



WEST PASCO/TARPON SPRINGS 0777 NEWSLETTER

AA Hotline 727-847-0777 Alanon Hotline 352-697-0497

December 2013

Tradition Twelve: Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Scared to be Seen

A newcomer gets assured right away about anonymity in AA. At my first meeting I was full of fear and ashamed of being an alcoholic. I would have surrendered several years earlier had it not been for my inflated ego that kept me from accepting the fact that I could no longer drink like a normal person. Alcohol which had been my friend for the first ten years of my drinking career, turned into a dangerous enemy during my last five.

Paradoxically, in spite of my low self-esteem, my sick inflated ego tried to tell me at the first meeting that I was somebody special and therefore should look for more appropriate help elsewhere, rather than from a "leper colony". What if somebody spotted me and advised my four remaining clients that their consultant was an alcoholic and not to be further trusted? Furthermore had I during my first weeks in AA heard participants in open AA meetings use last names I would have used it as an excuse to run away from AA because to stay might lead my anonymity being broken to the wrong persons.

Somebody at my first meeting who looked vaguely familiar, buttonholed me before I had time to sneak out. This man, Denise, had apparently seen me visiting his company and noticed that I looked like I had an alcohol problem. He told me not to worry, that AA would protect my anonymity, and that the members of this group an open meeting were mostly white-collar workers who, because of their jobs and status in their community had to keep their affiliation with AA a well guarded secret. He informed me that at AA meetings people were told not to break anyone's anonymity, not even their own. The use of full names could be dangerous for professionals and definitely scare some newcomers away.

At the time I did not know that only a small percentage of first time visitors actually stay in AA long enough to qualify for their first milestone: a 3 month chip. Therefore, hearing full names could send publicity shy persons back to continue their descent towards alcoholic unhappiness and death. Bill W. in his last message stated that, "the principle of anonymity must remain our primary and enduring safeguard.."

*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 com-
mon welfare
comes first but
individual wel-
fare follows
close Afterwards*

*Please Support
your Central
Office
hotline staff for:
2 shifts daily
Mon.-Fri. 10
AM—1:30 PM
or*



Thanks to Dennis I joined that group, found a sponsor got support from his cronies. In the beginning, I needed and received a lot of stroking and positive reinforcement. Eventually, I understood that they did this to teach me that helping other alcoholics would help me to stay sober. My sponsor encouraged me to do service work, but warned me of the temptation to hide behind job titles to avoid working the program. He also pointed out that rigorous honesty with myself, the steps and helping others would eventually replace my inflated ego with humility, turn my low self-esteem into self respect and lead me to a happy and joyous life.

Some are sicker than others. Early on it was suggested that I seek psychiatric help. So I did. Luckily, for me, I found someone who knew our twelve step program. He could read me like an open book. He even shocked me by pointing out that my choice of attention getting neckties made me no different from other newcomers with odd looking haircuts and bizarre clothes. According to him such individual had grown up with varying versions of loveless and dysfunctional homes. Prior to coming to AA we escaped into alcohol to dull our feelings of inadequacy and low self-esteem. This left a deep whole that craved to be filled with attention and stroking.

A third of a century ago I was told, "it will get better" and it has . My wife of 24 years recently took our cakes together, celebrating 71 years of combined sobriety. Thanks to Alcoholics Anonymous, we live in a happy and harmonious life one day at a time. And, thank you Dennis for making me feel safe when I first got here.

Anonymous

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And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principles of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance.

It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.

Deadline for new submissions for 0777 newsletter is the 20th of the month prior to the month of printing.

Donation Addresses:

Please make donation checks payable to:

- ◆ West Pasco/Tarpon Springs Intergroup, Treasurer 7119 US 19, NPR, FL 34652
- ◆ District 15 General Service Treasurer, PO Box 692, Elfers, FL 34680-0692



Calendar of Events

December 24, 2013 A-Club Alka-thon starts at 10:00PM and runs every two hours through Christmas Day, **December 30, 2013**, New Year's Eve party from 9:00PM to 1:00 AM, meetings at 2:00, 4:00, 6:00AM.

December 24, 2013 Dry Dock Alka-thon 5:30 PM—10:00 PM Christmas Day, meetings every two hours.

December 31, 2013 Come Celebrate a Sober New Years Eve—Hosted by **Pasco Big Book** at the Lakes Of Regency, 8330 Civic Drive, Port Richey, FL Doors open at 7:00PM—Dinner served at 7:45 PM - Music and dancing till midnight, Cost \$20.00 per ticket.

Upcoming Events

January 25, 2014 Annual Fish Fry—Sponsored by **Aripeka Tuesday Speaker Meeting**, Noon—whenever. Bring a dish to share, Aripeka Community Center, Osowaw Blvd. and Indian Bay Drive, Aripeka, FL.

February 7, 8 & 9 2014 In Living Color AA—A Journey Through the Steps. Speaker Sally G. from Stamford, CT at the Residence Inn by Marriott, 2101 Northpointe Parkway, Lutz FL 33558 (813) 792-8400. Registration \$30.00 in the form of a check or money order. For further information contact Jennifer B. (727)

Join The Intergroup Birthday Club

Celebrate your years of recovery by giving a little something back

Name: _____

EMAIL: _____

Sobriety Date: _____

Phone: _____

Home Group: _____

Donation Amount: _____

Birthday Club Member Pin:



Mr./Mrs./Ms.

For a contribution of \$3.65 or more in Gratitude of Sobriety.

West Pasco AA/ 7119 US 19,

NPR, FL 34652 (727-847-0777)

2013 Birthday Club Celebrants

Name	Home Group	Sobriety Date
Doug G.	How Important is it	Jan. 29, 1988
Tom C.	Miracle Group	Oct. 16 1999
Dottie I.	New Hope Beginnings	May 26, 1988
Dan H.		May 24, 2005
Marcy I.	Tropical Attitudes	Oct. 26, 1983
Marguerite L.	Amazing Grace	May 28, 2013
Barbara R.	4th Dimension	June 29, 1984
Diane D.	New Hope Beginnings	June 30, 1986
Beverly S.	New Hope Beginnings	None Given



Anniversaries in December

Two or More	Rick	8
	Stephanie	2
	Bob	33
Serenity Group	Neil O	24
Living Sober	Wayne V	5
Happy Joyous and Free	Fausto	17
	Bob M	23
	Lorraine K	4
Tropical Attitudes	Jerry N	16
	Melinda W	5
	3 and 11 Step Group	Jim B.
Keep it Simple Women's	Mary Pat N.	1
	Jeanne T.	27
Hoot N' Holler	Jim S.	27
	Bob M.	26

Meeting Changes

Who: Let's Get Better Together

What: Discussion - LGBT

When: Tuesday/ 7:30 PM

Where: Unity Church of Port Richey/5844 Pine Hill Road/Port Richey, FL

Date: January 7, 2014

Who: Pasco Big Book Grapevine

What: Changed to NA meeting

When: Tuesday/6:00 PM

Where: Edna Avenue Club/7137 Edna Ave./Hudson, FL

Date: Immediate