



# Tri-County Central Office News

There is a lesson in everyone's story—can you hear it....

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

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## Ebby T. The Man Who Carried The Message To Bill W.

In 1960, at the Long Beach, California Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous, Bill Wilson wrote this dedication in an AA book that he gave to Ebby Thacher. "Dear Ebby, No day passes that I do not remember that you brought me the message that saved me - and only God knows how many more. In affection, Bill"

It was Ebby who found relief from his alcoholism in the simple spiritual practices of the Oxford Group which was an attempt to return to First Century Christianity - before it was complicated and distorted by religious doctrines, dogma and opinions. The program offered by Ebby to Bill involved taking a personal moral inventory, admitting to another person the wrongs we had done, making things right by amends and restitution, and a genuine effort to be of real service to others. In order to obtain the power to overcome these problems, Ebby had been encouraged to call on God, as he understood God, for help. Bill was deeply impressed by Ebby's words, but was even more affected by Ebby's example of action. Here was someone who drank like Bill drank - and yet Ebby was sober, due to a simple religious idea and a practical program of action. The results were an inexplicably different person, fresh-skinned, glowing face, with a different look in his eyes. A miracle sat directly across the kitchen table from Bill. Ebby was not some "do-gooder" who had read something in a book. Here was a hopeless alcoholic who had been completely defeated by John Barleycorn, and yet, had in effect, been raised from the dead. It was a message of hope for an alcoholic - that God would do for us what we could not do for ourselves. Bill continued to drink in a more restrained way for a short while, and then was admitted to Towns Hospital on December 11, 1934. Ebby visited him there on December 14th and essentially helped Bill take what would become Steps Four, Five, Six, Seven and Eight. But that "boost" from Ebby's visit wore off and that night, Bill's feeling of hopelessness deepened and a terrifying darkness yawned in the abyss. As the last trace of self-will was crushed, Bill said to himself, with neither faith nor hope, "I'll do anything, anything at all! If there be a God, let Him show Himself!" The Conference approved biography, *Pass It On*, quotes Bill as describing this experience: "What happened next was electric. Suddenly, my room blazed with an indescribably white light. I was seized with an ecstasy beyond description. Every joy I had known was pale by comparison. The light, the ecstasy - I was conscious of nothing else for a time. Then, seen in the mind's eye, there was a mountain. I stood upon its summit, where a great wind blew. A wind, not of air, but of spirit. In great, clean strength, it blew right through me. Then came the blazing thought, "You are a free man." I know not at all how long I remained in this state, but finally the light and the ecstasy subsided. I again saw the wall of my room. As I became more quiet, a great peace stole over me, and this was accompanied by a sensation difficult to describe. I became acutely conscious of a Presence, which seemed like a veritable sea of living spirit. I lay on the shores of a new world." Ebby had carried the message of the Oxford Group to Bill with great care and dedication---that recovery from alcoholism was possible using spiritual principles, but only if it was combined with practical actions. Bill Wilson never took another drink, and left Towns Hospital to dedicate the rest of his life to carrying the message to other alcoholics. Ebby, however, took a different path, one that caused him to have a series of relapses. The man whom Bill Wilson called his sponsor could not stay sober himself, and became an embarrassment. There were periods of sobriety, some long, some short, but eventually Ebby would, "fall off the wagon," as he called it. More revealingly, Ebby referred to his periods of sobriety as, "being on the wagon." For an AA to regularly use this sort of language is an indication that the commitment to sobriety is temporary in nature. If there is an "on the wagon" then there is an "off the wagon" too. And that was the on/off cycle of Ebby's drinking. Ebby was born on April 29, 1896, into a prominent and well-to-do family in Albany, New York, with roots going back before the American Revolution. His grandfather started a railroad wheel manufacturing business in 1852 and became the main supplier of wheels for the New York Central Railroad, as well as Mayor of Albany. Two other members of Ebby's family were also mayors of Albany, including his older brother, "Jack." One of New York State's most beautiful parks, located on the Helderberg escarpment southwest of Albany, was donated by the widow of Ebby's uncle, John Boyd Thacher and is named after him. Ebby's full name was Edwin Throckmorton Thacher and he can be said to have arrived in the world with "a silver spoon in his mouth." It is possible that because of his upper-class origins, with servants waiting on him and the respect brought by his family name, Ebby developed the attitude that life should always be easy for him. He was 'entitled', it seems. Lois Wilson shared her insights into Ebby in her biography, *Lois Remembers*, and stated that while Bill wanted sobriety with his whole soul, Ebby appeared to want just enough sobriety to stay out of trouble. In addition, Lois said, "Beyond that crucial visit with Bill, Ebby seemed to do very little about helping others. He never appeared really a member of AA. After his first slip, many harmful thoughts seemed to take possession of him. He appeared jealous of Bill and critical, even when sober, of both the Oxford Group and AA." Lois felt that it was important that AA's know why Ebby was not considered the founder of AA. Ebby carried the message to Bill, but he never followed it up with the years of devoted action needed to develop the AA program. Despite his failure to follow through after his vital visit with Bill, Ebby still seemed to feel he was not recognized adequately for his contribution to the start of AA. His employer for many years in Texas said that Ebby, "kind of thought the world owed him a living, to a certain extent. He thought he never got the recognition that he should. That was stuck in his craw for years." Another AA who had known Ebby in Texas said that, "Ebby held a deep resentment for Bill, Dr. Bob, and others, because he felt he was more the founder of what was to become AA than anyone else". In the author's opinion, this resentment may be the reason for his repeated "slips" in the program. Ebby also had the idea

