20 - July 24, 2011

THE DOUBLETREE HOTEL  
At the entrance to Universal Studios Orlando  
5780 Major Boulevard, Orlando, Florida 32819  
407-351-1000, Toll Free 800-327-2110  
On-Line Reservations:  
<http://55.flstateconvention.com/>



55th Florida State Convention

## ANNUAL HOUSECLEANING

Spiritual Retreat for A.A. and Al-Anon  
March 11th-13th, 2011  
Lake Yale Conference Center  
39034 County Road 452  
Leesburg, Florida 34788  
Contact: Tom B. 813-951-5740  
Carmen L. 727-541-3737

## STEPS TO FREEDOM

June 18th, 2011  
Christ the King Church  
Speaker: Mickey B. from California  
(WWW.STEPSTOFREEDOMTAMPA.COM)

If you are interested in helping out with this event, there is a Steering Committee Meeting every Third Saturday of the Month at The Club, 3333 West Columbus Drive at 7:00 pm. We could really use your help. Attend the meeting and check us out

## South Florida Area 15 General Service Quarterly Assembly "Trust God, Clean House, Help Others"

Hosted by District 6 \*\*  
Hutchinson Island Marriott  
April 15-17, 2011  
Registration Friday 4 PM-8:30 PM,  
Saturday 8 AM-8:30 PM,  
Sunday 7 AM-9 AM

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Hutchinson Island Marriott  
555 NE Ocean Blvd.  
Stuart, Fl 34996  
Phone (772) 225-3700  
Room Rate \$129 King single (Group code arkarka)  
\$135 Double (Group code ardarda)  
Must be received by 3/16/2011  
Reference: South Florida Area 15  
General Service Quarterly  
Special needs at any meeting or workshop, as well as an Interpreter for the hearing impaired for the Sunday morning business meeting and/or assembly can be arranged by contacting Area Special Needs Chair Peggy E. (239) 269-7651, District 6 Special Needs Chair Linda W. (772) 581-8118 or email to specialneeds@areal5aa.org

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Get Flyers at <http://www.area15aa.org>

