



Tri-County Central Office News

Many may never think they need our help or even want our help.
But, just like you and I, there will be a few who desperately want and need our help.

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

March, 2016

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PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

I wonder who would get drunk first if AA got really organized: the drunks giving the orders, or those of us ordered around? In most human societies, organization involves officers with power over underlings, hierarchies of authority, pages of strict regulations, and hours of ceremony. But all those are so far removed from the spirit of our Fellowship that we come to accept their absence almost without a second thought. And in any description of AA, we're likely to say something like Tradition Nine: "AA as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve." Have you noticed how often a Tradition seems to be the distillation of an *attitude* that appears quite natural and wise in AA, even when we are not very conscious of it? Unlike the Steps, each of which is a positive act or decision, Traditions sometimes suggest *absence* of behavior. They are about refraining from certain actions. As such, they become restraints we put on ourselves because without them we would probably rush in all kinds of wrong directions. Although the Traditions had not yet been written, the idea of the Ninth came to my attention the first day I gingerly approached AA, in 1945. I was told there were no officers, and no rules or regulations. The idea was so flabbergasting, I couldn't grasp it. As soon as I had listened to a couple of sober members, I asked how to join. Where should I sign up? (I dreaded letting anyone see my trembling hands trying to write, but you folks seemed kind.) "You don't have to sign anything, or promise anything," the angel twelfth-stepping me said. "Just hang around." I guess I was disappointed at the lack of a welcoming ritual, really hankering after some sort of fanfare to tell the world I had turned myself in. But what I said was: "Yes, but how will you know if I stay sober?" Her reply was a shocker it took several years to absorb. She said sweetly, "We won't, but *you* will." No one with power over me had ever succeeded in keeping me sober. Now, in effect, instead of using power over me to keep me dry, AA was expressing the spirit of our Ninth Tradition by handing me the responsibility of not drinking. So it seems to me this Tradition makes one whale of a lot of difference in our staying sober. Since then, I have heard many times echoes of that "responsibility, not power" idea, notably in the "I Am Responsible" Declaration. But I have never seen a member or committee or board succeed in holding personal power over other members, or groups. Instead, AAs use the powers of example and of moral suasion. The term "power" reverberates far back into my active alcoholism, as well throughout my recovery. Booze gave me the power to stop the clock and create a world pleasing only to me. The there is that "powerless over alcohol" in the First Step, of course. But there is more. A few years ago, a brilliant Harvard psychologist, David C. McClelland, and some colleagues began research into why people drink. Their book, *The Drinking Man*, tells of their ingenious experiments and conclusions. Like most good scientists, they seem to have started humbly, with open minds no preconceived notions. They apparently

Continued page 3

CENTRAL OFFICE

Hello, Alcoholics Anonymous. Yes, this is the central office. No, it's not an answering service. No, this conversation is not being taped. How can I help you? You say you're a drunk and can't stop drinking, but your wife says you should stand up like a man and use your willpower—if you really care for her, you'd stop drinking by yourself. Well, I can only tell you about myself, my friend, because I'm the only one I really know about, and I couldn't stop drinking by willpower, either. It meant doing something about my drinking problem. It meant contacting the local office of Alcoholics Anonymous. If you like, I can have a couple of sober AAs come over to your house and talk with you. What's that? You think you can do it on your own? Good luck, and call us when you're ready to do something to help yourself...

Hello, Alcoholics Anonymous. You're a student doing a project on AA and you'd like to attend an open meeting? What area do you live in? I'll try to get you information on the meeting nearest you. The only thing we ask is that if you see somebody you know there, please keep it to yourself. Have a good day...

Hello, Alcoholics Anonymous. You'd like someone from AA to come to your school and talk to the children? What school is it? What age bracket are the students? We have a public information committee to handle this type of request, and I'll be glad to forward the information to them. Thanks for calling...

Hello, Alcoholics Anonymous. Yes. That group's still meeting in the same place at the same hour. The people will be glad to see you again...

Hello, Alcoholics Anonymous. What church is calling? I see—you can't have the AA meeting there next Thursday, because there's a special church service. We'll make sure the information gets to the proper people. Thank you for calling...

Hello, Alcoholics Anonymous. Hi Larry. Yes, there is a steering committee meeting here in the central office tonight. Seven-thirty. See you there...