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**TBAIC - District 2 - Hillsborough & East Pasco Counties**

Hello everybody! My name is John O. and I am an alcoholic. This has been another exciting month for TBAIC, with lots of gratitude and service the message is being shared.

Lots of updates throughout TBAIC. Joel, the co-chair for Bridging the Gap, said that the calls really picked up during the holiday season for individuals looking for their first ride to a meeting fresh out of a rehab, detox, or treatment facility. Although recently the activity has died down now that the holiday season is over. The Juvenile Detox meetings are all going well with nothing but good news to share. New people are brought in every week to share their experience, strength, and hope.

Nancy B., our Hillsborough Women's Jails Coordinator, said that there is a desire to have two Monday meetings at Faulkenburg Jail and she needs two women to help. Although meetings are being covered, currently it is nine women covering twelve meetings. This is a great opportunity for women in AA to give back and carry the message. It is a much-needed void for our committee and for the women inside the jail. If possible, please take into prayer and consideration your ability to help. Nancy B. has scheduled a small orientation to help streamline new women who are ready to help. Women, please contact her.

Sandy B., our E. Pasco Women's Jail Coordinator, said that she has plenty of women helping on Thursday but is in dire need of volunteers to help cover the Sunday meeting. Paul D., our Hillsborough Men's Jail Coordinator, said all meetings are going well but would welcome alternates, especially on Mondays.

Barbara attended our monthly meeting; she covers the DACCO Women's meetings, and wanted to report that the meeting had switched from Wednesday to Tuesday.

We welcome all those interested in volunteering or becoming a part of TBAIC to our next business meeting on March 10th 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.

**Our Next Committee Meeting**  
 Is at 9:30 AM on March 10<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:**  
 As Bill Sees It (\$26.04), Expect A Miracle (\$75.00), Freedom in Sobriety (\$18.17), Friday Night Live (\$15.00), Keystone Discussion Group (\$31.00), Living in the Solution (\$21.00), Meeting Place (\$15.50), Midday Matinee Group (\$216.00), Monday Night Madness (\$21.80), Mustard Seed (\$21.00), Nightly Newcomers 3333 (\$69.13), Noon Big Book (\$118.00), Old School Group (\$130.33), Ruskin Fellowship (\$42.00), Sister in Sobriety (\$27.30), Sober on Saturday (\$7.74), TGIS Group (\$41.60), Twelve Steps to Growth (\$34.00), There is a Solution Group (\$63.00), Yana Tamp Bay Speakers (\$7.00).

**TBAIC 2011 Committee Members**

<b>Buddy H. - Chair</b>	<b>813-871-2514</b>
<b>Bobby B. Alternate Chair</b>	<b>813-415-4961</b>
<b>Brian B. Treasurer</b>	<b>813-361-5884</b>
<b>Wayne H.— Alternate Treasurer</b>	<b>813-465-1462</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>John D. - Detox</b>	<b>813-526-5106</b>
<b>Michele C.—HCI Women's Prison</b>	<b>813-294-0806</b>
<b>Sandy B. - E Pasco Jail-Women's</b>	<b>813-727-1415</b>
<b>Chris D. - E Pasco Prison</b>	<b>813-857-5400</b>
<b>Rob T.—Treatment</b>	<b>813-453-6059</b>
<b>Michele S.— Women's Bridge TheGap</b>	<b>813-507-5796</b>
<b>Joel C.— Men's Bridge The Gap</b>	<b>813-525-8033</b>
<b>Robert - Pre-Release</b>	<b>616-808-0463</b>
<b>Joel C.— Juvenile</b>	<b>813-525-8033</b>

