

# News0777

THE PRINCIPLE OF HONESTY

*"Honesty is the ability to match up our insides with our outsides. It allows what we don't care about to go away and what we really want to appear and develop in our lives."*

**UPDATES:**

**New Meetings:**

**Tuesday's Children** located at 7119 U.S. 19, Central Office Intergroup meeting room, NPR, Tuesdays, 12 noon, OD.

**Daily Reflection** 7119 U.S. 19, NPR, Intergroup meeting room, Mondays at 12 noon, OD.

**Our Primary Purpose** 7119 U. S. 19, NPR, Intergroup meeting room, Wednesday, 12 noon, OD.

**Young Sobriety** 7121 U. S. 19, NPR, Intergroup meeting room, Saturday, 9:00 PM OD & Speaker (alternating)

**Meeting Change:**

**Living Sober Group:** 4133 Thys Rd., NPR is changing days from Friday to Thursday at 8 PM. OD.

**KISS Group** is changing from Friday nights to Saturday nights. Same time and location. Please refer to where and when for times and location.

**Hoot n' Holler Group** has moved to 5330 Whippoorwill Rd, Holiday

Beginning in March, all committee meetings will be held at Central Office.

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**Step Two**

***"Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity ."***

I had only to reflect on the contrast between the plans I made so many years ago for my life with what really happened to know I couldn't manage my life drunk or sober. A.A. taught me that willingness to believe was enough for a beginning. It's been true in my case, nor could I quarrel with "restore me to sanity" for my actions drunk or sober, before A.A., were not those of a sane person. My desire to be honest with myself made it necessary for me to realize that my thinking was irrational. It had to be or I could not have justified my erratic behavior as I did. I've benefited from a dictionary definition I found that reads: "rationalization is giving a socially acceptable reason for socially unacceptable behavior, and socially unacceptable behavior is a form of insanity." I have had many spiritual experiences since I've been in the program, many that I didn't recognize right away, for I'm slow to learn and they take many guises. I get everything I need in Alcoholics Anonymous—everything I need I get—and when I get what I need I invariably find that it was just what I wanted all the time.

Alcoholics Anonymous  
pgs. 550-552

**Tradition Two:**

***"There is but one ultimate authority, a Loving God as he may express himself in our group conscious."***

**Where does AA get its direction? Who runs it?** This too is a puzzle for every friend and newcomer. When told that our society has no president having authority to govern it, no treasurer who can compel the payment of any dues, no board of directors who can cast an erring member into outer darkness, when indeed no A. A. can give another a directive and enforce obedience, our friends gasp and exclaim, "This simply can't be. There must be an angle somewhere." These practical folk then read Tradition Two, and learn that the sole authority in A.A. is a loving God as He may express Himself in the group conscience. They dubiously ask an experienced A.A. member if this really works. The member, sane to all appearances, immediately answers, Yes! It definitely does." The friends mutter that this looks vague, nebulous, pretty naïve to them. Then they commence to watch us with speculative eyes, pick up a fragment of A.A. history, and soon have the solid facts. What are these facts of A. A. life which brought us to this apparently

Cont. pg. 2

**Donation Addresses**

**Please make donation checks payable to West Pasco Intergroup.**

**West Pasco/Tarpon Springs Intergroup**

**TREASURER  
7121 US 19**

**New Port Richey, FL  
34652**

**District 15 General Service**

**TREASURER  
P.O. Box 692**

**Elfers, FL 34680-0692  
Area 15 General Service**

**Area 15 Treasurer  
PO Box 206**

**Bradenton, FL 34206  
AA General Service**

**Office  
PO Box 459**

**Grand Central Station  
New York, New York  
10163**

**"EACH MEMBER OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IS BUT A SMALL PART OF A GREAT WHOLE. AA MUST CONTINUE TO LIVE OR MOST OF US WILL SURELY DIE. HENCE OUR COMMON WELFARE COMES FIRST. BUT INDIVIDUAL WELFARE FOLLOWS CLOSE AFTERWARDS."**

**Activity at Central Office**

Nightline calls.....	50
Office calls.....	103
Walk-ins.....	86

Impractical principle? Does A.A. have a real leadership? Most emphatically the answer is "Yes, notwithstanding the apparent lack of it." Our group conscience, well-advised by its elders, will be in the long run wiser than any single leader.

Twelve Steps and  
Twelve Traditions  
Pg. 132-138

**10TH STEP PRAYER**

Thank you for keeping me sober yesterday. Please help me to stay sober today.

For the next twenty-four hours, I pray for knowledge of Your will for me only and the power to carry that through.

