

0777 NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Issue 7
July 2012

AA HOTLINE 727-847-0777 AL-ANON HOTLINE 352-697-0497

Step Seven: "Humbly Asked Him to Remove Our Shortcomings."

Tradition Seven: "Every AA Group Ought To Be Fully Self-Supporting, Declining Outside Contributions ."

Unity Meeting

Living Sober Study Group, hosts the monthly **Unity Meeting**, 7 PM Saturday, Jul 21, at Redeemer Community Church, 9230 Ridge Rd., NPR, 1 mile E. of Little Rd., S. side. Come and enjoy fellowship, two speakers & desserts while supporting AA work. Aug Unity host: **Tropical Attitudes**, Aug 18. September Unity host: Keep It Simple women's group, Sept. 15.

Will your group sponsor a Unity meeting? Call Loraine K., Unity Coordinator, (727)935-5543.

June Activity at Central Office

Nightline calls.....50
Office calls.....108
Walk-ins.....56

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Step Seven.....1
Anniversaries.....2
Volunteers Needed.....3
Puzzle.....4
Calendar.....5
Donations.....6

Step Seven:

I arrived at A.A. with some rather warped ideas and concepts and it took me a long time to let go of them.

I was brought up with the idea that I could do whatever I put my mind to and if you want something done right do it yourself or I am the maker of my own destiny, which made it very difficult for me to ask anyone for help?

My character was certainly defected and when I saw , with the help of a good sponsor, the patterns of my selfishness and self-centeredness and the insanity of my self will run riot, I was able to see that I was the problem.

Therefore, the turning point for me was when I acquired enough humility to ask for help. I was sick and tired of being sick and tired and burning up energy trying to be the maker of my destiny. The thing standing in my way was *ME* and my *PRIDE* and *EGO*! If I was going to have any meaningful and contented sobriety I was going to have to let go of those old ideas and change my thinking. I came to the realization that I can't, God can, and I'm going to let him. Humility was therefore my biggest asset in allowing God to remove from me those things that stood in my way of useful contented sobriety for many years.

Thank God for A.A.

Anonymous member

Happy, Joyous and Free

Give The Girl A Chance

I'd like to share my experience in regard to "the Thirteenth Step." You don't have to be around too long to learn what this step is if you are single and not too unpleasant to look at. What I found was that it wasn't necessary to take this step to be "a part of." Thirteenth-stepping is here to stay, and nothing I can say will erase it. From reading *AA comes of Age*, I gather that the early AA's worried whether our Fellowship would survive the sex problem. It has survived, and it will go on surviving. I have often expressed my concern, but I'm always referred to page 69 of the Big Book: "We want to stay out of this controversy."

I have been through some emotional roller-coaster rides with newcomers who are "searching for" and "starved for" love, and, I have seen them fall for all the old lines before they have a chance to clean up their lives in an area that puts their sobriety in constant jeopardy. I have seen the emotional high when they are flattered into thinking they are something special—and the depths when they are dropped after the conquest and are avoided.

I've seen some beautiful and good things happen in my short tenure in AA, and I've seen some tragedy.

Cont. pg. 3

"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."

PICKIN UP CHIPS

Send your favorite stories,
quips, and news clips to
news0777@yahoo.com

Or deliver or mail to
West Pasco/Tarpon
Springs Intergroup
6611 US 19 Suite 505

New Port Richey, Fl. 34652
Attn: newsletter editor
(727) 847-0777

Information received after
the 20th of the month will
be submitted in the follow-
ing month's publication.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>
<u>LIVING SOBER</u>				<u>NOON HIGH</u>			
STEPHEN P.	3	GINA	2	RAIN S.(JUNE)	5	<u>HAPPY JOYOUS FREE</u>	
		SHAWN	2	JAMES	5	JIM B.	27
<u>MIRACLE GROUP</u>						JEFF	18
FRAN G.	30	DEB	1	DEBI T.	2	JACK P.	3
		CAMERON	1				
MARY M.	18	<u>3 AND 11 STEPS</u>		<u>PASCO BIG</u>			
JOE G.	10	DENNIS B.	30	<u>BOOK</u>			
<u>NPR KISS</u>				LARRY K.	33	<i>This list is only as good as the data provided by the groups.</i>	
FRAN G.	29	<u>AA WAY GROUP</u>		FRED O.	21		
DENISE	29	<u>BACK TO BASICS</u>		MICHELLE P.	11		
BUD W.	9	TRISHA G.	26	MARK H.	8		
CHRIS F.	7	LINDA S.	26	CHRISTA N.	7		
JAMES M.	6	<u>HOW IMPORTANT IS IT</u>		MARYANN W.	7		
TIM F.	5	GARRY W.	14	ROB B.	4		
JOHN	1	ETHEL D.	8	TINA H.	4		
MIKE	1			SHARON D.	3		