**Treasurer's Report – February 1st, 2012**

Year to Date Income Including 2010 Year End Balance	\$4,854.92
Less Prudent Reserve	- \$ 500.00
Less YTD Literature	- \$3,000.00
Less YTD Expenses	- \$139.95
Pink Can Current Balance	\$1,494.87
Spending Account Balance Including 2010 Year End Balance	\$1,535.62

**Ebby T. The Man Who Carried The Message To Bill W. ...continued from page One**

that he needed the right woman and an ideal job in order to stay sober. The implication is that if he didn't have the perfect woman and the perfect job, he couldn't stay sober. And he didn't stay sober. AA members know that sobriety has to be sought without any conditions, that we have to be "willing to go to any length to get it" and that "half measures availed us nothing." Some of Ebby's own letters bring to mind Lois's observation noted earlier, that Ebby seemed to be "around" AA, but never really "in" it. Typical correspondence from AA's devotes substantial discussion to the AA Program and the application of the Steps to their own lives. Ebby's letters avoid these topics and are significant for what they don't say. In 1954, Bill wrote that Ebby now, "shows more signs of really joining AA than ever before." The implication is that Ebby had shown less commitment to the AA program before then, but even at that time, there were still substantial doubts about his sincerity. Earlier, in 1947, his sister-in-law received a letter from Ebby, and she wrote back suggesting that the answer to his problems was to devote himself to helping others and then continued, "But as I read your letter this thought is far from your mind and you are again concerned with the petty and material affairs of your surroundings and the bickerings and by-plays of your associates, with the thought still deep in your mind that you have been persecuted and discriminated against by others, while the real facts might well be that it is your own ego that is at fault." Ebby drifted in and out of sobriety, and in and out of AA, with many AA members trying to help him regain a more stable sobriety. The person who was ultimately successful was Searcy W., who had established a hospital for alcoholics in Texas. Early in 1953, Searcy had asked Bill what he would like to see happen in AA, and Bill said, "I would like for Ebby to have a chance to sober up in your clinic." Several months later, it came to pass, and after a short slip in 1954, Ebby remained sober for seven years. In 1961, Ebby's girlfriend died and the next day Ebby got drunk. He apparently still believed that his sobriety was conditional on having the right woman, and now she was gone. Ebby moved back to New York and lived at several places for the next two years, one of which was at his brother Ken's home in Delmar, a suburb of Albany. He had emphysema, the same disease that caused Bill's death, and was in poor health, his weight having dropped from 170 to 122 pounds. Ebby eventually came to Margaret and Micky McPike's farm outside Ballston Spa, New York, in May, 1964 and it was under their loving care that he finished the final two years of his life, dying sober on March 21, 1966. While at McPike's farm, he never even attempted to get something to drink although he never attended any AA meetings. Still, AA visitors were frequent and AA principles were in constant evidence, permeating the entire atmosphere at McPike's. Dr. Bob said that the AA program boiled down to love and service and that was the essence of Margaret and Micky McPike, who helped more than four thousand persons to recover from alcoholism. Ebby was one of them. AA's agree that no matter what happens to them, the most important thing is to not pick up that first "sucker" drink. Once alcohol is placed in our bodies, the results are physically inevitable in the same way that once a dose of castor oil has been taken, all the mental will power in the world is of no avail. Our problem as alcoholics centers in our minds, in having an entire psychic change as a result of taking the actions set out exactly in the 12 Steps. It is said in the rooms, "If you do what we did, you'll get what we got." Ebby was unable, for whatever reasons, to put the AA program of action into his life on a regular basis. All of his life, Ebby was overshadowed by the recognition and success of his father and grandfather and in his own generation, by the accomplishments and respect given to his older brothers. This may have developed in him a sense of "never good enough" so familiar to alcoholics. It is also likely that his privileged childhood accentuated the sense of self-importance and self-focus that the AA program requires us to deflate at depth. If Ebby had been recognized as the founder of the AA program, it would have given him respect and recognition far surpassing anyone in his family. After Bill received the message of recovery from Ebby, he devoted the rest of his life to helping other alcoholics. If Ebby had been willing and able to take similar actions of love and service, he would have been a co-founder with Bill Wilson. But he would not, or could not, do the day-to-day work with others needed to bring AA into a concrete reality. Rather than realistically looking at his own shortcomings in establishing AA, Ebby wallowed in resentments, the greatest obstacle to sobriety and the number one killer of alcoholics. Perhaps Bill was thinking of the example of his sponsor, Ebby, when he wrote the many strong statements in the Big Book condemning resentments. For whatever the reasons, Ebby never seemed to give himself completely to the simple program of Alcoholics Anonymous. There are many others who achieve periods of sobriety yet relapse from time to time. They are not to be condemned, but welcomed back into the Fellowship. Their experience is a lesson to others that alcohol as an enemy is indeed cunning, baffling and powerful. If anyone might feel smug or superior, he or she should be grateful that they have not gotten that bad - yet. If there is a Higher Power, then by implication there is a lower power. And the lower power can never win, unless we give up. Despite many slips, Ebby never gave in to the lower power and always came back. He ran the race; he kept the faith and died sober. Ebby deserves to be honored for carrying the message of spiritual recovery to Bill and for acting as his sponsor. Whatever his problems may have been with sobriety, Bill was always grateful to Ebby and so should all AA's. Bill said, in "The Language of the Heart", "Ebby had been enabled to bring me the gift of grace because he could reach me at depth through the language of the heart. He had pushed ajar that great gate through which all in AA have since passed to find their freedom under God." Much of the above material is synthesized from Ebby's biography by Mel B., Ebby-The Man Who Sponsored Bill W., published by Hazelden. Other material was taken from sections of Conference approved books. Comments and inferences in the article are the opinion of the author.

