

Have you heard the
News0777

May 2013



Volume 12 Issue 5

Gift of Desperation (G.O.D.)

There's a great deal about **Recovery** that doesn't make sense to the uninitiated. Why do we hope for people to hit bottom? Why would we wish desperation on anyone? Well, because that's when people change. We are very stubborn & scared people. As long as we can tolerate the costs of addiction, we will.

"We generally change ourselves for one of two reasons: inspiration or desperation." -

Jim Rohn

Desperation creates a window of opportunity. For each of us there comes a time when our lives are either going to get a whole lot better or a whole lot worse. It's inspiring and heartbreaking to watch a person choose between these two very black and white options. We resist Change because of Fear. We fight losing battles to control the uncontrollable. We realize that what we're fighting is ourselves and the disease of alcoholism and that neither of these battles can be won. It's against our whole being, but we came to believe that the only way to win was to surrender.

We do not surrender to our disease or to any person. We surrender to a

Higher Power. We invest in the fellowship because the power of those groups is far greater than anything a single person can do alone. In the context of alcoholism, to be alone is to be drowning while clinging to a heavy weight. Because we are afraid, we are likely to push away those who would guide us toward safety. Because we are ashamed we believe ourselves unworthy of a better life.

He sits on my couch trembling. There's no color to his skin. He's been sober 7 days and he's through the worst of withdrawals but he knows this is only the beginning. He's been in and out of Sobriety many times but he has never experienced **Recovery**. I explain to him that white knuckling never works. He asks me what to do. I tell him the truth - no program, no professional, and no approach has more success in helping people overcome alcoholism and change their lives than the programs of Alcoholics Anonymous. Nobody even comes close.

He tells me he's socially anxious and that he has "trust issues." I congratulate him on being the 47th person this week to tell me they have difficulty trusting. How would we

ever trust others when we do not trust ourselves? We need perspective. It doesn't take a lot of trust to just shut up and listen to folks in a meeting and to discover that millions of people struggle in the same ways. Social anxiety is unavoidable for the alcoholic - when you're scared shitless, people are scary.

Here's the problem - he's a Smart Guy and there's a great deal about **Recovery** that seems way too simple. We believe ourselves to be complicated people with complex problems. Then someone tells us, "Don't drink or use. Don't think. Go to meetings. Reach out." We just stare at them and if we're defiant we ask, "Yeah, and what else?" Get a sponsor and work the steps. This is the foundation upon which a healthy and manageable life is built for those in **Recovery**. Once you have the foundation you can accept, "We found the only thing we needed to change was everything." Desperation is beautiful because it is the admission that I can't. I can't live this way anymore. I can't hide from this anymore. I can't numb this pain anymore. I can't stand who I've become.

This is the moment. This is where we choose Life or Death. As my friend Bill Osgood explains, **"We enter Recovery when the Pain of our current existence outweighs the Fear of Change."** **Recovery** makes having a Life possible 24 hours at a time.



"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."

Inside this issue:

Step/Tradition Five	2
Meeting Updates	3
Anniversaries	4
Events	5
Contributions	6

STEP FIVE

All of A.A.'s Twelve Steps ask us to go contrary to our natural desires...they all deflate our egos. When it comes to ego deflation, few Steps are harder to take than Five. But scarcely any Step is more necessary to longtime sobriety and peace of mind than this one.

A.A. experience has taught us we cannot live alone with our pressing problems and the character defects which cause or aggravate them. If we have swept the searchlight of Step Four back and forth over our careers, and it has revealed in stark relief those experiences we'd rather not remember, if we have come to know how wrong thinking and action have hurt us and others, then the need to quit living by ourselves with those tormenting ghosts of yesterday gets more urgent than ever. We have to talk to somebody about them.

So intense, though, is our fear and reluctance to do this, that many A.A.'s at first try to bypass Step Five. We search for an easier way—which usually consists of the general and fairly

painless admission that when drinking we were sometimes bad actors. Then, for good measure, we add dramatic descriptions of that part of our drinking behavior which our friends probably know about anyhow.

But of the things which really bother and burn us, we say nothing. Certain distressing or humiliating memories, we tell ourselves, ought not be shared with anyone. Those will remain our secret. Not a soul must ever know. We hope they'll go to the grave with us. Few muddled attitudes have caused us more trouble than holding back on Step Five.

What are we likely to receive from Step Five? We shall get rid of that terrible sense of isolation we've always had. Step Five was the beginning of true kinship with man and God. This vital Step is also the means by which we begin to get the feeling that we can be forgiven, no matter what we have thought or done. Often it is while working on this Step with our sponsors or spiritual advisors that we first feel truly able to forgive others, no matter how deeply we feel they have wronged us. Our moral

radiance of such a miraculous discovery, any doctor would set his other ambitions aside, at whatever personal cost.