Please free my thinking from self-pity, self-will, self-seeking, dishonest and wrong motives.

Send me the right thought, word, or action. Show me what my next step should be. In times of doubt and indecision, please send Your inspiration and guidance.

I ask You might help me work through all my problems, to Your glory and honor.

Amen

**BRIDGING THE GAP**

Help bridge that precarious gap between a treatment center and the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous.

It works like this:

1. The potential AA calls the "Bridging the Gap" voice mail and leaves their name, phone number, gender, and zip code.
2. An assigned AA checks the voice mail each day and retrieves the messages.
3. They then pair up the potential AA with a "Volunteer AA" in their zip code with their matching gender on the "Bridging the Gap" Volunteer List.

4. The "Volunteer AA" receives a phone call notifying them of the information on the potential AA. They call the potential AA back and set up a time to meet when they get out.

5. The "Volunteer AA" takes them to their first outside meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous and introduces them to the fellowship in their area.

**And like magic, the Gap is Bridged!**

Call (727) 529-5100 or email [btgpinellas@gmail.com](mailto:btgpinellas@gmail.com)

**Treasurer's Report**

**December 2012**

Beginning Balance.....	\$3,991.72
Income .....	\$1,208.80
Expenses .....	\$2,714.72
Ending Balance .....	\$2,485.80

**See Page 5 for details about 2013 retreats, Sober Stock, conferences and other events for AA and Al-Anon Family Group members.**

**REPRESENTED AT INTER-GROUP JANUARY 2013**


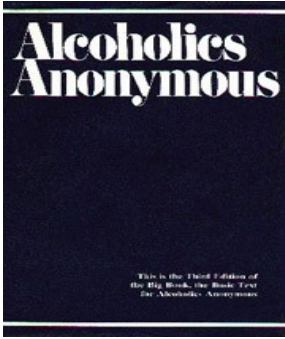
How Important Is It  
3 & 11 Steps  
Tropical Attitudes  
Sunday Morning Grat.  
Life Recovery  
Miracle Group  
Two or More  
Came to Believe  
Wonderful Group  
Happier Hour  
NPR Kiss  
Let's Get Better Together

**Please Support Your Central Office**

**Sunday Hotline Office Staff for:**  
**2 shifts daily Mon.-Fri.**  
**10 AM - 1:30 PM**  
**Or**  
**1:30 PM- 5 PM 1 shift Sat.**  
**10 AM - 1 PM**  
**And**  
**Contact Central Office for more information.**  
**727-847-0777**

**21st Annual  
4th Step Workshop  
Sponsored By  
The Wonderful Saturday Step Group**

**Saturday Feb 23 2013  
NOON—4 PM**

**NO COST FOR WORKSHOP  
MATERIALS PROVIDED**

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
4125 US 19 NORTH  
NEW PORT RICHEY**

N US 19 S  
TROUBLE CREEK SR 54

## The Key is Willingness

We cannot begin a journey of recovery without the willingness to do so. Without being willing to go to any lengths to recover, we will not begin the journey of healing and evolving our soul. Doing whatever it takes means that we are ready and willing to begin a fact-finding and fact-facing moral inventory, and to take the remaining steps needed to fully recover once this process is finished. To continue in a life of daily inventories, prayer, meditation, and service.

Willingness means that we choose to be courageous and face our demons; the



shadow side of ourselves about which we do not want anyone to know. It means that we are ready to move out of denial about the pain we are in, ready to stop hiding from ourselves and others. Willingness means that we are ready to become aware of how much we want control over our pain, over others, and over the outcome of things, and realize we are completely powerless over it all. Willingness is what opens the door to the one who has all power, and allows us to begin to develop a relationship built on faith with a God of my understanding.

Willingness means that we are ready to ask for help from a spiritual source of strength, and from others who can bring us love to help us heal. It means that we are ready to acknowledge that we cannot recover alone without spiritual guidance. It means

that we have to embrace the journey of recovery. Ask yourself, are you still willing to go to any lengths for your recovery?

Anonymous

## Relationship Barriers To a Higher Power

A connection with a Higher Power goes hand in hand with a recovery program. A Higher Power should encompass three qualities: unconditional love, unconditional acceptance and respect. It is difficult for alcoholics, who are often so damaged, to believe that someone can have that unconditional acceptance of them. A Higher Power should not be punishing, but instead, allow natural consequences for behaviors to happen to the alcoholic.