**WALTER L.**

*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.*

**NOTES FROM INSIDE THE CENTRAL OFFICE**

February 14th, 2012 the Board of Directors for Central Office met:

BOARD MEMBERS		REPRESENTING GROUP
AL B.	CHAIRPERSON	MORNING MIRACLES GROUP
EXCUSED	VICE-CHAIR	164 GROUP WESLEY CHAPEL
STAN P.	TREASURER	INTO ACTION GROUP
EXCUSED	BOARD MEMBER	SWAMP GROUP
EXCUSED	BOARD MEMBER	SOBER ON SATURDAY GROUP
EXCUSED	BOARD MEMBER	BACK TO BASICS GROUP
UNEXCUSED	BOARD MEMBER	TAMPA PALMS BIG BOOK GP.
ROB L.	BOARD MEMBER	THE MEETING PLACE GROUP
OPEN	BOARD MEMBER	
OPEN	BOARD MEMBER	

February 14th, 2012 the Central Office Representatives met:  
**COUNCIL MEMBERS REPRESENTING GROUP**

VIVIAN J.	FREEDOM IN SOBRIETY GROUP
GENE M.	LIVE & LET LIVE GROUP
BRIAN L.	TURNING POINT GROUP
MAYGAN R.	TAMPA BAY YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP
ANNA M.	CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP
BILL S.	OLD SCHOOL GROUP
DAVE H.	NOON BIG BOOK GROUP
TERRY F.	PRIMARY PURPOSE GROUP
STEVE J.	ODESSA GROUP
LORIE J.	REFLECTIONS GROUP
BERNIE H.	FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP
CHRISTA C.	EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP
MINDY W.	STEP SISTERS IN SOBRIETY
LESLIE G.	PROMISES MEETING
THELMA A.	THE MEETING PLACE
KAREN M.	THE MEETING PLACE
LAURA LB	TAMPA BAY SPEAKER GROUP
MARTIN S.	SOBRENITY GROUP
JOHN F.	SOBRENITY GROUP
WES M.	SOLUTIONS GROUP
BILL J.	EARLY RISERS GROUP
CHRISTA G.	SOBER @ 7 GROUP
JIM VK	CARROLLWOOD NS GROUP
JIM G.	LIVING IN THE SOLUTION GROUP
PAM C.	SAFE HAVEN GROUP

Because the Board only had three Board members present, they were unable to hold a Board Meeting. At least four Board Members are required in order to have a meeting.

