



# Tri-County Central Office News

Remember, when you are discussing how to distribute your group funds, it's not about who you like the most, GSO, the District, the Area or Central Office, it's not about us and them, it's ALL about WE.

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

May, 2011

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

## Early History of Florida AA

The first A.A. contact in Florida was probably a loner in Daytona Beach who first wrote the New York office in November 1939. Then in 1940 Frank P., a member from New York living in Miami, became the A.A. contact there. And the wife of Joe T. wrote to New York concerning her alcoholic husband. Separately, a Roger C. also wrote New York and was put in touch with Joe T., and both of them were in touch with Frank P. With the appearance of two new recruits, Charlie C. and Carl C., in December, organized meetings in Miami got under way. A series of articles on A.A. in the newspaper helped bring in others. A group was formally organized in April 1941. By July, it had ten members. In August 1942, Bill W. visited Miami and reported a membership of 45 with two meetings a week. Bill and Lois W. visited again in May '44. A club and an intergroup were going by 1946. New groups at that time included Miami Beach, Northside, Coral Way and Hialeah. A group began in Ft. Lauderdale in '44 by Buck B. In '45, more groups elsewhere in the state were started: Pensacola, St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Lake Worth and Gainesville. The following year new groups appeared in Cocoa, Delray Beach, Ft. Myers, Hollywood, Lake Wales and Ocala. The group in Lake Worth was named the Palm Beach county group. Stan L. and Hazel O. from West Palm Beach attended the group and in 1947 a meeting for women began in May in Palm Beach. The West Palm Beach group held its first meeting on August 5, at the odd Fellows Hall. They ran an ad in the classified section of the Palm Beach Post and Times. In 1949, clubrooms were opened. December 1940 also saw the beginning of A.A. in Jacksonville. Commander Junius C., who had apparently gotten sober in California through the Big Book, was transferred to the Jacksonville Naval Air Station. He went looking for a prospect that December and found Tom S.—who was to become a real pioneer in A.A. service, Delegate from North Florida on Panel 1, Regional Trustee 1962-66, and chairman of the oldtimers' committee that led to the establishing of the A.A. Archives. Tom rounded up five of his drinking cronies—among them, Charlie P., Bruce H. and Hugh C.—and they met at his house for the first A.A. meeting in Jacksonville. In April '41, Tom persuaded the Jacksonville Journal to publish an article on A.A. Bruce H. had even more ambitious plans. He started a radio program on A.A. sponsored by the Gulf Life Insurance Co. It

## ERNIE G.—AA #4?

The man generally considered AA number 4 was Ernie Galbraith, who first got sober in the summer of 1935, when Bill Wilson was still staying with the Smiths in Akron. Described as a wild, devil-may care young fellow (page 158 in the Big Book); he had enlisted for a one-year term in the Army when he was only 14 (but could pass for 18). After getting out of the Army he went to Mexico where he worked for an oil company, then "rode the range" in Texas. He had been married twice and had a son. After returning to Akron he had trouble holding a job because of his drinking. His parents were very religious and belonged to the same church as T. Henry and Clarace Williams of the Oxford Group. It was probably they who told Ernie's parents about how Dr. Bob and Bill Wilson had found a way to quit drinking. They urged Ernie to go to see Dr. Bob and eventually he did. He agreed to be taken to City Hospital where he was tapered off. It took several days, he wrote, "for my head to clear and my nerves to settle." After about six days in the hospital he was visited by Dr. Bob, Bill Wilson and Bill Dotson, who explained their program to him, and he agreed to give it a try. "And it worked," he wrote, "as long as I allowed it to do so." He only "allowed it to do so" for about a year and then "became self-confident and then careless." He went on a seven-month slip. Finally, after seven months of drinking, he went back "unshaven, unkempt, ill-looking, bleary-eyed," and asked for help again. He wrote that he was never lectured about his "seven month failure." Ernie "never really jelled," according to Dr. Bob. Sue remembered that "they didn't quite know what to do with him. He even got to where he wanted to get paid for speaking at meetings." He had periodic relapses, which got worse and worse until the time he died. Dr. Bob's daughter, Sue, about 17 at the time, said that the first time she saw Ernie he stopped her on the street to ask her how to get to Dr. Smith's house. She pointed out the house, but didn't tell him that she was Sue Smith. Beginning shortly after she finished grade school, Sue had been seeing a boy named Ray Windows. She claims that her parents disapproved of Ray and tried to break them up. Sue believes her father deliberately tried to get her interested in Ernie in order to keep her away from Ray. She didn't like Ernie at first; she thought he was a "smarty." She described him as "stout, with reddish hair and a round face with blue eyes. He was outgoing, the life-of-the-party type. Ernie was single then and he kept coming to the house, and I think my dad got the bright idea that if he could get Ernie to take me out, and he'd pay the way, he might be able to get me away from Ray. We'd go down and get hamburgers, and Dad would buy them. I knew all that, but I didn't realize it was in connection with Ray at the time. Now I think it was. I think Dad was using Ernie, and it backfired on him." When Ray got a job out of town and moved away, "Ernie gradually started to have some appeal," Sue wrote. "He was an older person and he had a good sense of humor. We always had fun. We joked together. He was a real storyteller. He could make my Mom and Dad laugh like