The discussion of spirituality raises defenses for most alcoholics who have had either poor or no experiences with a belief in a Higher Power. Some people grew up in extremely religious settings where they learned to avoid anything reminiscent of those experiences. Others have had terrible childhood experiences that left them to question God and the existence of a God who would allow bad things to happen. These situations with spiritual disconnects are usually characterized by anger, control and avoidance.



Anger is rooted in fear. Fear about the unknown, fear of being disrespected or fear of being unloved. For example, when someone cuts you off in traffic you may have an angry reaction. This is normal. However, the response to the anger is the important piece. Holding on to anger prevents the alcoholic from being able to experience the peace that a Higher Power offers. Alcoholics believe that they are in control and that by engaging with a Higher Power they will have to relinquish control. The type of control that alcoholics possess is often

a false sense of control, especially when using substances. Controlling individuals are difficult to help because part of their belief system is that they don't need any help. In this sense, they feel there is no need for a power greater than themselves to solve their problems. Alcoholics who practice the defense mechanism of avoidance are stuffing emotions and avoiding feeling much of anything. A Higher Power can tap into the emotional realm. If the alcoholic is avoiding emotions, he or she will not be aware when a spiritual connection occurs through emotion.

Gaining spirituality and connecting to a Higher Power is not always easy, even if you had a spiritual connection before. Alcohol use distances alcoholics from experiencing pure forms of

spirituality. Anger, control and avoidance need to be challenged



and confronted as part of the alcoholic's spiritual journey. The alcoholic does not need to resolve these issues to experience a Higher Power. However, he or she *does* need to acknowledge a possible presence. A Higher Power will often use these barriers as a way to reveal the spiritual connection.

Stopping drinking is a necessity for connection or reconnection with a Higher Power. Active alcoholism interferes with spirituality and attempts to prevent the alcoholic from seeking a relationship with a Higher Power.

-Anonymous



### Three Types of Drinkers

The Big Book discusses three distinctly different types of drinkers on page 20 and 21: *the moderate drinker*, the *hard drinker*, and the *real alcoholic*.

I suppose that I was once a *moderate drinker*, because in my early drinking days, I could “take it or leave it alone” (p. 20). I could force myself home from the bar before closing motel time with youthful willpower . . . but yet, the phenomenon of craving held strong, yet controllable. I have seldom, if ever, really wanted to quit drinking once started. I doubt that I have ever possessed a normal reaction to alcohol, but at that youthful time I could make use of self-will and self-knowledge. I was then a *moderate drinker* – albeit barely.

But by the time I was nineteen, I found myself in the drunk-tank three times in one year, causing the judge to remand me to ninety-days in the Indiana penal farm; but luckily the sheriff knew my father and I was let off the hook. At his point I would consider myself a *hard drinker* because I would stop drinking for months at a time using strong self-will and self knowledge. I seemed to have a choice -before taking that first drink,

although once started I often couldn't stop for days. So, through my early twenties, I believe I was a *hard drinker*. But at some point in my late twenties I became what the Big Book describes as a *real alcoholic*; that is to say, I had no choice before the first drink. The term alcoholic insanity fit me perfectly. As Joe McQ. used to say: “I couldn't stop when I started, but when I stopped I couldn't stop starting.” By mid-thirties I would not dare drink during the work week, but I did anyway and, of course, fired again. I had lost all choice before that first drink. Self-will and self-knowledge no longer worked because there was something wrong with my noodle. I had progressed to the stage of a *real alcoholic*. To sum up: The *moderate drinker* can use self-will and self-knowledge. The *hard drinker* can also use self-will and self-knowledge.

The *real alcoholic* cannot use self-will and self-knowledge. The Big Book uses the phrase *real alcoholic* seven times; I believe it is obvious that Bill had a specific idea in mind when he wrote that expression. I can easily see that alcoholism is a progressive disease.

Bob S., Richmond, IN

### Unity Meeting

Unity Meeting, 7 PM Saturday, February 16, at Redeemer Community Church, 9230 Ridge Rd., NPR, 1 mile E. of Little Rd., S. side. Come and enjoy fellowship, two speakers & dessert while supporting AA work. Will your group sponsor a Unity meeting? Call Roger, Unity coordinator, (727) 947-2509.



An annual event of recovery including AA speakers, Live Bands, Free Food, Camping, Fellowship & Fun!!! FRIDAY--SUNDAY--MARCH 15th, 16th & 17th, 2013 For Complete Details: [www.soberstock.com](http://www.soberstock.com)

WE ARE NOT  
A GLUM LOT!

### IT WORKS IT REALLY DOES!!!

### CELEBRATING THIS MONTH:

#### TWO OR MORE

VINCE P.

DOM

NANCY

GREGG

#### SERENTY GROUP

PAT

TOM

ADAM W.