Although we still conducted our Council meeting, several regulars were absent, we should of thought ahead and planned the meeting on a different evening since this evening was Valentine's Day and many were out with their sweethearts.

The meeting opened in the usual matter with Al asking everyone to make sure they had signed in and to turn down or off their cell phones. This was followed by the Serenity Prayer. We then welcomed our newest Council Members. Maygan R. from the TBYPG, Thelma A. from the Meeting Place, Mindy W. from the Step Sisters in Sobriety Group and Jim G. filling in for Carlos from the Living in the Solution Group. Bill read the January minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes as read and all were in favor. At that time Al presented Stan P. our current Board Member and Treasurer a Certificate of Appreciation for all his hard work in the past two years. This is his last night as a Board member since his two years is up and it's time for him to rotate out. After thanking everyone Stan gave his last Treasurer's report. A motion was made to accept the Treasurers report and all were in favor. In Old Business, Al asked how many people would not be going to the Founders Day event. He then passed around to everyone a Committee Sign Up sheet for everyone to take back to their Groups to decide if they wanted to volunteer for any of the Committees. Al also noted that the Big Book Raffle was on and tickets were \$5.00 each and you did not have to be present to win. Dave asked about Sandy B.'s event that was going on that same weekend. Al also noted that we are in the process of getting four Old-timers to speak on the panel. Tickets to be given out to sell for the Big Book will be released later after all the tickets and/or money from the Anniversary Dinner come in from those who have returned either—yet. Some discussion followed on different details and questions about the Founder's Day Event. In New Business Al noted that some of the Board Members had gotten together with Tim in January to discuss possible price increases in Literature and other items and discussion on alternate ways to try to live within our Budget for 2012. The reasoning behind the price increases is because although our cost of goods had been going up, we had not been raising our prices to coincide with the cost of goods increases.

Much discussion followed. Some concerned about the increases and some thinking it's a good idea. Copies of the suggested price increases were handed out to everyone present and all we asked to take these back to their Groups and discuss it. Tim reminded everyone that these prices were only suggested and that they had the final say in any of the changes. It's okay to voice your concerns, that's why we are asking you to go to your Group and discuss it and come back next month with your ideas. After a little bit more discussion, Tim gave a brief run down of the Tri-County Central Office Anniversary Dinner. It was a huge success. We had 240 people present to enjoy the Lasagna Dinner and hear Linda and Al B. share their stories. After expenses ( close to \$900.00) we were able to raise a little over \$2000.00 for the benefit of Central Office. In spite of some members not following through on their commitments and getting a somewhat late start, everything fell into place and it was a wonderful evening of Fellowship. A special Thank You goes out to the food handlers ( Christopher and the Monday Nite Madness Group) and the kitchen clean up crew (Christa and the Sober @ 7 Group) for a really kick-@@@ job that they did. Thank You to everyone who helped!!!

**ANNIVERSARY TIME**

**SELF-SUPPORT-January 2012**

GROUP	Honors To	Date	Years
THE MEETING PLACE GROUP	MARY L.	03/09/73	39 YRS
THE DOVER GROUP	RICHARD C.	03/06/06	6 YRS
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP	KEVIN P.	03/18/09	3 YRS
FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP	PAUL G.	03/02/02	10 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	JOEL E.	03/28/11	1 YR
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	RON E.	03/17/06	6 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	JOE Mc	03/01/71	41 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	BETTY W.	03/30/10	2 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	PATRICIA F.	03/03/09	3 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	RUTHIE R.	03/17/05	7 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	SUE H.	03/28/03	9 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	RICHARD E.	03/26/88	24 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY GROUP	STACIE S.	03/16/94	18 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY GROUP	MARY S.	03/12/87	25 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY GROUP	SHARON A.	03/24/77	35 YRS
INTO ACTION GROUP	ANGELO M.	03/19/89	23 YRS
EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP	TRISH	03/25/10	2 YRS
EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP	RON M.	03/01/06	6 YRS
EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP	RILEY T.	03/19/01	11 YRS
EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP	DARLENE L.	03/18/95	17 YRS
EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP	MICHELE A.	03/28/88	24 YRS
EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP	DIANE I.	03/25/85	27 YRS
JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP	TRICIA S.	03/18/08	4 HRS
JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP	MELINDA R.	03/03/05	7 HRS
RIVERSIDE GROUP	BILL S.	03/20/09	3 YRS
RIVERSIDE GROUP	MATT F.	03/12/09	3 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	DONNA L.	03/27/06	6 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	SANDY B.	03/06/03	9 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	JAY D.	03/15/95	17 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	BOB W.	03/26/92	20 YRS