(For more information regarding responsibilities, terms and an in-depth explanation of all service commitments, please refer to the wptsaa.org website. Click on "News and Information" tab and then district news and at the bottom of the page. There is a link for District Needs.) Or if you want you can contact Barbara R., District Committee chair, at 727-992-5175 or by email at distric-t15chair@area15.org.

District 15 & Intergroup Opportunities

Alt. District Chair (eventually becomes District Chair)

Alt. Chairs for all Committees except PI/CPC

Minimum 3-5 yrs. Sober, 2 yr. term

DCM for Sub-district 1(A-Club)4-5 yrs. Sober, 2 yr. term

Alt. DCM's for all Sub-Districts

The Alternate is backup for the DCM.

The alternate is encouraged to assist, participate, and share in the DCM's responsibilities at district and area meetings.

Intergroup Finance Committee

2 yrs. sober, 2 yr. term

Reviews the budget and financial reports of A.A. World Services and The Grapevine, and reviews or initiates Conference recommendations that involves finances. Since it first convened in 1951, the committee has kept abreast of the movement's needs by looking into annual budgets, and concerns with income needed to carry out service work and recommending the expansion of services to groups and to the public.

Intergroup Treasurer

2 yrs. sober, 2 yr. term

The treasurer keeps financial records for the area and reports regularly to the assembly. In most cases, the treasurer is responsible for encouraging contributions support for area and G.S.O. services. The treasurer should be organized enough to keep good records, and some accounting or bookkeeping experience is useful.

Archives Chair

Special Needs Chair

Central Office

Opportunities

Office Coordinator Trainee

5 yrs. sober, 2 yr. term

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

Nominations accepted at Intergroup Meeting the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6:30 PM at Central Office.

Chair for Founder's Day event is needed

TAKE TIME TO PRAY

Groups Represented at Intergroup 6/13/2012

New Life

NPR Kiss

Noon High

Two or More

Life Recovery

Back to Basics

4th Dimension

Came to Believe

Tropical Attitudes

How Important Is It

Happy Joyous Free

New Hope Beginners

Lets Get Better Together

Do You Need More Purpose In Your Life!

Get involved, do service work and find the wonderful and amazing satisfaction in becoming a "part of". Maybe you are retired or have lost a spouse or loved one and have more time on your hands.....

We Need YOU!

There are many positions available or soon becoming available at district and Intergroup levels. Come and put your skills to use and volunteer for one of these positions.

Need More Information

Come to the district meeting which meets 3rd Tuesday of the month, Community Congregational Church, 6533 Circle Blvd., NPR at 6:30 pm or Intergroup which meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at Central Office, 6611 U.S. 19, Rm. 505, NPR at 6:30 pm.

Give the Girl A Chance cont.

How many times I've heard "It's toughest for the woman alcoholic" or "I feel sorry for the woman alcoholic—it's not easy for her" or "The woman alcoholic needs a little more love." For God's sake, let's define *love* to her.

I realize now, from experience, that I didn't know what love was during my drinking years. Love to me was the one-night stands, always hoping this time it would be different, this time someone would care—then awakening to find it was over before it had begun. How many times, in a drunken haze, I had cried out to the walls, "If only I had someone to love me, to hold me, to tell me, 'It's all right, I understand!'"

Then I found love—*not sex*—in A.A. Thank God for the good AA men in my home group who treated me with respect, who loved me as an alcoholic and protected me (I don't think they really know how much), but also who taught me the hard facts of life. For a time, I was the only regular woman member of my group. I'll never forget my first experience finding out there were a few AA's (the good members far outnumbered them) who didn't walk like they talked. I was shattered, but thanks to the good AA men, I finally understood what they meant when they said, "If a drunk SOB puts the cork in the bottle and doesn't change, he or she if just a sober SOB."

