



Tri-County Central Office News

A
Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-County Central Office, Inc.
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December, 2020

Bill W's CHRISTMAS PRESENT	HOW MUCH DO WE WANT FROM AA?
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On a bleak November day of 1934, Bill W. was in the process of receiving—albeit unknowingly—a Christmas present beyond his belief. A visit from an old schoolmate, Ebby T. explained how he had found sobriety via religious ideas of the Oxford Group. Bill was amazed, yet unimpressed. He thought: “My gin will outlast his preaching.” (p. 9) But it did not! Bill’s curiosity of his friend’s success eventually led Bill to the doors of the alcoholic ward of Towns Hospital a few weeks later. He was released with a full week of sobriety on December 18, just one week before Christmas. He never drank again! But that was only a beginning! While in the Hospital he had a personality change that altered his modus operandi! He previously had never wanted anything more than to be a rich member of the Wall street crowd, as he was before drinking ruined that high point of his life. However, before leaving the hospital the thought came to him: “There were thousands of hopeless alcoholics who might be glad to have what had been so freely given to me. Perhaps I could help some of them. They in turn might work with others.” (P. 14) Bill’s real Christmas present was a complete personality change as described by Dr. Carl Jung: “Old ideas, emotions and attitudes are suddenly cast aside and replaced by a new set of conceptions and motives.” (p. 27) Well, did Bill go back to Wall street? No, he did not! He went down to Calvary mission and brought home a disheveled, perhaps not so well smelling, wino to his fancy Brooklyn Hts. home and fed him and prayed with him. But the drunk got drunk. So, he went back and the same happened. Did he give up and go back to Wall Street? No, he did not! He went back to that mission again and again through January, February and March of 1935 and guess what? They all got drunk! What a personality change! What a wonderful Christmas present! Not just getting sober, but a strong desire to help others. We call this Step Twelve today, but this personality change was not only Bill’s exciting Christmas Present—it was certainly ours, as well! Bob S.

Just sobriety—just enough to get by with. That is all I wanted for my first five months in AA, and that is just exactly all that I received—because that is all I was looking for. And I got drunk—good and drunk. But I came back, and now, after approximately four years of sobriety (not all of it necessarily happy) the picture is beginning to change; the best things come to those who are willing to wait. I came back with an honest desire to seek this new way of life, and the happiness beyond my fondest dreams that the Big Book told me I would receive. I came seeking and I am beginning to receive. You out there: do you too just want sobriety; or do you want peace of mind and happiness? Its all here for the asking, and the very fellow perhaps you think that has it in for you will be only too happy to give you the helping hand, and show you the way. How much of AA do you *honesty* want? Do you want to hold on to those resentments against your fellow man that are tearing the very heart from your body? Do you want to keep playing around with little petty things that are much better placed aside? Or do you want to accept this new way of life on a twenty-four hour basis? You cannot be perfect and things will go wrong, but ask for help from the Higher Power and also from the fellow who understands your problem. Do you want to criticize that fellow or gal for the way he works the program? Or give him a pat on the back and tell him what a good job he is doing? After all, this is an individual program. Just how much of AA do you truly want? Are you just looking for a way out—out from family strife, financial woes, “belly-sickness,” “jail-sickness,” — or are you looking for the happiness beyond your wildest dreams? There are ways of achieving this happiness. I’ll list just a few. Here are six: (1) Become enthusiastic about AA and it’s activities. Enthusiasm is one of the magic words. Action is another. (2) Make an honest effort to help someone less fortunate than yourself, in or out of AA. Try it. To hurt someone is one of the greatest sins, but to help someone is one of the guaranteed ways of achieving real happiness. (3) Come early to the meetings and mix with the boys and girls. They all have their problems. Allow them the courtesy to share them with you. Remember when you thought you were the only one with heartaches and a multitude of troubles. Don’t leave too soon after the meeting is over—stay for the fellowship. It will make you sleep better, keep you cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. (4) Be nice to that fellow you meet in everyday life—even though at the time you may consider him a stinker. Maybe all he needs is a lift.....just a word of encouragement. (5) Ask and you shall receive—provided you have an open mind when the time comes for you to receive. (6) You may stay sober but not very happy unless you are willing to accept the spiritual way of life. Anything good in the sight of God is spiritual. How much AA do you want? Do you just want your physical sobriety or do you also want the happiness we are all looking for; the things that bring true happiness do not cost anything in money. You too can have sobriety and also happiness. I know because for the first five months I just had sobriety, and now after approximately four years I’m finding that happiness beyond my fondest dreams that I was promised.

Central Office will be closed:
December 24th, 2020 Christmas Eve
December 25th, 2020 Christmas Day
December 31st, 2020 New Year Eve
January 1st, 2021 New Year Day



“How can the Grapevine keep in touch with your group if you don’t have a GvR?”*

***Grapevine Representative**

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

CONTACT---(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.) Please use the sign-out sheet when obtaining materials.

