



Tri-County Central Office News

HAPPY BIRTHDAY A.A. JUNE 10th, 1934

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

June 2012

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A FRAGMENT OF HISTORY by BILL WILSON

AA's are always asking: "Where did the Twelve Steps come from?" In the last analysis, perhaps nobody knows. Yet some of the events which led to their formulation are as clear to me as though they took place yesterday. So far as people were concerned, the main channels of inspiration for our Steps were three in number -- the Oxford Groups, Dr. William D. Silkworth of Townes Hospital and the famed psychologist, William James, called by some the father of modern psychology. The story of how these streams of influence were brought together and how they led to the writing of our Twelve Steps is exciting and in spots downright incredible. Many of us will remember the Oxford Groups as a modern evangelical movement which flourished in the 1920's and early 30's, led by a one-time Lutheran minister, Dr. Frank Buchman. The Oxford Groups of that day threw heavy emphasis on personal work, one member with another. AA's Twelfth Step had its origin in that vital practice. The moral backbone of the "O.G." was absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness and absolute love. They also practiced a type of confession, which they called "sharing"; the making of amends for harms done they called "restitution." They believed deeply in their "quiet time," a meditation practiced by groups and individuals alike, in which the guidance of God was sought for every detail of living, great or small. These basic ideas were not new; they could have been found elsewhere. But the saving thing for us first alcoholics who contacted the Oxford Groupers was that they laid great stress on these particular principles. And fortunate for us was the fact that the Groupers took special pains not to interfere with one's personal religious views. Their society, like ours later on, saw the need to be strictly non-denominational. In the late summer of 1934, my well-loved alcoholic friend and schoolmate "Ebby" had fallen in with these good folks and had promptly sobered up. Being an alcoholic, and rather on the obstinate side, he hadn't been able to "buy" all the Oxford Group ideas and attitudes. Nevertheless, he was moved by their deep sincerity and felt mighty grateful for the fact that their ministrations had, for the time being, lifted his obsession to drink. When he arrived in New York in the late fall of 1934, Ebby thought at once of me. On a bleak November day he rang up. Soon he was looking at me across our kitchen table at 182 Clinton Street, Brooklyn, New York. As I remember that conversation, he constantly used phrases like these: "I found I couldn't run my own life;" "I had to get honest with myself and somebody else;" "I had to make restitution for the damage I had done;" "I had to pray to God for guidance and strength, even though I wasn't sure there was any God;" "And after I'd tried hard to do these things I found that my craving for alcohol left." Then over and over Ebby would say something like this: "Bill, it isn't a bit like being on the water wagon. You don't fight the desire to drink -- you get released from it. I never had such a feeling before. Such was the sum of what Ebby had extracted from his Oxford Group friends and had transmitted to me that day. While these simple ideas were not new, they certainly hit me like tons of brick. Today we understand just why that was...one alcoholic was talking to another as no one else can. Two or three weeks later, December 11th to be exact, I staggered into the Charles B. Townes Hospital, that famous drying-out emporium on Central Park West, New York City. I'd been there before, so I knew and already loved the doctor in charge -- Dr. Silkworth. It was he who was soon to contribute a very great idea without which AA could never have succeeded. For years he had been proclaiming alcoholism an illness, an obsession of the mind coupled with an allergy of the body. By now I knew this meant me. I also understood what a fatal combination these twin ogres could be. Of course, I'd once hoped to be among the small percentage of victims who now and then escape their vengeance. But this outside hope was now gone. I was about to hit bottom. That verdict of science -- the obsession that condemned me to drink and the allergy that condemned me to die -- was about to do the trick. That's where the medical science, personified by this benign little doctor, began to fit it in. Held in the hands of one alcoholic talking to the next, this double-edged truth was a sledgehammer which could shatter the tough alcoholic's ego at depth and lay him wide open to the grace of God. In my case it was of course Dr. Silkworth who swung the sledge while my friend Ebby carried to me the spiritual principles and the grace which brought on my sudden spiritual awakening at the hospital three days later. I immediately knew that I was a free man. And with this astonishing experience came a feeling of wonderful certainty that great numbers of alcoholics might one day enjoy the priceless gift which had been bestowed upon me. Third Influence....At this point a third stream of influence entered my life through the pages of William James' book, "Varieties of Religious Experience." Somebody had brought it to my hospital room. Following my sudden experience, Dr. Silkworth had taken great pains to convince me that I was not hallucinated. But William James did even more. Not only, he said, could spiritual experiences make people saner, they could transform men and women so that they could do, feel and believe what had hitherto been impossible to them. It mattered little whether these awakenings were sudden or gradual, their variety could be almost infinite. But the biggest payoff of that noted book was this: *in most of the cases described, those who had been transformed were hopeless people. In some controlling area of their lives they had met absolute defeat.* Well, that was me all right. In complete defeat, with no hope or faith whatever, I had made an appeal to a higher Power. I had taken Step One of today's AA program -- "admitted we were powerless over alcohol, that our lives had become unmanageable." I'd also take Step Three -- "made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to God as we understood him." Thus was I set free. It was just as simple, yet just as mysterious, as that. These realizations were so exciting that I instantly joined up with the Oxford Groups.