A newcomer (a gal, in particular) is likely to believe, as I did, that AAs can and will do no wrong that all of them really mean what they say. We're supposed to be honest, but a few fellows don't get rid of all their old ideas right away—some never do. I have heard the remark, "Her problem is not alcohol—it's sex." I say: Let her alone long enough to find out what her real problem is. If it's alcohol, there's a chance she may stick around long enough to grasp the program.

If it's sex, she'll not stay anyway. (I wouldn't have stayed if sex had been my problem.) Instead of pursuing her and trying to make a conquest, AAs should be examining their own attitudes in the area of sex, as the Big Book tells us to, and encouraging her to stay sober.

Today, I can say to the new gals: If you put sobriety first, you can make it. In the area of the Thirteenth step, here are a few of the lines I look for.

I run, don't walk, away from the glib operator who presents a beautiful program of solid sobriety at an AA meeting, but confides to me at the first opportunity, when we are having a cup of coffee, that I'm so understanding and if he had someone around like me, his life would be different (he's being understood far more than he realizes), or who say, "You're a beautiful person, I'd like to get to know you better."

I'm leery of a guy who puts too much emphasis on our wonderful slogan "Live and Let Live". The slogans have been a lifeline to me, and I respect and use them (or try to) in the right context. But when I hear a member say over and over, "Where I go, what I do, when I do it, and who I do it with is my business—I see, Live and Let Live," I know this dude's feeling guilty. He's doing something he shouldn't be doing, or he wouldn't be trying so hard to tell us to mind our own business.

Then there's the guy who very sweetly says, "I'd like to take you out to dinner or see you outside of AA—but how long have you been sober?" I don't mess around with an AA gal who hasn't been sober at least a year. I wouldn't want to be responsible if you started drinking again." Does a year make it ethical? By whose standards? I've been without a drink, a day at a time, for thirty-seven months, and I'm not so sure that I could survive something that was not "good."

Cont. page 4

Please make checks payable to West Pasco Intergroup.

Donation Addresses

West Pasco/Tarpon Springs

Intergroup

TREASURER

6611 US 19 Suite 505

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 650699

Vero Beach, FL 32965-0699

AA General Service Office

PO Box 459

Grand Central Station

New York, New York 10163

The Heart of True Sobriety

We find that no one need have difficulty with the spirituality of the program. Willingness, honesty and open-mindedness are the essentials of recovery. But these are indispensable.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, P. 570

Treasurer's Report

May 2012

Beginning Balance.....	\$4,798.11
Income	\$1,235.47
Expenses	\$ 953.77
Ending Balance	\$5,079.81

Give the Girl a Chance

Cont. from pg. 3

I am not a sanctimonious reformer. I am only saying, there are some guys who are contributing to the delinquency of minors, I don't criticize men who go around using the guise of sponsorship. Thank god for two guys in particular (whose motives were right), who told me to grab their coattails and hang on.

As I said in the beginning, I'm not a saint, but neither do I condone tampering with someone's life. I love the AA men—the men who are interested in seeing me stay sober another day. I also know that a woman—if she is the way I was—has a tendency to criticize the sober AA women. (I had been looked down on by women for a long time). Oh, but the wisdom these "old broads" have! I'm only forty, and I wear "old broad" title proudly today.

When a new gal comes to your group she should be welcomed by men and women, but she should be turned over the "old broads" to help her get her life straightened out. Today, I have a beautiful lady sponsor (one I turned my back on when I was floundering, because she told me things I didn't want to hear), and I can turn to her with any problem. You want to know something? She was right all along. She doesn't always say what I'd like to hear today, but I know she's right, and I listen. I may be slow in acting, but with God working through her, I'm staying in the right direction.

Let the good happen. If it's God's will, let two people find each other in AA and make a life for themselves. Don't ruin a gal's chance for happiness by helping to destroy her reputation in AA, too. She's at the last place she can go if she's an alcoholic, and if we loser her, she may never make it back. As a lady AA, I am responsible!

*Anonymous
Charleston, West Virginia
An Excerpt Featured in the
February 1975 Grapevine*

Tenth Step

Reprinted from "A Guide to the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous"

We Find in AA that after a few months of sobriety, after the alcohol is completely out of our systems, our problems are more mental than physical. It is very likely that a psychic quirk started us on our drinking careers in the first place. It has been the rule rather than the exception in AA that as long as a person thinks straight he remains sober. When he goes back to the old alcoholic way of thinking, he gets drunk.