Hello, Alcoholics Anonymous. Yes, this is AA. How can we help you? You're drunk, but don't know if you're an alcoholic, and you don't want your husband to know about this call. Well, if *you* don't tell him, *we* sure won't. You don't have to say you're an alcoholic to join AA. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. If you'd like, we can have a woman call you, and maybe come over to your house. You would? Fine! Try your best not to take a drink for the next hour, and we'll get hold of someone...

Marge? This is the central office. We just had a call from a woman asking for help and AA information. Can you contact her, and maybe get her to a meeting tonight? That's great. Here's her phone number. Call us back and let us know how you made out...

Hello, Alcoholics Anonymous. Oh yes—how are things in your area? That's good. One day at a time. What's up? You're having a convention and you'd like a speaker panel from

Go to page 3

District 2 - Tampa Bay Area Institutions Committee covering Hillsborough & East Pasco Counties

(877) AATAMPA or (877) 228-2672!

(Special note: TBAIC literature is available for distribution at the TBAIC meeting which is usually held the second Saturday of each month or the 4th Thursday of the month from 5:50 pm to 6:50 pm at the Tri-County Central Office.)

The February 13th meeting of TBAIC was opened by Chair Susan O. leading the "Serenity Prayer". She received word from Buddy H. that the meetings at Falkenburg and Orient Jails were being covered and there have been no problems. In addition, Buddy H. is assisting Scott R. with ACTS and the handling of AA meetings and volunteer requirements. He has met with the person from ACTS who is responsible for coordinating the meeting schedule and facility policies for the meetings. Items addressed for volunteers were sobriety requirements (currently one year), dress code and promotion of a particular religion. He is expected to hear back from the ACTS representative by Thursday, February 17th.

Tom F. distributed the Treasurer's Report. Collections totaled \$1841.88. Non-literature expenditures were \$300.00 to begin development of a TBAIC website and \$280.00 up front expenses for the May 7th softball tournament for fees and permits.

Tom F. also reported for East Pasco County, an inmate from Zephyrhills Is being released in April and will live in transitional housing in Tarpon Springs. They have arranged for a contact in Tarpon Springs to assist the inmate upon his release.

Nancy B. has one new volunteer starting at Falkenburg Jail. The women's meetings are being covered. The next orientation for new volunteers will be in April, but the deadline for an application is March 13th and requires at least one year of sobriety.

Jim S. received one call for Bridge the Gap requesting meeting information.

Ruth N. said getting new volunteer applications processed for the East Pasco County women's facility has been a slow process. She has received no word back from the individual who had previously asked for help in bringing AA meetings into the men's facility. The staff and inmates were surprised that volunteers came on Super Bowl Sunday to conduct a meeting as usual.

Sylvia L. offered some more suggestions on how to improve the TBAIC website which is being created. The word donations will be changed to contributions. An events tab will be added to the main page. She also suggested creating an PayPal account and add a contribution button where individuals or groups can make a contribution simply by clicking on the contribution button.

Susan O. reminded everyone about the upcoming softball tournament on May 7th at Gasden Park. This is a fun event fundraiser for TBAIC. (Dick Drysdale Memorial Keep It Simple Coed Softball Tournament)

"Sobriety is the launching pad for our recovery." (Living Sober pg. 4)

YTD Contributions to TBAIC \$4,002.89
 YTD Money Placed in Tri-County spending account \$3,000.00
 Money in Spending Account at Year End 2014 \$161.28
 YTD Money Spent on Literature \$3,116.70
 YTD Expenses \$458.05
 Pink Can Balance as of 12/12/2015 \$168.27
 Pink Can Balance as of 02/13/2016 \$713.11

Our Next Committee Meeting

Is at 9:30 AM on **March 5th, 2016** at the Tri-County Central Office (near Himes & 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 last Month:

Barrack's Brigade \$37.26; Early Riser's Group \$143.48; Florida Conference of Young People in AA \$149.00; Good Day AA and Stay Alive Groups \$300.00; Hide A Way Group \$107.15; Keystone Discussion Group \$49.71; Kingsway Group \$145.00; Live and Let Live Group \$98.31; Lunch Bunch Group \$44.00; Monday Night Men's St. James New Tampa Group \$133.00; Morning Meditation Group \$136.22; Old School Group \$191.08; Ruskin Fellowship Group \$55.00; Sunshine Group \$87.27; Town And Country Men's Group \$63.00; Town and Country Wednesday Group \$56.50; Women's Friendship Group \$190.90;