TBAIC - District 2 - Hillsborough & East Pasco Counties

Another month of carrying the message into jails, prisons, detox and treatment facilities and our newest facility, a mental health unit. We still need additional volunteers in all the preceding areas.

At our May TBAIC meeting, we welcomed the new liaison from the District, Tom F. Tom will provide the District on a monthly basis the "going on" at TBAIC. Thanks Tom.

Our coordinators report that all meetings are going well and being covered by volunteers. Nancy B., our women's jail coordinator has put the newly approved volunteers to work, although she is still seeking additional female volunteers. Nancy has been covering several jail meetings personally due to the lack of volunteers or existing volunteers moving on to other areas of service. You can contact Nancy at the number shown on this page and she will be glad to furnish you with additional information on women's jail opportunities. TBAIC also has a spot for volunteers in the area of detox, treatment, juvenile and men's jails. Call the appropriate coordinators also shown on this page for more information on how to help.

The exciting news this month is about the recent enlargement of the geographical boundaries covered by your Institution Committee. Up until recently our area covered was represented by Hillsborough and East Pasco Counties. Recently we have added India and Thailand to our coverage. The committee's former Vice-Chairman, John S. and his companion, Brittany, spent several months in India. They attended meetings, involved themselves in home groups and sponsorship and, most importantly, shared their experience, strength and hope with other alcoholics. They were also invited to speak to doctors and nurses at local hospitals. John said both they and their message were enthusiastically received. Our hats are off to John and Brittany

Submitted by Dick D.

STEPS TO FREEDOM
(Fundraiser for the Tampa Bay Institutions Committee)
June 23, 2012
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Hyde Park Methodist Church
500 West Platt Street
Speakers: Polly & Dave P.
Advance Tickets: \$8.00 At the Door: \$10.00
More Info: www.stepstofreedomtampa.com

Treasurer's Report – May, 2012

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| YTD pink can balance as of 04/12 | 6,878.19 |
| Pink Can Balance December 31, 2011 | 1,817.80 |
| Plus Prudent Reserve | 500.00 |
| Total | \$ 9,195.99 |

| <u>SUMMARY OF EXPENSES</u> | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Total Received as of 05/12 | \$9,195.99 |
| Prudent Reserve | (\$500.00) |
| Total Moved to Spending Account | (\$7,800.00) |
| Total Paid - Operational Expense | \$257.95 |
| Balance 05/12 | \$650.04 |

Our Next Committee Meeting

Is at 9:30 am on June 9th, 2012 at the Tri-County Central Office (on Himes & South of 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:

All Groups from 301 House (95.50) As Bill Sees It (31.54) Came to Believe (50.00) Friday Night Live (6.00) Keystone (18.00) Midday Matinee (206.00) Mustard Seed (18.00) Noon Big Book (114.00) Old School (85.80) Primary Purpose (2.09) Ruskin Fellowship (61.80) Sisters in Sobriety (11.00) Soberstock (1500.00) There is a Solution (30.00)

TBAIC 2011 Committee Members

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Buddy H. - Chair | 813-871-2514 |
| Bobby B. Alternate Chair | 813-415-4961 |
| Brian B. Treasurer | 813-361-5884 |
| Wayne H.— Alternate Treasurer | 813-465-1462 |
| John O. – Secretary | 813-263-4998 |
| Dick D. - Hills Jails - Emeritus | 813-254-4423 |
| Paul D. – Hillsborough County Jail | 727-385-5529 |
| Nancy B.— Hills Women's Jails | 813-872-0262 |
| John D. - Detox | 813-526-5106 |
| Michele C.—HCI Women's Prison | 813-294-0806 |
| Sandy B. - E Pasco Jail-Women's | 813-727-1415 |
| Chris D. - E Pasco Prison | 813-857-5400 |
| Rob T.—Treatment | 813-453-6059 |
| Michele S.— Women's Bridge TheGap | 813-507-5796 |
| Joel C.— Men's Bridge The Gap | 813-525-8033 |
| Robert - Pre-Release | 616-808-0463 |
| Joel C.— Juvenile | 813-525-8033 |