Just as firmly bound by obligation are the members of Alcoholics Anonymous, who have demonstrated that they can help problem drinkers as others seldom can. The unique ability of each A.A. to identify himself with, and bring recovery to, the newcomer in no way depends upon his learning, eloquence, or on any special individual skills. The only thing that matters is that he is an alcoholic who has found a key to sobriety. These legacies of suffering and of recovery are easily passed among alcoholics, one to the other. This is our gift from God, and its bestowal upon others like us is the one aim that today animates A.A.'s all around the globe.

There is another reason for this singleness of purpose. It is the great paradox of A.A. that we know we can seldom keep the precious gift of sobriety unless we give it away. If a group of doctors

inventory has persuaded us that all-round forgiveness is desirable, but it is only when we resolutely tackle Step Five that we inwardly know we'll be able to receive forgiveness and give it, too.

More realism and therefore more honesty about ourselves are the great gains we make under the influence of Step Five. As we took inventory, we began to suspect how much trouble self-delusion had been

“Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

causing us. If all our lives we have more or less fooled ourselves, how could we now be so sure that we weren't still self-deceived? Hence it is most evident that a solitary self-appraisal, and the admission of our defects wouldn't be nearly enough. Only by discussing ourselves, holding back nothing, only by being willing to take advice and accept direction could we set foot on the road to straight thinking, solid honesty, and genuine humility.

possessed a cancer cure, they might be conscience-stricken if they failed their mission through self seeking. Yet such a failure wouldn't jeopardize their personal survival. For us, if we neglect those who are still sick, there is unremitting danger to our own lives and sanity. Under these compulsions of self-preservation, duty, and love, it is not strange that our Society has concluded that it has but one high mission—to carry the A.A. message to those who don't know there's a way out.

“Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

*“Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions”
Alcoholics Anonymous*

**CARRY THE MESSAGE
NOT THE MESS!**

New meetings

New Beginnings Group
Tuesdays at 7PM, 10534 Little Rd., Gulf Coast Worship Center, NPR, OS, New Beginnings Group.

The Meeting Rm. 12X12
located at 7119 U.S. 19, NPR is changing times from noon on Fridays to 10:00 am. Format will be open speaker meeting.

Sober Sisters Group
Women's OD meeting Fridays at noon beginning Friday May 3 at 7119 U.S. 19, NPR.

Discover the Truth Group
Is starting a new meeting on Thursday night, BBSS from 7-8:30 pm., 7119 U. S. 19, NPR beginning May 9.

District 15 Corrections & Public Info/CPC Committees meet at 7119 US 19, NPR at 6:30 pm. First Tuesday of the month. Members needed.

Treatment Committee will meet the 2nd Tues-day of the month at 6:30pm, 7119 U. S. 19, NPR.

3 & 11 Step Group will be hosting the Unity meeting this month (see pg. 5) events calendar.

Groups needed to host unity meetings, please contact Unity Coordinator, Vinney B. at 727-534-

Daily Reflections Group needs support, Mondays at noon at central office meeting room, 7119 U.S. 19, NPR. Please come and show your support.

Activity at Central Office
Nightline calls.....30
Office calls.....87
Walk-ins.....83

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

Contact Central Office for
more information.

727-847-0777

Fears Prayer

God, thank you for helping me be honest enough to see this truth about myself and now that you have shown me the truth about my fears, please remove these fears from me. Lord, please help me outgrow my fears and direct my attention to what you would have me be. Father, demonstrate through me and help me become that which you would have me be. Help me do thy will always,

Amen."(68:3)

Donation Addresses

Please make donation checks payable to: West Pasco Inter-group.

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

REPRESENTED

AT INTER-GROUP

APRIL 2013

NEW HOPE BEGINNINGS

MIRACLE GROUP

HAPPIER HOUR

LET'S GET BETTER TOGETHER

4TH DIMENSION

NPR K.I.S.S.

CANDLELIGHT

SAT MORNING STEP

TWO OR MORE

JAMES GANG

LIFE RECOVERY

KEEP IT SIMPLE

TROPICAL ATTITUDES

SUNDAY MORNING

GRATITUDE

SOBER NOT DEAD

WHAT IS DISTRICT 15 GENERAL SERVICE?

The District 15 Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous is a service body for the groups in District 15, West Pasco/Tarpon Springs. It is comprised of the groups' General Service Representatives (GSR's), District Committee Members (DCM's), District Officers, Annual Committee Chairpersons, and Standing Committee Chairpersons (Archives, Corrections, Current Practices, Grapevine, PI/CPC, Special Needs, Treatment). Its primary purpose is to provide a forum for sharing collective 12th Step experience - how best to carry the AA message in the West Pasco/Tarpon Springs area. The District also has the responsibility to carry that message to the sick and suffering alcoholic. The District 15 Committee meets monthly. (See pg. 5, events calendar). GSR's (General Service Representatives) carry the group conscience and vote for their home groups at District Meetings and Area Assemblies.