TBAIC 2014-2015 Committee Members

Susan O. - Chair	813-325-6538
Jim S. — Alternate Chair	813-679-9130
Tom F. — Treasurer	813-205-4945
Carolyn L. Alt. Treasurer	813-961-1144
Larry B. – Secretary	813-215-8423
Nancy B. — Alt. Secretary	813-872-0262
Open- Hills Jails -	
Buddy H. – Hillsborough County Jail	813-871-2514
Nancy B. — Hills Women's Jails	813-872-0262
Scott R. Detox & Treatment	813-727-8839
Ruth N. - E Pasco Jail-Women's	813-629-1547
Chris D. - E Pasco Prison	813-857-5400
Michele S. --Women's Bridge The Gap	813-507-5796
Jim S. — Men's Bridge The Gap	813-679-9130
Open- Pre-Release	
Open- Juvenile	

The Corrections Committee needs all types of volunteers. We need people to attend meetings in the facilities, people to help spread the word about this type of service work. It is okay if you have never been to jail yourself! You can still help us. You can still carry A.A.'s message of hope to an alcoholic who is incarcerated. Let's face it: many of us who have never been arrested just never got caught!

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.....continued from page 1

knew nothing at all about alcoholism or AA when they began. And their book tells fascinatingly of their mistakes, along with their eventual triumph. From some clever experiments, they were forced to conclude that folks drink to achieve or celebrate personal power. They went on to find that when such power is changed into altruistic power—used to benefit others, not one self—drinking lessens. (I’ve seriously oversimplified their material, but you can read it all yourself.) Almost forty years after Bill met Dr. Bob, these distinguished scientists validated one central AA idea in an original, sophisticated, and intellectual way. My own Twelfth Step experience reflects for me that truth about power. Whenever I have begun to feel I was helping another alcoholic with my own power, not simply being a channel through which a Power greater than myself did the actual helping, the result has been a giddy-making vanity that went to my head almost like booze. Organization, with all it implies, also represents another danger to me, and thus this Tradition is a bulwark of my sobriety in another way. For me, it is often easier to hide behind neat labels, sharp classifications, and orderly routines than it is to jump with faith into the disorderly mess life really can be. I’ve found myself sometimes, at an AA meeting (or a movie, play, or opera performance), sitting there so busily choosing and arranging the exact words I’ll use later to describe it that I am not letting the experience happen to me right now. Instead, I am “wordifying” it, organizing it. I think I am not alone in this. Don’t lots of us find it easier to talk about (organize) recovery than to work at it? But, and it is a big but, the AA attitude is not “to hell with all the organization,” of course. That smacks more of drunkenness than sobriety, doesn’t it? The birth of a group I witnessed almost thirty years ago clearly demonstrates to me that we do have to create *some* service entities if AA’s primary purpose is to be pursued. This new group would be true democracy, as AA groups were meant to be, its originators said. Everything other groups did wrong, this one would do right, according to its founders. They were a colorful collection of characters of the old-time Bohemian type Greenwich Village used to be famous for. Two were *grandes dames* who talked a lot about “the arts.” Several were unshorn painters. One was a bearded chess maniac; another a polygamous math professor; and others were assorted old-line Socialists, vegetarians, atheists, a Fascist, musicians, an inventor, and a former army office. Only two had as much as a year of sobriety, but all had been in AA a few years. Plans for a new group burgeoned while they had responsive liturgy over coffee each night, taking the evenings meeting (and the Steps) apart and chorusing, “AA should be given back to the drunks.” One would say there was too much organizational nonsense, orthodoxy, politics, and steering committee bossiness in the group they had just attended, and they would all cry “Amen.” Their new group would eliminate all that, and be *pure* AA, they promised. Several of us showed up for their first meeting, but had a hard time finding it. No one had thought to mark the door with a sign. (Well, one fellow later said he had thought of it, but he was “against promotion.”) First, there was long jawing about the merits of various chair arrangements. While the debaters held forth, though, a few quiet souls arranged the chairs in a circle. Everybody finally sat down, tense and irritated. “Where’s the coffee?” Jim demanded