A FRAGMENT OF HISTORY by BILL WILSON continued from page One

But to their consternation I insisted on devoting myself exclusively to drunks. This was disturbing to the O.G.'s on two counts. Firstly, they wanted to help save the whole world. Secondly, their luck with drunks had been poor. Just as I joined they had been working over a batch of alcoholics who had proved disappointing indeed. One of them, it was rumored, had flippantly cast his shoe through a valuable stained glass window of an Episcopal church across the alley from O.G. headquarters. Neither did they take kindly to my repeated declaration that it shouldn't take long to sober up all the drunks in the world. They rightly declared that my conceit was still immense. Something Missing. After some six months of violent exertion with scores of alcoholics which I found at a nearby mission and Townes Hospital, it began to look like the Groupers were right. I hadn't sobered up anybody. In Brooklyn we always had a houseful of drinkers living with us, sometimes as many as five. My valiant wife, Lois, once arrived home from work to find three of them fairly tight. They were whaling each other with two-by-fours. Though events like these slowed me down somewhat, the persistent conviction that a way to sobriety could be found never seemed to leave me. There was, though, one bright spot. My sponsor, Ebby, still clung precariously to his new-found sobriety. What was the reason for all these fiascoes? If Ebby and I could achieve sobriety, why couldn't all the rest find it too? Some of those we'd worked on certainly wanted to get well. We speculated day and night why nothing much had happened to them. Maybe they couldn't stand the spiritual pace of the Oxford Group's four absolutes of honesty, purity, unselfishness, and love. In fact some of the alcoholics declared that this was the trouble. The aggressive pressure upon them to get good overnight would make them fly high as geese for a few weeks and then flop dismally. They complained, too, about another form of coercion -- something the Oxford Groupers called "guidance for others." A "team" composed of non-alcoholic Groupers would sit down with an alcoholic and after a "quiet time" would come up with precise instructions as to how the alcoholic should run his own life. As grateful as we were to our O.G. friends, this was sometimes tough to take. It obviously had something to do with the wholesale skidding that went on.

But this wasn't the entire reason for failure. After months I saw the trouble was mainly in me. I had become very aggressive, very cocksure. I talked a lot about my sudden spiritual experience, as though it was something very special. I had been playing the double role of teacher and preacher. In my exhortations I'd forgotten all about the medical side of our malady, and that need for deflation at depth so emphasized by William James had been neglected. We weren't using that medical sledgehammer that Dr. Silkworth had so providentially given us.

Finally, one day, Dr. Silkworth took me back down to my right size. Said he, "Bill, why don't you quit talking so much about that bright light experience of yours, it sounds too crazy. Though I'm convinced that nothing but better morals will make alcoholics really well, I do think you have got the cart before the horse. The point is that alcoholics won't buy all this moral exhortation until they convince themselves that they must. If I were you I'd go after them on the medical basis first. While it is never done any good for me to tell them how fatal their malady is, it might be a very different story if you, a formerly hopeless alcoholic, gave them the bad news. Bemused of this identification you naturally have with alcoholics, you might be able to penetrate where I can't. Give them the medical business first, and give it to them hard. This might soften them up so they will accept the principles that will really get them well."

Then Came Akron...Shortly after this history-making conversation, I found myself in Akron, Ohio, on a business venture which promptly collapsed. Alone in the town, I was scared to death of getting drunk. I was no longer a teacher or a preacher, I was an alcoholic who knew that he needed another alcoholic as much as that one could possibly need me. Driven by that urge, I was soon face to face with Dr. Bob. It was at once evident that Dr. Bob knew more of the spiritual things than I did. He also had been in touch with the Oxford Groupers at Akron. But somehow he simply couldn't get sober. Following Dr. Silkworth's advice, I used the medical sledgehammer. I told him what alcoholism was and just how fatal it could be. Apparently this did something to Dr. Bob. On June 10, 1935, he sobered up, never to drink again. When, in 1939, Dr. Bob's story first appeared in the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, he put one paragraph of it in italics. Speaking of me, he said: "*Of far more importance was the fact that he was the first living human with whom I had ever talked, who knew what he was talking about in regard to alcoholism from actual experience.*" The Missing Link Dr. Silkworth had indeed supplied us the missing link without which the chain of principles now forged into our Twelve Steps could never have been complete. Then and there, the spark that was to become Alcoholics Anonymous had been struck. During the next three years after Dr. Bob's recovery our growing groups at Akron, New York and Cleveland evolved the so-called word-of-mouth program of our pioneering time. As we commenced to form a society separate from the Oxford Group, we began to state our principles something like this:

1. We admitted that we were powerless over alcohol
2. We got honest with ourselves
3. We got honest with another person, in confidence
4. We made amends for harms done others