### From the Central Office SERVICE DESK

A total of 544 phone calls  
were made to the  
Central Office in  
March

237 for info on AA,  
0 for info on Al-Anon,  
2 messages for other  
inquiries,

3 requesting a Twelfth Step call,  
302 after Office Hours calls.

There were 278 walk-ins visits as well.

was a huge success, and Bruce approached the Prudential Life Insurance Co. with the idea of sponsoring it nationwide. This helped bring Bill W. down for a visit in early 1942, during which he and Tom S. were able to convince Bruce of the error of his ways. Twenty-five people attended a dinner given in Bill's honor at the Seminole Hotel. A.A. thrived in

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

Hello everybody! My name is John S. and I am an alcoholic. This has been another exciting month for TBAIC, with lots to be grateful for, and even more to look forward to in the near future. Nancy B. has taken over as the Hillsborough County Jail women's coordinator. She said that all the meetings are going well. We are still looking for more volunteers to help Cindy M. on Monday nights at Orient Road, who sometimes takes meetings in alone and could use support. Paul D. is the Hillsborough County Jail men's coordinator. All of the meetings are being covered and going well, and we are making good use of the people who already PV numbers. Our jail orientation was April 9<sup>th</sup> and because of new jail regulations, we will not have another orientation until October. Cathleen C. stepped down as East Pasco Women's Jail coordinator, and Sandy B. and Ruth have filled her shoes. Sandy reports that things are great, and there are many women involved in carrying the message inside of that institution. Sandy continues to do a fantastic job finding people who are interested in serving TBAIC. Melissa C. stepped in as the new Bringing the Gap coordinator, which helps to connect people getting out of institutions with AA members willing to help them make the transition successfully. At the monthly district meeting we were able to generate a list of names for Melissa to turn to when she receives calls through the Bringing the Gap toll-free number, and we are looking for more people who are willing to be contacted to help. Carl C. is our Treatment Coordinator, We have meetings being taken into many facilities in the Tampa Bay area, and Carl reported that everything is going great. Georgia Jim spoke at a fundraiser for Steps to Freedom at the 3333 Club, and it was a successful event. Steps to Freedom will be Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at Christ the King Church from 9am to 5pm. Mickey B. from California is speaking, and lunch will be provided. STF, as it is known, is a major fundraiser for the Tampa Bay Area Institutions Committee. We welcome all those interested in volunteering or becoming a part of TBAIC at our next business meeting on May 14th at 9:30 AM at the Tri-County Central Office. We are always looking for people who are interested in getting involved with the Institutions committee. Thank you all for your hard work and support, and also for the opportunity to be of service. John S.

**Treasurer's Report – April 9th, 2011**

Year to Date Income Including 2010 Year End Balance	\$5625.74
Less Prudent Reserve	- \$500.00
Less YTD Literature	- \$4,500.00
Less YTD Expenses	-\$200.82
Pink Can Current Balance	\$1,355.69
Spending Account Balance including 2010 Year End Balance	\$424.92

**Our Next Committee Meeting**

Is at 9:30 AM on May 14th, 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: Back to Basics (\$35), Living in the Solution (\$26.43), Midday Matinee (\$225), Noon Big Book (\$48), Old School Group (\$229.40), Ruskin Fellowship- Sunday (\$80.35), Sisters in Sobriety (\$32.08), Sober on Saturday (\$12), TGIS Group (\$6), There is a Solution Group 3333 (\$23).