#### WHY IT WORKS

RODNEY T.

#### HOOT N HOLLER

33 DICK S.

2 **KIS WOMENS**

2 ED N.

2 KARIN B.

5 **LIFE GOES ON**

2 LEWIS S.

1 DEBBY F.

ROBERT B.

3 PETER G

#### 4TH DIMENSTION

49 SHELBY B.

SCOTTY H.

13 **TROPICAL ATTITUDES**

12 DANIELLA Z.

SUSAN

DAVE T.

41 BOBBY MC.

30 KEN C.

11 LARRY O.

7 AMY F.

#### HAPPIER HOUR

10 STEVE C.

1 ANDREW A.

#### TRIANGLE GROUP

7 DICK S.

27 **3 & 11 STEPS**

24 BOB T.

13 KEVIN B.

34 **NPR KISS**

7 LORETTA K.

5 JIM

2

2

49

39

5

35

27

To update your group anniversary list email to: [igu50@yahoo.com](mailto:igu50@yahoo.com) subject: Anniversaries (please include last initials when possible).



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Non AA Events listed here are presented solely as a service to readers, not as an endorsement by the Newsletter Committee or General Service Office. For any additional information, please use the addresses provided.*

## **Items and Ideas on Area Gatherings for A.A.s—**

**Feb. 9: Hernando Unity Meeting** 7:30-9 pm, Nativity Lutheran Church, 6363 Commercial Way (US 19), Spring Hill. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

**Feb. 13: WPTSAA Intergroup meeting**, 6:30 pm, Central Office, 7121 US 19, NPR. **Send a representative of your group.**

**Feb. 16: District 15 Corrections & Public Info/CPC Committees** both meet at Central Office, 7121 US 19, NPR. 12:00 noon. Members are needed.

**Feb. 16: Unity Meeting**, 7 PM Redeemer Community Church, 9230 Ridge Rd. NPR, 1 mile E. of Little Rd., S. side. Host: . Two speakers, fellowship, snacks. Doors open at 6:30.

**Feb. 19: District 15 Committee meeting**, 6:30 pm, Central Office, 7121 U. S. 19 NPR. Come & learn. Each group should be represented. All AAs welcome.

**Feb. 23: 21st Annual 4th step workshop**, noon to 4pm, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4125 U.S. 19, NPR.

**Feb. 23 Pasco Big Book monthly Eating Meeting** at 7 pm, followed by member anniversaries speakers meeting at 8 pm. Edna Ave. Club, 7137 Edna Ave., Hudson. "Bring a dish if you can."

## **Future Events**

**March 1-3, 2013: Suwannee Big Book Weekend**, The Conference and Retreat Center, Dowling Park, FL. In depth study of the first one-hundred sixty four pgs. Of the Big Book. David Hollister 727-204-6444/ suwanneebigbook@yahoo.com

**March 16, 2013 :** District 15 Silver Anniversary (Fun-Raiser/dinner \$12 at St. Thomas Aquinas, Old 54 NPR doors open at 1:30, speaker at 3:00 dinner at 4:00. Tickets call Marguerite (727) 729-3699 Volunteers needed call Dena (631) 523-3616 Speaker: Clark D. from Punta Gorda a past delegate from Alaska.

**May 24-27, 2013: Summer Kickoff Classic**, St. Petersburg, FL. Speakers, workshops, entertainment, Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Park. Info & updates [summerkickoff-classic@verizon.net](mailto:summerkickoff-classic@verizon.net)

**July 24-28, 2013:** 57th Florida State Convention, 225 East Coastline Drive, Jacksonville, FL, 32202, <http://57.flstateconvention.com>

## **Elsewhere Around the Globe**



**Feb. 22-24, 2013: Fifth Annual Cayman Islands Roundup, Sobriety in the Sun**, South Sound Community Center, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, Speakers: Bob D. and Kent C. from Las Vegas, NV. For info: [caymanroundup@gmail.com](mailto:caymanroundup@gmail.com)

**March 1-3, 2013: Annual Housecleaning spiritual retreat** for AA & Al-Anon, Yale Lake Baptist Conference Center, Leesburg, FL . Info on line: [www.retreatforaa-alanon.com](http://www.retreatforaa-alanon.com)

**March 22-24: Quest Retreat**, St. Leo Abbey. AA, Al-Anon. \$147 includes 2-person room, meals, meditation lesson. Will repeat on Oct. 11-13. [www.questretreat.org](http://www.questretreat.org)