Next column↑

...continuedPERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

(He drank only tea, but it was the principle of the thing, he said.) There was neither coffee, a coffeepot, tea, sugar, milk, nor a spoon. However, one woman had decided paper cups could eliminate what she called the “caste system” created by dishwashing. So she had brought a large carton with several gross in it. (We drank tap water out of two or three, and she had to take the rest back home. No one had arranged storage space.) No slogans or AA literature were in sight, until a fairly new man showed up with 100 meeting lists our intergroup put out. He wanted to collect from the group what they had cost him, declaring, “It’s the single most important piece for the newcomers.” Many disagreed. Some fished out a grimy tract on agnosticism; someone else thought a circular advertising dietary supplements was more important. But both were ignored, because a verbal fight had broken out over who was to lead the first meeting. Almost by acclamation, Jim was elected, but one man objected. “It’s nothing personal,” he explained (in person, to a group of persons, about a person), “just the principle. How is the leader to be chosen in the future? Quickly all agreed, “By lot.” It took awhile to figure out how to make lots for drawing, but finally the magic number (zero, for some mystical reason) was drawn. There was a hush. The chosen leader whose palsied hands held the zero had just been brought to his first AA meeting. I spare you description of the ensuing hysteria, but you get the point: We have to have group officers or steering committees, subject to the group’s wishes, of course, if even the simplest AA chores are to get done. Nor can I figure out a better system than the local central offices to do twelfth-stepping and other collective jobs for a collection of groups. Nor do I see a better way for AA to run itself than by our General Service Conference system (which solves the literature, for one, by submitting new AA publications to the overall group conscience, expressed at the Conference meeting each year). If anyone came up with a softer, easier way, I’m sure we’d all go for it. Until then, I’m trying to improve my conscious contact with Tradition Nine, as I understand it.

B.L., Manhattan, N.Y.
Reprint Permission/ AA Grapevine/ March 1977

CENTRAL OFFICE...continued from page One

around here? We’ll see what we can do. Give me your number, and I’ll get back to you as soon as I can... (Time out for lunch, and we forgot to put calls on the answering service.) Hello, Alcoholics Anonymous. What do you mean, you didn’t think AA was open? Oh. You just called twice, and nobody answered. This is your third call in a half-hour. I’m sorry, but we were out to lunch. What can we do to help you? You want a meeting schedule mailed to you? Sure. What’s your address? Sorry about not being here. Nope, we’re not perfect, and thank God for that.

H.D., Buffalo, N.Y.
Reprint Permission/ AA Grapevine/ August 1977

NOTES FROM INSIDE THE CENTRAL OFFICE

February 9th, 2016 the Central Office Representatives met:
COUNCIL MEMBERS REPRESENTING GROUP

BOARD MEMBERS		REPRESENTING GROUP
BRETT B.	CHAIRPERSON	164 WESLEY CHAPEL GROUP
SAM F.	TREASURER	FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS GROUP
JIM W.	BOARD MEMBER	OLD SCHOOL GROUP
DIANE S.	BOARD MEMBER	FREEDOM IN SOBRIETY WOMEN'S
ROBERT L.	BOARD MEMBER	LATENIGHTERS GROUP
MINDY W.	BOARD MEMBER	STEP SISTERS IN SOBRIETY
PETER F.	BOARD MEMBER	MONDAY NIGHT MEN'S GROUP
AIDA S.	BOARD MEMBER	NEW WAY WOMENS GROUP
LARRY B.	BOARD MEMBER	AA 101 GROUP
Open Position	BOARD MEMBER	