☺ Back in 2004 our annual income was around \$59,000.00 and our annual expenses were around \$54,000.00. Today we have almost doubled both of these amounts. Why? That's easy. More Groups, more people in AA. In 1998 we had 174 Groups in the Hillsborough/ East Pasco area. That was 364 meetings per week in our area. Today in January of 2012 we have **233** Groups with **593** meetings a week. Although we have lost some groups in the past year, that's still a lot of meetings and that's still a lot of Groups wanting material. This year to date contributions from Groups (**January,2012**) have totaled **\$9,768.84** for the year. That accounts for what **48** Groups in our area have contributed. **48 Groups out of 233**, plus the **8** AA'er's who contributed \$141.45 in contributions anonymously and the \$1000.00 from the Old School Group's Anniversary Dinner and the \$700.00 from ticket sales for our Anniversary Dinner and the \$85.00 generated from Raffle Tickets for the First Edition Big Book we are raffling off at our first ever Founders Day Event. Our Literature sales for January bought in \$8,227.12. Our total income for January was \$18,006.99 Our Cost of Goods was \$6,496.06. Subtracting the Cost of Goods from our January income left us with a Gross Profit of \$11,510.93. Our Expenses for January were \$7,634.30. Subtracting our Expenses from our Gross Profit gave us a Net Income of \$3,876.63 for the month of January. It was a very good month to say the least. As a note of interest, we started off last January \$802.08 to the good but still ended the year with a \$1851.69 loss on our Budget I noted this to remind us not to fall into a false sense of security just because we did so good the first month of the year. Anything can happen through out the year, that's why Central Office needs your constant support. We are not trying to squeeze you for more money. We know we can always count on you. We just wanted to bring some awareness of our situation to those who may be new to A.A. or new to being a Treasurer or Trusted Servant to their Group or to those who do not understand what the 7th Tradition and Self-Supporting means. It's the nature of the beast...as our AA membership continues to grow in the Tampa Bay area, the demand for more and more material and services continues to expand and we have to try and strive to keep up with the demand. That is only possible with your continued support through your contributions, special events that groups put on for the benefit of Central Office and the literature sales. That's why we have started including this report in the newsletter, so you can see how we are doing and what's needed on a monthly basis.

tws:) Office Manager



[www.soberstock.com](http://www.soberstock.com)

**Support Your Central Office .**

**NEWS AROUND THE TOWN & THE AREA**

**ALL GROUPS MEETING**

Sponsored by the Cardinal Group  
Fun, Food, Fellowship and Great Speaker  
Saturday March 10th, 2012  
St. Mark's Episcopla Church  
13312 Cain Road  
Tampa, Florida 33625  
( off Gunn Hwy, 1/2 mile east of Citrus Park Mall)  
Doors open @ 5:00 pm  
6:00 pm Dinner  
7:00 pm Speaker meeting  
\$5.00 Donation at the Door  
50/50 Raffle  
All Donations to Support Central Office

**SOBER**

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

**OPEN ALL GROUPS MEETING**  
Sponsored by the Keystone Discussion Group  
Saturday-March 17th, 2012  
Keystone United Methodist Church  
16301 Racetrack Road  
Odessa, Florida 33556  
  
Dinner @ 5:30pm  
Speaker @ 7:15pm  
\$12.00 Dinner contribution  
Corn Beef & Cabbage along with  
chicken, sides, beverages & deserts  
50/50 Raffle  
Speaker: Karen R.  
Author of "Crossing the River of Denial"  
Big Book 4th Edition  
Net proceeds to be donated to Central Office  
Limited Dinner Tickets available  
from Home Group members & Central Office  
Contact: Al G. 813-843-2729

**GREAT EVENTS WILL COME TO PAST**

Celebrating the 77th Anniversary of Alcoholics  
Anonymous  
June 8-10, 2012  
Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel  
111 West Fortune Street  
Tampa, FL. 33602  
813-223-1351  
"What We Were Like"  
"What Happened"  
&  
"WHAT We Are Like Now"  
Presented by: Sandy B., Tampa, FL.  
Bob B., St. Paul, MN  
For Info:

<http://www.leestapesandcds.com/events/Great-Events-Tampa-2012.pdf>

**NEWS AROUND THE TOWN & THE AREA**

**SUWANNEE BIG BOOK WEEKEND**

March 2nd, 3rd, and 4th 2012  
An in depth study of the first  
one-hundred sixty-four pages  
of the Big Book. Dowling Park, Florida, which is 12 miles  
west of Live Oak, Florida, on the Suwannee River.  
Registration only (no lodging) per person is: \$20.00  
Lodge: 1 Room: 1 or 2 persons \$180.00 Cabins:  
Per bed \$60.00  
For more info (David H.)  
e-mail [suwaneebigbook@yahoo.com](mailto:suwaneebigbook@yahoo.com)

**ANNUAL HOUSECLEANING**

Spiritual Retreat for A.A. & Al-Anon  
March 9-11, 2012  
Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center  
39034 County Road Leesburg, FL. 34788  
For Info: <http://www.retreatforaa-alanon.com/>

**Stepsisters in Sobriety Group  
of Alcoholics Anonymous**

6th Anniversary with a Special Dinner and Speaker  
Meeting  
Friday, March 16, 2012  
The "Serenity" Room at  
The Recovery Club of Brandon  
324 W. Robertson St.  
Brandon, FL 33511  
  
Pot Luck Dinner at 6:00 p.m.  
Speaker at 7:00 p.m.  
Jackie C. from St. Pete

Can't make it? Please join us any Friday at 7:00 p.m.  
for our group's regular open meeting for a  
Women's 12x12 Step Study.  
We meet in the "Courage" Room  
of the Recovery Club at 7:00 p.m.  
every Friday.

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY**

**Our Place**  
1009 Lithia Pinecrest Road  
Brandon, Florida 33511  
  
Saturday, March 17th, 2012  
9:00pm  
  
Corned Beef & Cabbage will be provided  
for Free.  
Karaoke with a \$100.00 prize  
to the best Singer  
Campfire Meeting @ Midnight.