**June 21-23, 2013: A Spiritual Weekend**, 78th Anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous with Sandy B., Tampa, FL and Bob B., St. Paul, MN, Hilton Airport Westshore, 2225 N. Lois Ave, Tampa, FL 33607. Call Lee Y. 407.333.4330 or email: [gyeldell@cfl.rr.com](mailto:gyeldell@cfl.rr.com)

**Jun. 27-30, 2013: Fellowship of the Spirit Conference**, four day conference focused on the 12 steps, located in Copper Mountain, CO, more info, <http://www.fots.com>

**Sept. 6-8, 2013: Sisters by the Sea**, Waldorf Astoria, Naples, 475 Seagate Drive, Speaker Meetings, Open Discussion Meeting, Workshops, Ask It Basket, featuring Polly P. from Jacksonville, FL. Info: Peggy 239-269-7654.

**The Newsletter Committee is soliciting info about any AA Activities; group events, dances, picnics etc.**

**Submit info by 20th of the month prior to publication to:** [dantico18@gmail.com](mailto:dantico18@gmail.com)

**Subject: Newsletter**

**Or deliver or mail to:**

**Attn: Newsletter Editor, West Pasco/Tarpon Springs Intergroup , 7121 US 19, New Port Richey, FL. 34652**

**Please keep in mind the seventh tradition: Every A. A. group ought to be fully self supporting, declining outside contributions. That means Central Office is supported by your group contributions. Thanks for your support!**

GROUP DONATIONS 2013	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
1001 Reasons													\$0.00
2 For 1 Women's Step Study													\$0.00
3 & 11 Group	20.00												\$20.00
4th Dimension													\$0.00
7 & Up Group	100.00												\$100.00
A Club 12 & 12													\$0.00
A Club Beginner's Meeting													\$0.00
A Club Big Book													\$0.00
A Club Joe & Charlie Tapes													\$0.00
A Club Morning Step Group													\$0.00
A Club Saturday AM Big Book													\$0.00
A Club Sunday AM Gratitude													\$0.00
AA Way Group													\$0.00
Along Spiritual Lines													\$0.00
Amazing Grace													\$0.00
Anonymous													\$0.00
As Bill Saw It													\$0.00
Ask It Basket													\$0.00
Back to Basics													\$0.00
Bayou Group													\$0.00
Brown Baggers													\$0.00
Came to Believe													\$0.00
Candlelight Beginners													\$0.00
Central Office Noon Meeting	78.85												\$78.85
Cotee River Young People													\$0.00
Daily Reflections	20.00												\$20.00
District Anniversary Dinner Committee mtg.	14.00												\$14.00
Dunedin Causeway													\$0.00
Each Day a New Beginning													\$0.00
Easier Softer Way													\$0.00
Edna Ave. Club 12 & 12													\$0.00
Edna Ave. Joe & Charlie Tapes													\$0.00
Friday Night Men's Group													\$0.00
District 15 General Svs.	460.00												\$460.00
Happier Hour													\$0.00
Happy Joyous & Free													\$0.00
Hoot n Holler Group													\$0.00
How Important Is It	180.00												\$180.00
In the Beginning													\$0.00
Intergroup	27.00												\$27.00
James Gang													\$0.00
KIS Women's Group													\$0.00
Life Discussion													\$0.00
L.I.F.E. Recovery													\$0.00
Last Stop													\$0.00
Let's Get Better Together													\$0.00
Living Sober Group	20.00												\$20.00
Men Only													\$0.00
Men's Lets Talk													\$0.00
Miracle Group													\$0.00
Misc	13.00												\$13.00
Monday Night Big Book													\$0.00
Morning Inventory													\$0.00
New Hope Beginners	35.00												\$35.00
New Life Group													\$0.00
Noon High	48.32												\$48.32
Not a Glum Lot													\$0.00
NPR KISS Group	10.00												\$10.00
Pasco Big Book	120.00												\$120.00
Primary Purpose	20.00												\$20.00
Serenity Group													\$0.00
Sober Not Dead													\$0.00
SOS Group													\$0.00
Steps to a New Beginning													\$0.00
Sunday Morning Gratitude	100.00												\$100.00
Surrender Group													\$0.00
Thursday 12 & 12													\$0.00
Triangle Group													\$0.00
Tropical Attitudes	60.00												\$60.00
Tuesday's Children	20.00												\$20.00
Two or More	61.00												\$61.00
Unity Meeting	22.50												\$22.50
Why It Works													\$0.00
Winners Group													\$0.00
Wonderful Step Group													\$0.00
Young Sobriety	10.00												\$10.00
Young Aces													\$0.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	1,439.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$1,439.67