**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</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>Nancy B.— Hills Women's Jails</b>	<b>813-872-0262</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>Melissa—Bridge The Gap</b>	<b>407-325-6498</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>

<b>Early History of Florida AA...continued from page One</b>	<b>Early History of Florida AA...continued</b>
<p>city, holding well over a hundred meetings a week. Tom S. remained active and was still working with newcomers at the time of his death in 1982 with over 41 years of continuous sobriety. In the spring of 1942, a William D., who had gotten sober in A.A. in Chicago, was transferred to Tampa, Florida, and wanted to start a group. His wife, Helen, wrote the New York office, and the D.'s were listed as a Tampa contact. Helen also ran an ad in the local paper. Unfortunately, Bill D. soon died of pneumonia. Tampa's first A.A. meeting was held November 1943 through the efforts of a nonalcoholic pharmacist, Dr. J.K. R. The pharmacist's brother, Ralph R., who lived in Gainesville, Georgia, had found sobriety in Atlanta A.A. Dr. R. attended Atlanta A.A. with him several times, becoming so enthusiastic about what he saw that he sent to the New York office for literature. He and, his brother returned to Jacksonville to hold the first meeting there. Roy Y. arrived a month later. This was the same Roy Y. who had sobered up in Texas, helped get the first A.A. group going in Los Angeles, and lived the A.A. program as a lone member while stationed in Alaska. Now Roy was stationed at Drew Field, an Army Air Corps base in Tampa. Upon contacting Dr. R., Roy immediately began work on prospects. One name was a Jack D., who, when contacted, replied, "I don't need your program, but I'll tell you the name of a man who does—badly!" The name was that of Ernest K. who became Roy's first recruit. The two of them formed the nucleus of A.A. in Tampa. In January '44 they acquired their first woman member, Alleen E., and by April they had ten members in the group and a permanent meeting place at Frankfurt and Tyler streets. A letter to the New York office said, in part, "Roy is like an anxious hen with a flock of awkward chicks." Roy secured the support of the city's leading psychiatrist, who has helped in reaching the rest of the medical profession. In May, Bill and Lois W. paid a three-day visit to Tampa and spoke at an open meeting at the Chamber of Commerce Building. Samuel E. and wife, an A.A. couple from East Orange, New Jersey, who had met Bill W., moved to Orlando in 1944. There they were put in touch with Dave A., who was looking for help. After meeting with the E.'s several times, Dave wrote to New York asking how properly to conduct an A.A. meeting. The group grew slowly. Sometimes Dave A. and Ernie 7., from Winter Park, were alone. But by '46, the group was large enough to have a meeting place of its own in an office building where the room was reached by climbing 30 steep steps. The members joked, "If you made the steps, you will probably make the program." A second group was started in 1952 at the Lamar Hotel by the owners, Larry and Jackie K. Larry kept one room at the hotel for drying out newcomers. As he was crippled and had difficulty mounting the famous steps, he started to hold meetings at the hotel. Louise A. remembers that in the late '40's and early 50's, it was not unusual for some of the Orlando members to drive 60 miles to Daytona Beach, 80 miles to Tampa, or even 150 miles to Jacksonville to attend A.A. meetings or gatherings - and that was before Interstate highways. Longtime Orlando A.A. members tell of Mac, a defrocked Episcopalian priest, who was hired as full-time secretary at the Intergroup office. A compelling speaker, he would rouse the audience with <span style="float: right;"><b>(next column) →</b></span></p>	<p>, "I found God to save my soul, but it was A.A. that saved my ass." Once, on a radio show, he fielded call-in questions for four straight hours with great communicating skill. His long counseling sessions were popular—particularly with young women. Then one day, Mac skipped town, leaving the young women sadder but wiser, the treasury about \$400 poorer thanks to a forged check, and the Intergroup without its office machines. "Mac was such a good con artist, many of us couldn't believe he was a phony," says one of the members. Word went out to other Intergroup offices to beware. (Years later Mac turned up in Hyannis, Massachusetts, as a drug and family counselor at project HELP, using an assumed name. Confronted with his Orlando crime, he claimed protection under the statute of limitations.) Basia and Joseph H. have a special place in Orlando A.A. history. As a pilot in the Air Force, Joseph traveled worldwide and tells poignant stories of A.A. encounters in Labrador, Japan, Germany and elsewhere. The H.'s moved to Orlando in 1969 and began holding Traditions sessions in their home. Each monthly session was a three - to four - hour discussion of one Tradition with a review session at the end of twelve months. The meetings were still being held 16 years later, but on a weekly basis. The H's also attempted to carry the A.A. message into the Black community, through talks to Black church groups. Orlando now has over 40 groups with about 100 meetings a week. In South Florida, the South Miami group was founded in 1952. The Arcadia group began in '50. The Islamorado group on the Upper Keys was founded in '54 by Eddie S., who had a real estate office near U.S.1 where A.A.s from Miami would stop for coffee on their way south. As the group grew, it moved to the Methodist Church annex. In '58 the members who lived farther north broke away to form the Upper Keys group which eventually met at the Coral Isle Church on Plantation Key. The Key West Fellowship group began in June '69. A women's group, called the Ocean group, was started in '78 when some women from other groups took a meeting to the home of Mavis B., who had been injured in an auto accident. Florida A.A. has always benefited from the influx of sober members from other parts of the country as they migrated to the sun belt. Just as the state has been one of the fastest growing in population, so has A.A. in the state. In 1955, Florida had 128 groups with about 2,400 members. In 1985, it reported 1,363 groups and its estimated A.A. membership had climbed to 22,230!</p> <p>This was an excerpt from the:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Manuscript of A.A. World History 1985</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">This document is the first draft of the in-depth history of Alcoholics Anonymous as prepared by Bob P. The manuscript was rejected by the Trustees' Literature Committee and was not published. Bob P.'s book, "Manuscript of A.A. World History", rich in AA history, is made available from <a href="http://silkworth.net">silkworth.net</a> for historical and research purposes only</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>If we forget our past...we won't remember our future, because we won't have one</b></p>