BRIAN L.	BARRACKS BRIGADE GROUP
KATHIE N.	SOBRENITY GROUP
JEFF B.	KEEP IT SIMPLE PLANT CITY GROUP
JON S.	KEEP IT SIMPLE PLANT CITY GROUP
OLA M.	TGIS WOMENS GROUP
CINDI M.	PRIMARY PURPOSE GROUP
JOYCE D.	NIGHTLY NEWCOMERS GROUP
SHANE W.	AS BILL SEES IT GROUP
STEVE W.	AS BILL SEES IT GROUP
GUY S.	KEYSTONE GROUP
STEVE S.	EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH, & HOPE GROUP
KARA H.	SISTERS IN SOBRIETY GROUP
JOE M.	CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP
CATHY K.	HIDE-A-WAY GROUP
JEFF N.	5:45 NEW BEGINNINGS GROUP
SUE Z.	CLEAN AIR GROUP
BILL J.	EARLY RISERS GROUP
DAVID Y.	SOLUTIONS GROUP
VIVIAN J.	FREEDOM IN SOBRIETY WOMEN'S GROUP
FRED H.	OLD SCHOOL GROUP
JULIET S-B	SUNSHINE GROUP
THOMAS M.	KEEP IT SIMPLE MEN'S GROUP

Brett opened the meeting in the usual matter with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer and also asked everyone to turn down their cell phones and if everyone had signed in. Brett then apologized for not being at the previous meeting and thanked Bob for chairing last month's meeting. Larry from the AA101 Group and Ada from the New Way Women's Group were introduced as new Board members. **Secretary Report:** Jim read the January Minutes. There were no questions. A motion to accept was made and all were in favor. **Treasurer Report:** Sam presented the January Treasurer's report. We were \$95.69 in the red for the month. There were no other questions. A motion to accept was made and all were in favor. **Office Managers Report:** After presenting the report, Mindy had questions about the renewal of the lease. She felt that renewal of the lease should be brought before the Board and Council. Discussion followed. Tim explained that when the lease comes in, before anything else is done, he contacts the Chairperson, usually the Chairperson and Board will review it before anything is signed. More discussion followed. Mindy brought up a motion to put before the Council whether to renew the lease for one or three years and bring before the Council to see if there was something more viable. Some more discussion. Brett noted that what we are looking for is a motion to deal with the lease change. Peter made a motion to accept the current three year lease and prepare for the next lease to bring before the Board. This motion was seconded and approved. Brett noted that now we can prepare for the future. Central Office has been here for Thirty-One years. Office managers report was seconded and approved. **Old Business:** Old Business consisted of discussion concerning the results of Anniversary Dinner. In spite of some problems it seems everyone was pleased with the outcome. **New Business:** Election for a new Treasurer. Sam Fisher was rotating out and Ada Safic was voted in as the new Treasurer. A motion to accept was made and all approved. Brett went over some items that Board members do and don't do at the Council meeting. Mindy asked about the Inventory. Tim explained that it wasn't completed yet. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Brett opened the Council meeting in the usual matter with the Serenity Prayer followed by asking if everyone had signed in. Steve from the As Bill Sees It Group and Jeff from the 5:45 New Beginnings Group were introduced as new Council members. **Secretary Report:** Peter presented the January minutes. There were no questions. A motion to accept was made and all were in favor.

Treasurer Report: Sam presented the January Treasurer's report. We were \$95.69 in the red for the month. There were no questions. A motion to accept was made and all were in favor. **Old Business:** In Old Business Brett stated that for those who are new, right here in the Meeting Schedule it explains what Tri-County Central Office is and what the Central Office Representatives are. The reason we are here is because Central Office was created by the Groups for the Groups. You have an important role. We go to you. As an example, we had an issue about our lease. The Board voted to renew the lease for three years and also prior to one year before the next lease renewal, we will come to the Council to see what you think. This is checks and balances. Does anyone have a problem staying here? If something substantial comes up, Tim sees me first and then I see you. Tim presented the amounts from the Anniversary Dinner. \$1950.00 total ticket sales, \$93.00 7th Tradition Basket, \$329.00 from the 50/50 Raffle, and \$1099.00 from the Cakewalk Raffle. Dinner expenses were \$1010.04. Lots of people commented on the fun they had. **New Business:** New Business started with announcement to start getting ready for the Founders Day Event in June. Brett went over some of the things we do for the Founders Day Event. Looking for some members with Thirty-Five plus years of Sobriety to participate in the Ask it Basket. Brian asked that since we did so well at the Anniversary Dinner, will some of that money go to the Prudent Reserve?

go to page Five

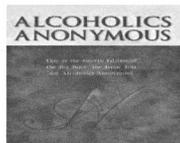
ANNIVERSARY TIME

It Works-It Really Does Ask them how they did it!!!