NOTES FROM INSIDE THE CENTRAL OFFICE

May 8th, 2012 the Board of Directors for Central Office met:

| BOARD MEMBERS | | REPRESENTING GROUP |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| AL B. | CHAIRPERSON | MORNING MIRACLES GROUP |
| BRETT B. | VICE-CHAIR | 164 GROUP WESLEY CHAPEL |
| LINDA G. | TREASURER | TURNING POINT GROUP |
| EXCUSED | BOARD MEMBER | SOBER ON SATURDAY GROUP |
| LOIS M. | BOARD MEMBER | BACK TO BASICS GROUP |
| JIM M. | BOARD MEMBER | TAMPA PALMS BIG BOOK GP. |
| ROB L. | BOARD MEMBER | THE MEETING PLACE GROUP |
| BRIAN W. | BOARD MEMBER | ODESSA GROUP |
| J. KELLY L. | BOARD MEMBER | CLEAN AIR GROUP |
| JIM McM | BOARD MEMBER | DAILY REFLECTIONS GROUP |

Al opened the meeting in the usual matter by asking everyone to turn down their cell phones and if everyone was signed followed by a moment of silence and then the Serenity Prayer. Rob read the April minutes. There were no questions. A motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded and approved. Linda G. presented the April Treasurer's Report. April was a good month and we were \$656.42 in the plus column and for the year-to-date we are sitting pretty good at \$3,325.93 above our budget. A motion to accept the Treasures report was made, seconded and approved. Old Business consisted of going over details for the upcoming Founders Day Event. Linda noted that the Turning Point Group had the grills for cooking and Jim from the Reflections Group noted that they would supply the paper plates, cups -etc. Tim was asked to check with the Church to see if we could come in an hour early. Al reinforced the idea that the one thing we don't want to do at one of these functions is to run out of food. He also asked the Board if there was anything they wanted brought to the Council Meeting. Linda asked if there was a call sheet for the different people supplying the different functions. Jim wanted to know what was for desert and Brent wanted to know if we were having potato salad. It was also decide to have Cathy N. as the third women on the Old-Timers panel. Tim was asked to contact her. At the Council Meeting Sue Z. read the April Minutes. There were no questions. A motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded and approved. Stevie G. from the Sincerity Group, Jimmy F. from the Wellspring Group, Matt I. From the As Bill Sees It Men's Group, Jennifer G. from the TGIS Women's Group and Bill from the Solutions Group were all welcomed to the Council Meeting. Jim VK noted a correction to be made that the Carrollwood NS Group had been present at the April meeting. After Linda gave the Treasurer's report, discussion went into the Founders Day Event. Al asked if there were any changes that had to be made and then went over the list of duties and functions making sure everyone was on the same page. Looks like everything is pretty well covered at this time. Terry F. asked for an update concerning the idea of producing a Birthday Club Envelope for Central Office. Tim noted that Patti had not been back since that particular meeting but he would check into it. Tom F. volunteered to produce an envelope if Patti couldn't. Several announcements for upcoming group events were made. Whatever we have knowledge of will be posted on our events page at www.aatampa-area.org. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer for those who wished to participate.

May 8th, 2012 the Central Office Representatives met:
COUNCIL MEMBERS REPRESENTING GROUP

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| VIVIAN J. | FREEDOM IN SOBRIETY GROUP |
| GENE M. | LIVE & LET LIVE GROUP |
| BONNIE C. | NIGHTLY NEWCOMERS GROUP |
| CHERYL T. | CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP |
| JENNIFER G. | TGIS WOMEN'S GROUP |
| BERNIE H. | FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP |
| RAY D. | CARDINAL GROUP |
| MATT I. | AS BILLS SEES IT MEN'S GROUP |
| BRIAN L. | TURNING POINT GROUP |
| SIDNEY R. | TURNING POINT GROUP |
| MAYGAN R. | TAMPA BAY YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP |
| JAKE M. | TAMPA BAY YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP |
| JOHN G. | TAMPA PALMS BIG BOOK GROUP |
| BILL S. | OLD SCHOOL GROUP |
| SUE Z. | CLEAN AIR GROUP |
| TERRY F. | PRIMARY PURPOSE GROUP |
| CHRISTOPHER T. | MONDAY NITE MADNESS GROUP |
| CAROL M. | NEW BEGINNINGS GROUP |
| MARTIN S. | SOBRENITY GROUP |
| LESLIE G. | PROMISES MEETING |
| BILL | SOLUTIONS GROUP |
| BILL J. | EARLY RISERS GROUP |
| CHRISTA G. | SOBER @ 7 GROUP |
| JIM VK | CARROLLWOOD NS GROUP |
| TOM F. | WELLSPRING GROUP |
| JIMMY F. | WELLSPRING GROUP |
| STEVIE G. | SINCERITY GROUP |
| BRANT W. | 164 GROUP WESLEY CHAPEL |
| JOE C. | KEEP IT SIMPLE MEN'S GROUP |
| PHIL F. | LOVE & SERVICE GROUP |