**NOTES FROM INSIDE THE CENTRAL OFFICE**

April 12th 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
GAIL F.	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
BRIAN L.	ALTERNATE BOARD MEMBER	THE MEETING PLACE GROUP

Al opened the meeting in the usual matter by welcoming everyone and asking them to turn their cell phones down and followed that with the Serenity Prayer. Hud R. read the March minutes. There was no discussion. Motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. All were in favor. Stan P. presented the March Treasurer's report. Stan explained that there was an error to Line Item 6430 and this would be corrected as soon as the Accountant came in. It looks like literature sales were down somewhat for this month. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made and seconded and all were in favor. In Old Business, discussion centered around doing a Founder's Day event in June. A few people shared their experiences at Founder's Day events in other District's. The question of the purpose of the event was brought up. Was it to raise money or just have a good time? Jim noted that maybe we should leave it up to the Council to decide. Al expounded on the purpose for All Groups meetings and agreed to leave it up to the Council to decide. Willow suggested maybe having a picnic. Gail and Hud talked about the International. In New Business Tim brought to the attention of everyone about a new meeting that was starting up. He was unsure about putting it in the Meeting Schedule and wanted feed-back from the Board and the Council. After much discussion the most of the Board members saw no reason not to include it in the schedule. Lots of discussion followed. If they call themselves an AA group then we should put them in our schedule. Tim also noted that he had contacted GSO and they saw nothing wrong with the meeting but said it was up to our Group Conscience concerning the listing in the Meeting schedule. A motion was made to include the meeting in the schedule. It was approved with a majority vote. Tim gave his District Liaison report noting that most of the meeting was about going over the agenda items for the April Quarterly and the District is still looking for a new place to move. At the Council meeting we were able to welcome five new COR's. Brian from the Turning Point Group, Nezz from the Kingsway Group, Maarja from the Safe Haven Group, Jennifer from the TGIS Group, and Dave from the Meeting Place Group. The Council Meeting was pretty much a clone of the Board meeting. In Old Business discussion centered around ideas for the Founder's Day event. Maria G. was given the task of being the main contact for any ideas and suggestions anyone may come up with on how we wanted to host the event. After much discussion a motion was made that we charge \$5.00 for the dinner (pot-luck) pass the basket

April 12th, 2011 the Central Office Representatives met:  
**COUNCIL MEMBERS REPRESENTING GROUP**