Group	JAN	Y T D	Group	JAN	Y T D	Group	JAN	Y T D
11th Step Meeting- Christ King			Just What I Wanted Big Book	50.10	50.10	Saturday Night Candlelight		
11th Step Meeting - SCC			It's In the Book Group			Saturday Night Fever Group		
11th Step Meeting--Sun City			Keep It Simple/Pass It On R.	118.18	118.18	Saturday Night Live Group		
12 Steps to Growth Group	120.00	120.00	Keep It Simple - YANA			Serenity Group MLK		
164 Group			Keep It Simple Group (Dade)			Sisters in Sobriety Group	83.00	83.00
A.A. 101 Group	313.56	313.56	Keystone Group	93.00	93.00	Sober @ 7 Group		
All Groups--Safe Haven			Kingsway Group	74.12	74.12	Sober on Saturday Group	53.00	53.00
Anniversary/Old School Gp.	1,000.00	1,000.00	Lake Yale Spring Meetings			Sober on Sunday Group		
Alpha Group	10.00	10.00	LateNighters Group			SOBERSTOCK		
Anniversary Dinner 2012	700.00	700.00	Lemon Tree Group	0.70	0.70	Sobrenity Group	1.44	1.44
Annual Housecleaning Retreat			Life Enrichment Group	222.30	222.30	Softball Tournament / CO		
Anonymous Donations	142.23	142.23	Little Red Book Group			Solutions Group	176.48	176.48
As Bill Sees It--Brandon			Live and Let Live Group			Southshore Men's Group		
As Bill Sees It Mens -Odessa	114.73	114.73	Living in the Solution Group	225.00	225.00	Southside Men's Group		
Attitude of Gratitude Group	200.00	200.00	Living Sober/As Bill Sees It			Southside Men's Group # 2		
Back to Basics Group - Tampa			Lunch Bunch Group	27.00	27.00	Southside Men's Group # 3		
Barracks Brigade Group			Mainly Sober Group - Zhills			Spiritual Development Group		
Bel-Mar Group			Maple Dale Group	100.00	100.00	Spiritual Growth Group		
Beginners Step Group			Mac Dill Group			Spiritual Progress Goup		
Bill D's Group	150.00	150.00	Mid Day Matinee Group	1,500.00	1500.00	Step Sisters in Sobriety		
BIRTHDAY PLAN			Monday Nite Madness 3333	194.00	194.00	Step at a Time Group		
Brandon Men's Blackbelt Mt.			Morning Express Group			Stepping Stones Group (w)	35.00	35.00
Brandon Sat. Night Group			Morning Group - Zephyrhills	90.00	90.00	Sun City Center Group		
Brandon Tues. Big Book Grp			Morning Meditation Meeting			Sunday Afternnoon Meeting		
BYO 12 & 12 Group	65.79	65.79	Morning Miracles Group			Sunday Speakers - 3333	80.00	80.00
Came To Believe Group			My Turn Group			Sunshine Group		
Cardinal Group - Odessa			New Beginnings - Brandon			Tampa Bay Fall Roundup		
Carrollwood NS Group			New Beginnings Women's			Tampa Bay Speakers Group	95.60	95.60
Chancey Road AA Group	50.00	50.00	New Beginnings-(5:45)Joe's	205.92	205.92	Tampa Bay Young Peoples		
Clair-Mel Positive Thinkers Gp.	50.00	50.00	Newcomers Group (Joe's Club)			Tampa Bid for FCYPAA		
Dade City Step Group			New Day Group	36.40	36.40	Tampa Palms Big Book		
Design for Living Grp - Joe's			New Way Women's Group			Tampa Palms Men's Group	184.45	184.45
District 2 General Service			Nightly Newcomers Group	274.96	274.96	Temple Terrace Men's Group		
Dover Group	77.40	77.40	Noon AA Group Brandon			TGIS Women's Group		
Druid Hills Group			Noon Big Book Group			Thank God it's Friday Group		
Early Risers Group - Joe's	306.90	306.90	Nooners Group--Riverview			The 164 Group		
Easy Does It Group			Nooners Group--Tampa			The Meeting Place Group	87.40	87.40
Expect a Miracle Group			Noontime Celebration Group			The Next Frontier Group		
Fill the Gap Group			North Brandon Open Forum			There is a Solution Group		
Fireside Group			Northdale Group			There is a Solution Group 3333		
Founders Day Event	85.00	85.00	Odessa Group			Thurs. AM Discusion Group		
Freedom in Sobriety Group	73.41	73.41	Old School Group	403.00	403.00	Town & Country Sisters in Sobriety	25.00	25.00
Friday Night AA @ 8 Group			Oldtimer's Group - Joe's Club			Town & Country Wed. Group	200.00	200.00
Friday Night Lights Group	75.60	75.60	On the Way Home -Tampa 5:30			Tuesday Night Big Book Study	75.00	75.00
Friday Women's Friendship			One Day at a Time Group			Tuesday Serenity Group		
Gifts of Sobriety Group			One Day at a Time Mtg.			Turning Point Group -Z-Hills	130.00	130.00
Good Day AA Group			Palma Ceia Group	531.79	531.79	Uptown/Downtown Group		
Good Start Group - YANA			Palma Ceia 12 Step Group			Valrico Fri. Morning Group		
Happy Hour Group Brandon			Palma Ceia Big Book Study	200.00	200.00	Valrico/Brandon Wed. Night Group		
Happy Hour Group YANA			Pass It On Group - Plant City			Village 12 Step Group		
Harbor Lights Group			Pilgrim Group - St Leo's Univ.			Warrior's Group		
Helping Hands Gp.-Plant City			Plank Owners Group			Weedpatch Group		
Hide-A-Way Group			Primary Purpose Group			Wellspring Group	140.00	140.00
High Nooners Group	200.00	200.00	Promises Meeting	80.00	80.00	Wednesday Night Step Workshop		
Higher Learning Group			Prosperity AA Group			Wesley Chapel Group		
Hour Glass Group			Red Chip Day Donation			West Side Winners Group		
I.D.A.A.			Red Door Group			With Room to Grow Group		
In the Wind Group			Reflections Group-Lake Mag			Women's Friendship Group		
Into Action Group			Riverside Group	55.48	55.48	Women's Perspective Conference		
It's in the Book Men's Group			Riverview Sisterhood in Sobriety					
Just for Today Group			Rush Hour Serenity Group	185.90	185.90			
			Ruskin Fellowship Group					
			Safe Haven Group					
TOTAL	3,734.62					TOTAL	1366.37	
	YTD						YTD	
	TOTAL	3,734.62	TOTAL	4667.85			TOTAL	1366.37
				YTD				
				TOTAL	4667.85	Grand Total for Month	9768.84	
						Grand Total for Year	9768.84	