CARRY THE MESSAGE DAY

Hosted by District 2

Three Speakers talking about their experience

Carrying the Message

Bill O. (Tampa, FL)

Lou (St. Petersburg, FL)

And one more to be announced

**Location: Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church
3501 San Jose Street, Tampa, Florida, 33629**

When: Saturday, August 18, 2012

Time: 11:00 am - 6:00 PM

Contact info: Ryan (813) 323-0798

\$7 in Advance, \$10 at the Door.

Lunch will be provided

ANNIVERSARY TIME

SELF-SUPPORT-APRIL 2012

| GROUP | Honors To | Date | Years |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------|--------|
| SOBER @ 7 GROUP | WENDY D. | 06/01/11 | 1 YR |
| SOBER @ 7 GROUP | BILL M. | 06/29/99 | 13 YRS |
| SOBER @ 7 GROUP | JUDY K. | 06/24/93 | 19 YRS |
| SOBER @ 7 GROUP | WRAY | 06/10/84 | 28 YRS |
| SOBER @ 7 GROUP | DICK W. | 06/10/58 | 54 YRS |
| IN THE WIND GROUP | BREEZE | 05/04/82 | 30 YRS |
| SAFE HAVEN GROUP | BECKY J. | 05/20/11 | 1 YR |
| SAFE HAVEN GROUP | LISA W. | 05/17/11 | 1 YR |
| SAFE HAVEN GROUP | DIANE O. | 05/02/10 | 2 YRS |
| SAFE HAVEN GROUP | BILLY R. | 05/05/86 | 26 YRS |
| FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP | CHRISTOPHER E. | 05/02/10 | 2 YRS |
| FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP | CAROLYN S. | 06/23/06 | 6 YRS |
| RUSH HOUR SERENITY GROUP | VINCE H. | 06/16/06 | 6 YRS |
| EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP | CHAD S. | 06/25/07 | 5 YRS |
| EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP | DAVID P. | 06/15/02 | 10 YRS |
| EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP | BERNIE S. | 06/19/93 | 19 YRS |
| EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP | BRIAN B. | 06/21/89 | 23 YRS |
| JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP | LINDA C. | 06/01/08 | 4 YRS |
| JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP | LAFONDA | 06/13/02 | 10 YRS |
| JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP | SANDY G. | 06/15/93 | 19 YRS |
| JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP | LINDA B. | 06/09/88 | 24 YRS |
| RIVERSIDE GROUP | TOM N. | 06/28/03 | 9 YRS |
| RIVERSIDE GROUP | DENNIS D. | 06/06/00 | 12 YRS |
| RIVERSIDE GROUP | DICK D. | 06/06/69 | 43 YRS |
| KEYSTONE GROUP | TRAVIS G. | 06/10/03 | 9 YRS |
| KEYSTONE GROUP | GREG W. | 06/14/02 | 10 YRS |
| KEYSTONE GROUP | JOHN C. | 06/06/69 | 43 YRS |

**A BIRTHDAY PLAN SUPPORTER TO CENTRAL OFFICE
 ONE DOLLAR FOR EACH YEAR OF SOBRIETY**

| Honors To | Date | Years |
|-----------|----------|--------|
| VIVIAN J. | 05/16/89 | 23 YRS |
| JOANNE A. | 5/25/82 | 30 YRS |

Do You Have A Subscription To Our Newsletter "Tri-County Central Office News"? Why Not???-For \$5.00 You Will Receive 12 Issues. The "News" Is One Of The Few Ways Central Office Can Reach Our Individual Members. "Tri-County Central Office News" is a monthly newsletter of AA in Hillsborough and East Pasco County and the Tri-County Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is about, by and for members of the AA Fellowship. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to AA as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply any endorsement by either AA or the Tri-County Central Office. Still only \$ 5.00