VIVIAN J.	FREEDOM IN SOBRIETY GROUP
STEVE J.	ODESSA GROUP
JODI N.	AA 101 GROUP
JENNIFER U.	TGIS GROUP
GENE M.	LIVE & LET LIVE GROUP
JAMIE H.	TAMPA SPEAKERS GROUP
NEZ Z.	KINGSWAY GROUP
ANN S.	SOBER @ 7 GROUP
MARIA G.	KEEP IT SIMPLE/PASS IT ON GROUP
MAARJA K.	SAFE HAVEN GROUP
CHRIS T.	MONDAY NITE MADNESS GROUP
SOPHIA C.	EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP
CAROL M.	NEW BEGINNINGS GROUP
BRIAN L.	THE TURNING POINT GROUP
DAVE C.	THE MEETING PLACE GROUP
JOHN DP	CARDINAL GROUP
JULIET SB	SUNSHINE GROUP
EARLE W.	RIVERSIDE GROUP
ANNA M.	CAME TO BELIEVE 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

and have a 50/50 raffle. It was seconded and all were in favor. In New Business Tim brought to the attention of everyone about a new meeting that was starting up. He was unsure about putting it in the Meeting Schedule and wanted feed-back from the Council. After much discussion the most of the Board members saw no reason not to include it in the schedule. Tim also noted that he had contacted GSO and they saw nothing wrong with the meeting but said it was up to our Group Conscience concerning the listing in the Meeting schedule. Again, after much discussion it was decided by the Council that it was okay to list the meeting in the schedule. Tim gave brief reports as the District 2 Liaison and for the TBAIC. After some announcements the meeting ended

**DISTRICT 2 GENERAL SERVICE MEETING**  
Meets the First Sunday of each Month  
Club YANA  
209 South Tampania Avenue  
Business Meeting @ 3:00-5:00pm  
Next Meeting—May 1st, 2011

**ANNIVERSARY TIME**

GROUP	Honors To	Date	Years
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP	KEVIN P.	03/18/09	2 YRS
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP	PAUL G.	03/02/02	9 YRS
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP	JIM P.	04/23/05	6 YRS
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP	MARK D.	04/19/10	1 YR
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP	CHRISTOPHER E.	05/02/10	1 YR
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP	SAM F.	05/19/86	25 YRS
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP	GENE A.	05/11/79	32 YRS
MID DAY MATINEE GROUP	ROBIN D.	04/20/10	1 YR
JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP	KARLA O.	05/01/10	1 YR
JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP	FELICIA K.	05/31/08	3 YRS
JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP	SUSAN Y.	05/20/00	11 YRS
JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP	MARILYN A.	05/01/98	13 YRS
JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP	CANDY J.	05/20/86	25 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	CHRISTA G.	05/24/87	24 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	PHILOMENA D.	05/29/79	32 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	JOHN G.	05/27/10	1 YR
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	ROY K.	05/20/10	1 YR
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	ROD M.	05/09/10	1 YR
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	FRANK P.	05/03/10	1 YR
EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP	SARAH O.	05/20/74	37 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	CONI B.	05/11/79	32 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	GENE S.	05/12/74	37 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	BARBARA C.	05/23/69	42 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY GROUP	GEORGE T.	05/23/98	13 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY GROUP	BILL D.	05/18/86	25 YRS
DOVER GROUP	SKIP H.	05/24/10	1 YR
DOVER GROUP	NEIL H.	05/07/09	2 YRS
DOVER GROUP	TOM W.	05/20/08	3 YRS
DOVER GROUP	GREG D.	05/09/08	3 YRS
DOVER GROUP	JOHN L.	05/02/86	25 YRS

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

Honors To	Date	Years
ROBIN D.	04/20/10	1 YR
JAY D.	09/79	32 YRS
SHARON A.	03/31/77	34 YRS
PAUL G.	03/02/02	9 YRS