ANNIVERSARIES IN MAY

3 & 11 STEP GROUP

PENNY C. 2

WHY IT WORKS

BOB L. (APRIL) 28

RON L. (APRIL) 1

RALPH S. (APRIL) 1

JANE A. 32

JOHN F. 22

MICHIGAN JIM 18

ROBIN M. 14

DANIELLE P. 6

MIKE Y. 2

KEEP IT SIMPLE WOMENS

DENA L. 30

BRIDGET S. . 24

PASCO BIG BOOK

JANE A. 32

JOHN F. 22

MICHIGAN JIM 18

ROBIN M. 14

DANIELLE P. 6

MIKE Y. 2

TWO OR MORE

MARILYN 13

NIKKI C. 2

KEVIN S. 1

AMY G. 1

COTTEE RIVER GROUP

JOY G. 26

AA WAY

JOHN D. 10

LIVING SOBER STUDY

MIKE S. 4

HOOT N HOLLER

JIM H. 34

PAUL F. 7

SERENITY GROUP

KIM H. 22

SUNDAY MORNING GRATI-

TUDE

PETE F. 33

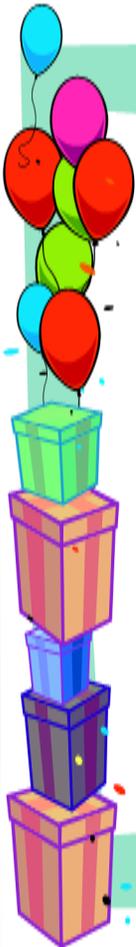
GERI 31

ERIC S. 4

NPR KISS GROUP

PHIL V. 9

DANI ? 6



JOIN THE INTERGROUP BIRTHDAY CLUB!

Celebrate your years of recovery
By giving a little something back!

You get:

1/2" C/T Gold Medallion and
Name in the 0777 newsletter

Complete this form and mail to:

7121 U. S. 19, NPR, FL 34652

\$3.65 suggested donation

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL: _____

HOME GROUP: _____

SOBRIETY DATE: _____

PHONE: _____

DONATION AMOUNT: _____

Deadline for news submissions for
0777news printing is the 20th of
month prior to sobriety month.



2013 BIRTHDAY CLUB CELEBRANTS

NAME

DOUG G.

TOM C.

HOME GROUP

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT

MIRACLE GROUP

SOBRIETY DATE

JAN. 29, 1988



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/phone numbers provided.

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

May 7: Corrections & Public Info/-CPC Committees both meet at Central Office, 7121 US 19, NPR. 6:30 pm. Members are needed.

May 4: Hernando Unity Meeting 7:30-9 pm, Nativity Lu-Lutheran Church, 6363 Commercial Way (US 19), Spring Hill. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

May 4: Special Needs Committee, 12:00 pm, 7119 U. S. 19, New Port Richey.

May 14: Treatment Committee meeting 6:30 pm , 7119 U. S. Hwy. 19, New Port Richey.

May 8: WPTSAA Intergroup meeting, 6:30 pm, Central Office, 7121 US 19, NPR. **Send a representative of your group.**

May 21: District 15 Committee meeting, 6:30 pm, Central Office, 7121 U. S. 19 NPR. Come & learn. Each group should be represented. All AAs welcome.

May 18: Unity Meeting, 7 PM Redeemer Community Church, 9230 Ridge Rd. NPR, 1 mile E. of Little Rd., S. side. Host: How Important Is It Group. Two speakers, fellowship, snacks. Doors open at 6:30.

May 25: 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."

May 25: Archives Committee meeting, 12:00 pm 7119 U. S. 19, New Port Richey.

Future Events

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

June 8, 2013: Founder's Day, noon to 4 pm, Speaker Steve R. past archivist, bring a side dish or desert, hot dogs and coffee provided, water and soft drinks available to purchase, 7119 U.S. 19, NPR

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 West shore, 2225 N. Lois Ave, Tampa, FL 33607. Call Lee Y. 407.333.4330 or email: gyeldell@cfl.rr.com

July 24-28, 2013: 57TH FLORIDA STATE CONVENTION "Carry This Message" Love and Service, Activities include 10 speakers, 2 banquets, ice cream socials, entertainment, fitness run/walk, golf tournament, workshops, Al-anon, Alateen, meetings, and much more. Visit <http://57.FLSTATECONVENTION.COM> for more details!



Elsewhere Around the Globe

May 10- 12, 2013: Big Book Workshop Weekend Holiday Inn Fort Myers, 9931 Interstate Commerce Dr. Fort Myers, FL, (239) 561-1550 www.serenityclubswfl.org

May 31, 2013: FCYPAA239, Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort & Spa, 17260 Harbour Pointe Drive, Fort Myers, FL, 33908 for info: FCYPAA2013.com

Sep. 5-8, 2013 : Seniors in Sobriety 8th International conference, San Diego, CA, more info sandiegosis2013@gmail.com or 855-713-2300.

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: igu50@yahoo.com

Subject: Newsletter

Or deliver or mail to: Attn: Newsletter Editor
West Pasco/Tarpon Springs Intergroup
7121 US 19, New Port Richey, FL. 34652

If you find mistakes in this newsletter, please consider that they are there for a purpose. We publish something for everyone, and some people are always looking for mistakes.