☺ 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 April of 2012 we have **230** Groups with **586** 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 and more groups are being formed as we speak. This year to date contributions from Groups (April ,2012) have totaled \$29,042.97 for the year. That accounts for what **105** Groups in our area have contributed plus the 31 AA'er's who contributed \$694.79 in contributions anonymously and the \$1000.00 from the Old School Group's Anniversary Dinner and the \$3,055.00 minus \$984.94 in expenses we generated from ticket sales, the 7th Tradition Basket and a raffle at our Anniversary Dinner and the \$430.00 generated from Raffle Tickets for the First Edition Big Book we are raffling off at our first ever Founders Day Event. And the \$ 272.00 generated from the 12 Step Workshop hosted by the 164 Group and the \$1400.00 from the All Groups meeting hosted by the keystone Group and the \$91.87 from the All Groups meeting hosted by the Cardinal Group. And the \$128.00 from the 5 members who have participated in the Birthday Plan thus far. Our Literature sales for April bought in \$4,792.07. Contributions were \$ 6,571.41 Our total income for April was \$11,419.79 Our Cost of Goods was \$3,356.06. Subtracting the Cost of Goods from our April income left us with a Gross Profit of \$8,063.73. Our Expenses for April were \$7,407.31. Subtracting our Expenses from our Gross Profit gave us a Net Income of **plus** 656.42 for the month of April . As I have stated in the past, 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 continue 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. Thank You for your Support.

tws:) Office Manager

Support Your Central Office .



A FRAGMENT OF HISTORY by BILL WILSON continued from page Three

5. We worked with other alcoholics without demand for prestige or money
6. We prayed to God to help us to do these things as best we could

Though these principles were advocated according to the whim or liking of each of us, and though in Akron and Cleveland they still stuck by the O.G. absolutes of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love, this was the gist of our message to incoming alcoholics up to 1939, when our present Twelve Steps were put to paper. I well remember the evening on which the Twelve Steps was written. I was lying in bed quite dejected and suffering from one of my imaginary ulcer attacks. Four chapters of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, had been roughed out and read in meetings at Akron and New York. We quickly found that everybody wanted to be an author. The hassles as to what should go into our new book were terrific. For example, some wanted a purely psychological book which would draw in alcoholics without scaring them. We could tell them about the "God business" afterwards. A few, led by our wonderful southern friend, Fitz M., wanted a fairly religious book infused with some of the dogma we had picked up from the churches and missions which had tried to help us. The louder the arguments, the more I felt in the middle. It appeared that I wasn't going to be the author at all. I was only going to be an umpire who would decide the contents of the book. This didn't mean, though, that there wasn't terrific enthusiasm for the undertaking. Every one of us was wildly excited at the possibility of getting our message before all those countless alcoholics who still didn't know. Having arrived at Chapter Five, it seemed high time to state what our program really was. I remember running over in my mind the word-of-mouth phrases then in current use. Jotting these down, they added up to the six named above. Then came the idea that our program ought to be more accurately and clearly stated. Distant readers would have to have a precise set of principles. Knowing the alcoholic's ability to rationalize, something airtight would have to be written. We couldn't let the reader wiggle out anywhere. Besides, a more complete statement would help in the chapters to come where we would need to show exactly how the recovery program ought to be worked. 12 Steps in 30 Minutes At length I began to write on a cheap yellow tablet. I split the word-of-mouth program up into smaller pieces, meanwhile enlarging its scope considerably. Uninspired as I felt, I was surprised that in a short time, perhaps half an hour, I had set down certain principles which, on being counted, turned out to be twelve in number. And for some unaccountable reason, I had moved the idea of God into the Second Step, right up front. Besides, I had named God very liberally throughout the other steps. In one of the steps I had even suggested that the newcomer get down on his knees. When this document was shown to our New York meeting the protests were many and loud. Our agnostic friends didn't go at all for the idea of kneeling. Others said we were talking altogether too much about God. And anyhow, why should there be twelve steps when we had done fine on six? Let's keep it simple, they said. This sort of heated discussion went on for days and nights. But out of it all there came a ten-strike for Alcoholics Anonymous. Our agnostic contingent, spearheaded by Hank P. and Jim B., finally convinced us that we must make it easier for people like themselves by using such terms as "a Higher Power" or "God as we understand Him!" Those expressions, as we so well know today, have proved lifesavers for many an alcoholic. They have enabled thousands of us to make a beginning where none could have been made had we left the steps just as I originally wrote them. Happily for us there were no other changes in the original draft and the number of steps stood at twelve. Little did we then guess that our Twelve Steps would soon be widely approved by clergymen of all denominations and even by our latter-day friends, the psychiatrists. This little fragment of history ought to convince the most skeptical that nobody invented Alcoholics Anonymous. It just grew...by the grace of God.

Reprint Permission/AA Grapevine/ July 1953

Cook-Out at Joe's Club Joe's Suburban Club 11601 Downs Loop Riverview, FL 33578-6130 (813) 677-8021 Sponsored by: The Early Riser's, Newcomer's, and 5:45 Groups June 17th – Dinner starts at 3:30pm Bring the kids and enjoy Father's Day with family and friends. \$5 tickets for food - kids under 12 eat free 50/50 Raffle - \$1 per ticket/\$5 for 6 tickets Meeting starts at 5:45pm AA and AI-Anon Speaker

Come Celebrate The Second Anniversary of The Promises Meeting Sunday June 3th, 2012 The Recovery Club of Brandon 324 West Robertson Street Brandon, Florida 33511 Potluck Dinner @ 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm (Bring a dish) Speaker @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Guest Speaker: Sandy B.