GROUP	Honors To	Date	Years
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMENS	RHONDA C.	03/29/09	7 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMENS	SUE T.	03/19/90	26 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMENS	JOANIE	03/12/84	32 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	RAY D.	03/29/15	1 YR
KEYSTONE GROUP	CHRIS L.	03/13/15	1 YR
KEYSTONE GROUP	PATTY E.	03/24/13	3 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	BOB W.	03/28/92	24 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	JOHN W.	03/15/77	39 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	MARY L.	03/09/73	43 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	JOSE G.	03/16/10	6 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	BOB S.	03/28/95	21 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	GREG O.	03/21/93	23 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	JIM G.	03/18/86	30 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	DAWN F.	03/24/14	2 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	EDDIE M.	03/08/14	2 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	PHILLIP S.	03/18/12	4 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	LINDA H.	03/31/10	6 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	JOE McS	03/01/71	45 YRS
RIVERSIDE GROUP	MELISSA W.	03/27/15	1 YR
RIVERSIDE GROUP	BILL	03/14/13	3 YRS
RIVERSIDE GROUP	JOE D.	03/03/09	7 YRS
JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP	TRICIA S.	03/18/08	8 YRS
JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP	MELINDA R.	03/03/05	11 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY GROUP	PHIL C.	03/10/01	15 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY GROUP	MARY S.	03/12/87	29 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY GROUP	SHARON A.	03/24/77	39 YRS

Clair-Mel Positive Thinkers
 Group

Big Book Study



Starting Thursday March 3rd at 7:00

East Tampa Christian Church
 7824 24th Ave S. Tampa, FL, 335619

This meeting has been going on since 1988. If we do not get support soon, the meeting will be closing.

SELF-SUPPORT-February, 2016

© Today in February of 2016 we have 218 Groups with 576 meetings a week. Contributions in February totaled \$9,754.35. That accounts for what 47 Groups out of 218 Groups in our area have contributed in February. This also takes into account the \$66.00 from the 2 members who contributed to the Birthday Club and the \$1950.00 collected from Ticket Sales for our Anniversary Dinner along with \$93.00 from the 7th Tradition Basket, \$329.00 from the 50/50 Raffle and \$1,099.00 from the Cakewalk raffle. We also received \$569.00 from the 164 Group's Soberilla event. Our total income for February was \$15,073.32. Our Cost of Goods Sold was \$3,981.323. Subtracting the Cost of Goods Sold from our February income left us with a Gross Profit of \$11,092.23. Our Total Expenses for February were \$8,559.57. Subtracting our Expenses from our Gross Profit gave us a Net Income of plus+\$2532.66 for the month of February. 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. Thank you for all of your support !!!

Council Meeting report...continued from page Four:

Jon from Plant City stated that talking about contributions, he didn't know how to do the Pie Chart, who does outreach to the groups who don't contribute? Some groups don't contribute because they don't know what to do with the money, someone should inform them. Lots of things we can do. Brett noted that he can do for his group what he can do. Kathy mentioned District 2 DCM's. Julie explained how their group distributes their money. Larry noted that sometimes there is confusion, groups don't have a GSR or COR and the other factor—the rumor each one needs money. Kathy explained the Prudent Reserve. An idea to put something in the Newsletter came up. Maybe a story on Self-Support. It was noted that all of that is in the Meeting Schedules if anyone bothers to look. We keep talking about the problem not the solution, we have to make an effort. Brett—all I can say is about Tri-County Central Office, we are not the District, we are not New York. Out of 233 groups in our area, this is who are representing the groups tonight. Several announcements were made. New Board members Larry and Ada were introduced to the Council. 20% Discount was mentioned. Sue announced Valentine's Day Dinner at 310 House this weekend. Tim announced that if you are not getting your emails or don't have email, I have a sign up sheet here to mail them to go. Ada announced about a retreat in Leesburg on the 11th Step. Nightly Newcomers are having an Eating Meeting last Friday of month. Martin mentioned signing up on the 12 Step Sheet, one of our greatest struggles is to get names and keeping them updated, also if you would like to do Phone service contact me.