**ERNIE G.—AA #4...continued from page one**

nobody I've ever seen, just sitting around the kitchen table, telling stories, and drinking coffee. Like I say, they were pushing me, so I figured they liked him. And that was kind of different." Sue still saw Ray when he would come home for visits, but eventually she broke it off with Ray and married Ernie. Her parents disapproved, perhaps for other reasons as well, but certainly because they knew Ernie was drinking again. He was drunk when he married Sue in September of 1941. Her parents did not attend. Sue said she never told them she was married and believed they had heard about it or read it in the papers. The only witnesses, besides the minister, were Ernie's parents. Sue had moved out of her parent's home about nine month's before, with the admonition from Dr. Bob, "Just remember, young lady, wherever you go, you take yourself with you." Sue said that Ernie continued drinking that time until about 1946, when "the only reason he quit was the doctor thought he had a heart condition, and it scared him to death. I don't think he ever had a heart condition. I don't think he had a heart." While Sue was somewhat reconciled with her parents, apparently they were never again close. Sue said they didn't visit or send flowers when her children were born. They never said anything to Sue about Ernie, but she believes her father "would talk to other people about him. I heard Dad grew a healthy dislike for him. And Bill -- well, Bill came down one time when Ernie and I were still together, and Bill and I made this tape about A.A. and Dad. But on that tape, Ernie said something to Bill and Bill shot back at him, 'I gave upon you a long time ago, you son of a bitch!' That's right on the tape." Sue and Ernie had two children, a son (Mickey) and a daughter (Bonna). Ernie and Sue divorced about 1965 and he remarried. On June 11, 1969, Bonna shot herself, after first killing her six-year old daughter. She was 23 at the time of her death. Sue claims that Bonna was an alcoholic and was also using "diet pills." Sue wrote, "Ernie never got over it. Bonna died June 11, 1969, and he died two years later to the day, June 11, 1971." Later Sue married her childhood sweetheart, Ray Windows. Ray died August 3, 1989.

*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**

Sources: "The Children of the Healer, the Story of Dr. Bob's Kids" and "Dr. Bob and the Good Old-timers". Nancy O.



## MORE NEWS AROUND THE TOWN & THE AREA

**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](http://www.SISConference.com)

**Central Office Softball Tournament**  
(For AA members & their family members only)  
MAY 21st, 2011  
(Saturday)  
At Gadsden Park  
Located at: 6901 S. MacDill Ave., Tampa, FL 33611  
10 players per team with a minimum of 4 men/women on  
each team  
Cost: \$100 per team– all proceeds go to support  
Tri-County Central Office  
Team Registration Cut Off Date is:  
Wednesday May 14th, 2011  
Play begins at 9:00am  
Teams register on back and bring your fee  
and players list to Tim at Central Office

**Summer Kick-Off Classic  
Presents:  
2nd Annual Memorial Day Weekend**  
Friday-May 27th thru Monday May 30th, 2011  
Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront  
333 1st Street South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701  
727-825-7010

**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/>

“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**

**STEPS TO FREEDOM**  
June 18th, 2011  
Christ the King Church  
Speaker: Mickey B. from California  
([WWW.STEPSTOFREEDOMTAMPA.COM](http://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

**Founder's Day Breakfast**  
June 11, 2011  
Breakfast at 8 am  
Speaker at 9:30 am  
Mike B. from Cocoa Beach  
\$3 proceeds go to There is a Solution Conference  
October 15, 2011  
Club YANA  
209 S. Tampania  
813-245-6546 for more info

### NEW GROUPS/MEETINGS IN THE AREA

**The Lunch Bunch Group @** Recovery Club of  
Brandon 328 West Robertson Street, Brandon—Noon—  
Monday thru Saturday.

**Sweet Surrender Group @** Recovery Club of Brandon  
328 West Robertson Street, Brandon—7:00pm—  
Saturdays Music Meeting  
Music Meeting.

**12 & 12 Meeting**—non smoking in the Clean Air  
Room @ Our Place 1009 Lithia Pinecrest Road,  
Brandon—8:30 pm-Thursdays.

**Brandon Beginners 12 & 12 Group @** First  
Presbyterian Church 121 Carver Ave, Brandon--  
8:15pm-Thursdays

**Women's 12 & 12 Meeting @** The Club 3333 West  
Columbus Drive--4:30 pm-Sundays.

**Grupo Esperanza y Sobriedad @** Red Door Club  
6202 Interbay Blvd-2:00 pm-Sundays.

**Morning Miracles Group** has moved to the  
Metropolitan Community Church 408 Cayuga Street.  
Meets 6:30 am Sunday thru Sunday.

**ASL Meeting** that meets Tuesdays @ 7:30 pm @ Old  
School Group—108 Myrtle Ridge Road, Lutz, will no  
longer meet after May 10, 2011. This is being replaced  
by a Steps & Traditions meeting.