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>

| Group | APRIL | Y T D | Group | APRIL | Y T D | Group | APRIL | Y T D |
|---------------------------------|--------|-----------|----------------------------------|---------|----------|------------------------------------|----------|---------|
| 11th Step Meeting- Christ King | | 150.00 | Just What I Wanted Big Book | | 55.10 | Saturday Night Candlelight | 33.50 | 33.50 |
| 11th Step Meeting--Sun City | | | Keep It Simple/Pass It On R. | | 118.18 | Saturday Night Live Group | | 314.00 |
| 12 Steps to Growth Group | | 120.00 | Keep It Simple - YANA | 150.00 | 150.00 | Serenity Group MLK | | |
| 164 Group | | | Keep It Simple Group (Dade) | 224.90 | 224.90 | Sisters in Sobriety Group | | 83.00 |
| A.A. 101 Group | 182.92 | 496.48 | Keystone Group | 211.00 | 442.00 | Sober @ 7 Group | 192.01 | 192.01 |
| A.A. 102 Group | | 162.25 | Kingsway Group | | 74.12 | Sober on Saturday Group | | 260.00 |
| All Groups--Cardinal Group | 91.87 | 1,491.87 | Lake Yale Spring Meetings | | | Sober on Sunday Group | | |
| Anniversary/Old School Gp. | | 1,000.00 | LateNighters Group | | 124.70 | SOBERSTOCK | 1,500.00 | 1500.00 |
| Alpha Group | 10.00 | 40.00 | Lemon Tree Group | | 0.70 | Sobrenity Group | 10.14 | 26.38 |
| Anniversary Dinner 2012 | | 3055.00 | Life Enrichment Group | | 222.30 | Softball Tournament / CO | | |
| Annual Housecleaning Retreat | | | Little Red Book Group | | | Solutions Group | | 615.68 |
| Anonymous Donations | 15.22 | 700.31 | Live and Let Live Group | 500.00 | 500.00 | Southshore Men's Group | 130.00 | 260.00 |
| As Bill Sees It--Brandon | | | Living in the Solution Group | 150.00 | 575.00 | Southside Men's Group | | |
| As Bill Sees It Mens -Odessa | | 114.73 | Living Sober/As Bill Sees It | | | Southside Men's Group # 2 | | 75.00 |
| Attitude of Gratitude Group | | 300.00 | Lunch Bunch Group | | 27.00 | Southside Men's Group # 3 | | |
| Back to Basics Group - Tampa | | | Mainly Sober Group - Zhills | | | Spiritual Development Group | | |
| Barracks Brigade Group | | | Maple Dale Group | | 100.00 | Spiritual Growth Group | | |
| Bel-Mar Group | | 120.25 | Mac Dill Group | | | Spiritual Progress Goup | 78.65 | 78.65 |
| Beginners Step Group | | | Mid Day Matinee Group | | 1500.00 | Step Sisters in Sobriety | | |
| Bill D's Group | | 150.00 | Monday Nite Madness 3333 | 122.16 | 546.80 | Step at a Time Group | | |
| BIRTHDAY PLAN | | 128.00 | Morning Express Group | 125.00 | 125.00 | Stepping Stones Group (w) | 35.00 | 70.00 |
| Brandon Beginners 12 & 12 | 50.00 | 50.00 | Morning Group - Zephyrhills | | 190.00 | Sun City Center Group | | |
| Brandon Men's Blackbelt Mt. | | | Morning Meditation Meeting | | | Sunday Afternnoon Meeting | | |
| Brandon Sat. Night Group | | | Morning Miracles Group | | 230.57 | Sunday Speakers - 3333 | 80.00 | 320.00 |
| Brandon Tues. Big Book Grp | | | My Turn Group | | | Sunshine Group | | 100.00 |
| BYO 12 & 12 Group | 50.47 | 328.44 | New Beginnings - Brandon | 156.00 | 377.00 | Tampa Bay Fall Roundup | | |
| Came To Believe Group | | 130.00 | New Beginnings Women's | 120.00 | 120.00 | Tampa Bay Speakers Group | | 165.60 |
| Cardinal Group - Odessa | 636.09 | 636.09 | New Beginnings-(5:45)Joe's | | 205.92 | Tampa Bay Young Peoples | | |
| Carrollwood NS Group | | | Newcomers Group (Joe's Club) | | | Tampa Bid for FCYPAA | | |
| Chancey Road AA Group | | 50.00 | New Day Group | | 78.00 | Tampa Palms Big Book | | 100.00 |