We must recognize that our enemy is alcohol, and that enemy is lurking to slay us on the slightest excuse, at the slightest opening.

And so it is important that we continue to take personal inventory. Perhaps we find ourselves criticizing some other member's method of staying sober. Instead, admire him for doing a fine job, whatever his method.

So take time off occasionally to check up. Are you doing your best? If you are, don't worry. You are making progress.

Tips for Working Step Seven

- 1. The whole emphasis of Step Seven is where we make the change in our attitude which permits us, with humility as our guide, to move out from ourselves toward God.*
- 2. During this process of learning more about humility, the most profound result of all was the change in our attitude toward God.*
- 3. A great turning point in our lives came when we sought for humility as something we really wanted, rather than as something we **must** have.*

Step Seven, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, pgs. 70-76

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

July 4: **Two July 4th Picnics**, following Noon meetings: **NPR A Club & Brown Baggers Group**, Dry Dock Center, Tarpon Springs. Free burgers, hotdogs, drinks, & fixin's. Bring family & a covered dish. Dry Dock is at 1733 US Alt. 19.

July 7 District 15 Special Needs Committee, noon, A Club, 5650 Missouri, NPR. Attend and help alcoholics with physical limitations.

July 7: First meeting of a new **Young People's AA Meeting**, 2 pm, Tropical Attitudes, 5331 Main St., NPR.

July 13-15: Area 15 Quarterly Meeting, Waldorf Astoria, Naples, FL. Into at www.area15aa.org.

July 14: District 15 Treatment Committee, noon, A Club. Join & carry the message into hospitals, detox & ACTS. Female members acutely needed.

July 14: Hernando Unity Meeting: 7:30-9 pm, Nativity Lutheran Church, 6363 Commercial Way (US 19), Weeki Wachee. Doors open at 6:30.

July 18: WPTSAA Intergroup meeting, 6:30 pm, Central Office, 6611 US 19, Ste. 505, NPR. **Send a representative of your group.**

July 21: Unity Meeting, 7 PM Redeemer Community church, 9230 Ridge Rd. NPR, 1 mile E. of Little Rd., S. side. Host: Living Sober Study Group. Two speakers, fellowship, snacks. Doors open at 6:30.

July 17: District 15 Committee meeting, 6:30 pm, Community Congregational Church, 6533 Circle, Blvd., NPR. Come & learn. Each group should be represented. All AAs welcome.

July 21: District 15 Corrections & Public Info/-CPC Committees both meet at noon at A Club and need members.

July 21: Pasco Big Book Group's 31st Anniversary Party, 1:15-4:30 pm, Edna Ave. Club, 7137 Edna Ave., Hudson. Burgers, dogs, coffee. Bring a covered dish. Donations of soda, water or cash appreciated.

July 26: 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."

Join the Fun! A costume contest will be featured at the upcoming **Florida State AA convention** (See more info at right). Prizes will be given for best costumes depicting your "favorite" character defects. For details visit www.56.flstateconvention.com.

Please Announce at Meetings

Help Needed for State Convention Aug. 1-5

Planners are making another plea for volunteers to help with the annual Florida State AA Convention., to be held at Innisbrook Golf Resort, Palm Harbor.

Our District 15 is co-hosting with Pinellas AA. Help is needed with local preparations and with registration and hospitality duties at the gathering, which promises to be a great time for all.

Call or email Barbara R., District 15 chairperson, at (727) 992-5175 or at district15chair@area15.org.

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.

Around the Globe

July 5-8: annual **Music City Roundup** A.A. convention with Alanon, Music City Sheraton, Nashville, TN. \$20. Alateens free. musiccityroundup.com

July 7: Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for October's Suncoast Roundup 2012, 5:30 pm, Trinity United Church of Christ, 1150 49th St. N., St. Pete. Speaker, prizes. Tickets \$7. Info: Maria (727) 251-2188.

July 13-15: Florida Alateen Conference, Lake Placid (FL) Camp & Conference Center. \$130 includes meals, lodging. Info on line at northfloridaal-anon.org.

July 26-29: Southeast Region Conference of Young People in A.A., Whispering Woods Hotel & Conference Center, Olive Branch, MS. Pre-registration \$15. Info at searcy-paa2012ms.com.