From the Central Office SERVICE DESK

A total of 231 phone calls were made to the Central Office in February: 221 for info on AA, 2 for info on Al-Anon, 4 messages for other inquiries, 4 requesting a Twelfth Step call, There were 179 walk-ins visits as well. A total of 132 phone calls were made to the After Hours Hotline in February 87 for info on AA, 8 for info on Al-Anon, 14 messages for other inquiries, 23 requesting a Twelfth Step call,

MORE NEWS AROUND THE TOWN & THE AREA

MARCH

**Nightly Newcomers Group
 Birthday/Anniversary Celebration**
 3333 W. Columbus Drive, Tampa
Food - Fun - Fellowship - 50/50 Raffle
Great Time to Bring A Newcomer
 March 25th @ 7:00 P/M Eating Meeting
 @ 8:15 Pm Medallion & Candle Light Meeting
 @ 9:15 Pm Karaoke Till Midnight
Please Bring Some Food To Share if You Can
 Contact Joyce D. @ 813-485-8047 To See what Is needed.



*The Keystone Discussion Group will
 Hold its 5th Annual
ALL GROUPS MEETING
 Tuesday, March 29, 2016*

All Proceeds go to Benefit Central Office

Guest Speaker: Karen R.
(from the 10th & 11th Step Meeting Group, South Tampa)
Speaker Meeting Begins at 7:30 p.m.
Doors Open at 6:45 p.m.

****Desserts & Beverages Provided****

SSSSSS
50/50 Raffle **Baked Goods Raffle**



Location: *Keystone Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
 16301 Race Track Rd.
 Odessa, FL*

**Sobersticks Spring in 8
 April 8,9,10th**

Fun and fellowship all weekend with camping,
 canoeing, campfires, morning meditation
 meetings and 8 pm campfire meetings.

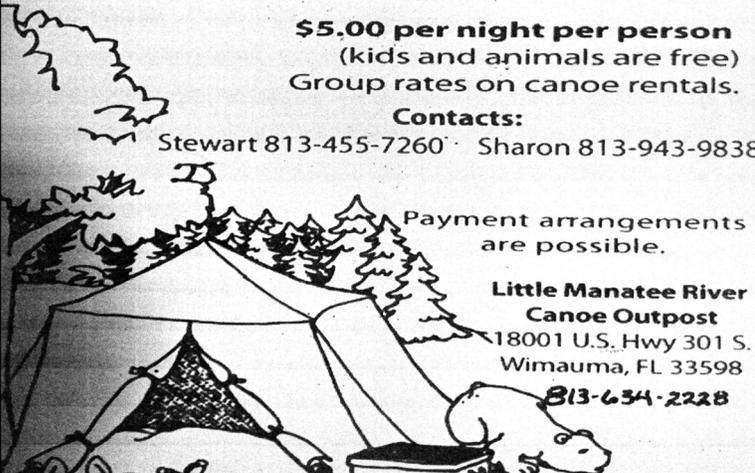
\$5.00 per night per person
 (kids and animals are free)
 Group rates on canoe rentals.

Contacts:

Stewart 813-455-7260 · Sharon 813-943-9838

Payment arrangements
 are possible.

**Little Manatee River
 Canoe Outpost**
 18001 U.S. Hwy 301 S.
 Wimauma, FL 33598
 813-634-2228



**Only One Place
 Akron, Ohio
 Only One Weekend
 June 10-12, 2016**

DICK D MEMORIAL- KEEP IT SIMPLE
**COED SOFTBALL
 TOURNAMENT
 SATURDAY MAY 7 2016**

Gasden Park
 6901 South MacDill Avenue,
 Tampa, Fl, 33611
From 8:30 AM TILL WE ARE DONE
 Food and drinks provided
 50/50 Raffle
 Donations Welcome
COST \$100.00 per Team

For a team of 12 players that's only \$8.33 per player!
 Contact Susan 813-325-6538, Buddy H. 813-871-2514
 or Tim @ Central Office 813-933-9123

Deadline to Register is May 2nd 2016

This tournament is a fundraising event for the Tampa Bay Area Institutional Committee (TBAIC) which carries the message into jails, prisons, detox centers and hospitals. ALL money raised is spent to buy pocket sized Big Books, 12 x 12s and AA literature to take into these facilities. Come on out, support your team and enjoy a day of fun and fellowship while supporting our 5th Tradition!