| Clair-Mel Positive Thinkers Gp. | | 50.00 | New Way Women's Group | | | Tampa Palms Men's Group | | 184.45 |
| Dade City Step Group | | 150.00 | Nightly Newcomers Group | | 367.04 | Temple Terrace Men's Group | | |
| Design for Living Grp - Joe's | | | Noon AA Group Brandon | | | TGIS Women's Group | 212.73 | 212.73 |
| District 2 General Service | | | Noon Big Book Group | | 258.05 | Thank God it's Friday Group | | |
| Dover Group | | 77.40 | Nooners Group--Riverview | | 47.92 | The 164 Group | | 166.80 |
| Druid Hills Group | | | Nooners Group--Tampa | 33.75 | 127.75 | 164 12 Step Workshop | | 272.00 |
| Early Risers Group - Joe's | | 306.90 | Noontime Celebration Group | | 150.00 | The Meeting Place Group | 29.00 | 164.60 |
| Easy Does It Group | | 20.00 | North Brandon Open Forum | 20.00 | 40.00 | The Next Frontier Group | | |
| Expect a Miracle Group | | 80.00 | Northdale Group | | 133.25 | There is a Solution Group | | |
| Fill the Gap Group | | 55.06 | Odessa Group | | | There is a Solution Group 3333 | | |
| Fireside Group | | | Old School Group | 113.36 | 708.66 | Thurs. AM Discusion Group | 50.00 | 50.00 |
| Founders Day Event | 60.00 | 430.00 | Oldtimer's Group - Joe's Club | 185.00 | 185.00 | Town & Country Sisters in Sobriety | | 50.00 |
| Freedom in Sobriety Group | | 73.41 | On the Way Home -Tampa 5:30 | | 204.00 | Town & Country Wed. Group | | 200.00 |
| Friday Night AA @ 8 Group | | | One Day at a Time Group | | 100.00 | Tuesday Night Big Book Study | | 75.00 |
| Friday Night Lights Group | | 231.60 | One Day at a Time Mtg. | | 40.00 | Tuesday Serenity Group | | |
| Friday Women's Friendship | | 150.00 | Palma Ceia Group | | 532.55 | Turning Point Group -Z-Hills | 70.00 | 200.00 |
| Gifts of Sobriety Group | | 138.00 | Palma Ceia 12 Step Group | | | Uptown/Downtown Group | | |
| Good Day AA Group | | | Palma Ceia Big Book Study | 200.00 | 400.00 | Valrico Fri. Morning Group | | 50.00 |
| Good Start Group - YANA | | | Pass It On Group - Plant City | | | Valrico/Brandon Wed. Night Group | | |
| Happy Hour Group Brandon | | | Pilgrim Group - St Leo's Univ. | | 150.00 | Village 12 Step Group | | |
| Happy Hour Group YANA | | | Plank Owners Group | 100.00 | 200.00 | Warrior's Group | 1.25 | 1.95 |
| Harbor Lights Group | | | Primary Purpose Group | | 58.62 | Weedpatch Group | | 80.00 |
| Helping Hands Gp.-Plant City | 100.00 | 100.00 | Promises Meeting | | 80.00 | Wellspring Group | | 140.92 |
| Hide-A-Way Group | | | Prosperity AA Group | | | Wednesday Night Step Workshop | | |
| High Nooners Group | | 700.00 | Red Chip Day Donation | | | Wesley Chapel Group | 7.18 | 144.18 |
| Higher Learning Group | | | Red Door Group | | | West Side Winners Group | | 50.00 |
| Hour Glass Group | 100.00 | 200.00 | Reflections Group-Lake Mag | | 325.00 | With Room to Grow Group | | |
| I.D.A.A. | | | Riverside Group | 124.16 | 179.64 | Women's Friendship Group | 89.75 | 89.75 |
| In the Wind Group | | | Riverview Sisterhood in Sobriety | 50.00 | 50.00 | Women's Perspective Conference | | |
| Into Action Group | | | Rush Hour Serenity Group | 170.30 | 356.20 | | | |
| It's in the Book Men's Group | | 50.00 | Ruskin Fellowship Group | | | | | |
| Just for Today Group | | | Safe Haven Group | | | | | |
| | | | TOTAL | 2755.63 | | TOTAL | 2519.21 | |
| | TOTAL | 1,296.57 | YTD | TOTAL | 10680.97 | YTD | TOTAL | 6326.20 |
| | YTD | TOTAL | | | | Grand Total for Month | 6571.41 | |
| | | 12,035.79 | | | | Grand Total for Year | 29042.96 | |