FUTURE EVENTS

Aug. 1-5: 56th Florida State Convention Innisbrook Golf Resort, 36750 U.S. Hwy. 19 North, Palm Harbor. Visit www.56.flstateconvention.com for details. **Many volunteers are needed.**

Aug. 10-12: Sunset Roundup 2012 Double Tree Grand Key Resort, Key West, FL. www.sunsetroundup.com

Aug. 17-18: annual **Big Book on the Beach, 1500 Pass-a-Grille Way, St. Pete Beach**. In-depth study of first 164 pages. \$30. Scholarships available. Info under "events" at aatampa-area.org.

Aug.17-19: 17th annual **Woman to Woman Seminar**, oceanfront Marriot Hotel, Delray Beach, FL. Theme: Secrets Women Don't Share. Info: Www.sewomantowoman.org.

Aug. 31-Sept. 3: Annual **Tampa Bay Fall Roundup**, Embassy Suites-USF. A.A. & Alanon Family Groups meetings & speakers, plus a presentation about the lives of Bill & Lois W. Meeting theme: "God Either Is or He Isn't." Info at aatampa-area.org.

Group Contributions 2012 (Those received too late for a month will be posted the next month.)

Several changes for past month's donations were made resulting in new totals for the months.

GROUP DONATIONS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
000617577-015	35.00												\$35.00
1001 Reasons				25.00									25.00
2 for 1 Women's Step Study													-
3 & 11 Group	20.00	20.00	20.00		40.00	20.00							120.00
4th Dimension	185.00			122.00		165.00							472.00
7 & Up Group				25.00									25.00
A Club 12 & 12													-
A Club Big Book													-
A Club Joe & Charlie Tapes													-
A Club Saturday AM Big Book	50.00			40.00									90.00
A Club Sunday AM Gratitude	50.00		50.00	50.00									150.00
AA Way Group													-
Along Spiritual Lines													-
Amazing Grace						64.16							64.16
Anonymous													-
As Bill Sees It			25.00										25.00
Back to Basics													-
Bayou Group	65.00												65.00
Brown Baggers	20.00			20.00		20.00							60.00
Came to Believe						25.00							25.00
Candlelight Beginners													-
Cotee River Young People													-
Discover the Truth													-
District 15		340.00											340.00
Doug Graat	24.00												
Dry Dock		0.70											0.70
Each Day New Beginning		15.00			25.00								40.00
Easier Softer Way		25.00											25.00
Edna Ave. Club 12 & 12													-
Edna Ave. Joe & Charlie Tapes													-
Friday Night Live													-
Friday Night Serenity													-
Grapevine													-
Happier Hour					300.00								300.00
Happy Joyous & Free	23.50	14.40	38.75	14.45	13.29								104.39
Hoot n Holler Group	0.50			31.74									32.24
How Important Is It	110.00			8.00									118.00
In Memory of Ray		250.00											
Intergroup	19.00		17.01	20.00	17.00								73.01
In the Beginning	0.40												
James Gang													-
KIS Women's Group				60.00		35.00							95.00
k.I.S.S. Group		10.00		10.00									
Let's Get Better Together		90.00											90.00
L.I.F.E. Recovery	5.00												5.00
Life Discussion Group				50.00									
Living Sober Study Group													-
Men Only													-
Men's Lets Talk													-
Miracle Group			50.00										50.00
Monday Night Big Book													-
Morning Inventory													-
New Hope Beginners			27.00	30.00		30.00							87.00
New Life Group													-
Noon High		228.06											228.06
Not a Glum Lot		30.00	10.00		20.00								60.00
NPR KISS Group			10.00	10.00									20.00
Pasco Big Book	0.85	60.00											60.85
Serenity Group		50.00		100.00		50.00							200.00
Sober Not Dead			13.55	17.42									
SOS Group													-
Surrender Group													-
Thursday 12 & 12					150.00								150.00
Triangle Group													-
Tropical Attitudes	40.00	40.00	60.00	60.00	60.00								260.00
Two or More		100.00		138.00	95.00	83.50							416.50
Unity Meeting	46.40	74.25	33.27	18.65									172.57
Why It Works	20.00	20.00	52.36		40.39								
Wonderful Step Group				133.35									133.35
TOTALS	\$714.65	\$1,367.41	\$406.94	\$983.61	\$760.68	\$492.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,217.83

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!