Allan D. opened the November 15, 2020, TBAIC hybrid meeting with the Serenity Prayer. Attendees: Allan D., Scott S., Larry B., Tom F., Judi R., Tim B., Susan O., Tract B., Vicki R., Angie E., Mike B., Kat M., Kevin K., Jeremy G., John T., Hezekiah D., and Sara R. **Allan** gave his chair report, he is conducting Zoom meetings twice daily at ACTS Drew Park Amethyst at 1 PM and & 7 PM. Allan has tried to contact the women's DACCO facility to see who is conducting Zoom meetings there. **Scott S.** presented the Treasurer's report. The Treasurer's report was approved. **Larry B.** read the minutes from the October 2020 meeting. The minutes were approved. **Tom F.** is continuing Zoom meetings at the ACTS Henry Street location. The Henry Street location may allow in-person meetings starting sometime in November. There have been young people volunteers participating in the Zoom meetings. The Broken Bottle Group at the Zephyrhills C.I. has resumed meetings with limited attendance due to the meeting space available. A larger room may be available on a different day, no decision has been made. There was one Man on the Bed call, a female who was contacted but no longer had an interest. **All Hillsborough** County jails remain closed to all outside volunteers due to COVID-19. **East Pasco** Women's facility is still closed to volunteers due to COVID-19. **Hezekiah D.** is completing the background check process so he can start taking meetings into the juvenile detention center at W. T. Edwards. New business: **TBAIC** will open two new Zoom accounts. The current Zoom meetings are using an individual's Zoom account. **Sara R.** asked about the purchase of soft-covered standard Big Books (with stories). Instead, it was decided to purchase back issues of the Grapevine and keep in the literature cabinet and taken as needed by volunteers. **Tracy B.** requested sponsorship brochures and they will be ordered.

Elections were held and the new chairperson is Mike B. and the new secretary is John T. The location and format are to be determined.

Meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Statement and the Lord's Prayer.

YTD Contributions to TBAIC	\$ 12,484.86
Pink Can Balance 12/14/19	\$ 9,391.54
YTD Money Spent on Literature	\$ 10,656.13
YTD Expenses	\$3,651.33
Pink Can Balance 08/08/2020	\$7.568.94

Our Next Committee Meeting
 (Format/location to be determined)
December 12th, 2020 9:30 AM on 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:

TBAIC Contributions (October 11th - November 14th): As Bill Sees It, Monday Mens Group (Odessa) - \$48.00, Cardinal Group - \$90.00, Meeting Place (Land O Lakes) - \$375.56, Odessa Group - \$43.88, On The Way Home Group - \$58.00.

TBAIC 2019-2020 Committee Members
 Contact: (877) AATAMPA or (877) 228-2672
www.tbaic.org

Position	Name
Chair	Mike B.
Chair (Alt.)	Ruth N.
Treasurer	Scott S.
Treasurer (Alt.)	OPEN
Secretary	John T.
Secretary (Alt.)	Nancy B.
Hills Jails	OPEN
Hillsborough County Jail	Buddy H.
Hills Women's Jails	OPEN
Detox & Treatment	Ed D.
E. Pasco Jail-Women's	Ruth N.
E. Pasco Prison	Chris D.
Women's Bridge the Gap	Amanda L.
Men's Bridge the Gap	Tom F.
Pre-release	OPEN
Juvenile	OPEN

STEP 12

Step 12 gives us a guarantee—a promise that if we take the first eleven Steps, we will have a spiritual awakening. The result of working these Steps is just that: a spiritual awakening. We have tapped the *“unsuspected inner resource”* of strength by working these Steps, and our spirit is awakened. (Big Book, pp. 569-570 3rd Ed.) Now we carry this message to others: “I have tapped an inner resource with the first eleven Steps, and if you have a problem in your life and you would like to tap your inner resource, this is the way you can do it. It has worked for me.” This is all the message is. It is very simple: *here is a program that works.* Throughout the Big Book, Bill talks about a *“sudden spiritual experience”* which effected his recovery and influenced his writing and the focus of the book. Later on, when they were putting out the second edition, a lot of people asked him not to emphasize his sudden spiritual experience because they thought many people might feel they would have to have the same type of spiritual experience in order to recover. So he changed the term to *“spiritual awakening.”* The distinction is that a “spiritual experience” happens suddenly, and a “spiritual awakening” happens more gradually. It doesn’t matter which we have (far more people have the gradual kind of spiritual awakening), but we are promised that if we work these Steps, we will become spiritually awakened. I believe there are as many different experiences of spiritual awakening as there are people. It is a very personal thing. God knows that no two people are alike. Each person is going to have a unique spiritual experience or a unique spiritual awakening that will fit his or her particular life. Each one will be like no other, but they all will have something in common: *we will be able to think, believe, and feel things that we couldn’t before.* We will be able to do things we couldn’t do on our own strength. We can receive God’s directions in our lives; we have had a spiritual awakening. This is what we carry to other people. Remember that we said if we can believe in Step 2, and decide in Step 3 and act in Steps 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, we will get the Promises in Step 9 and results in Step 10, and the results of prayer and meditation in Step 11. Now we *know.* We are people who have faith. We have seen the program work for us, and those of us who know from our own experience that it works can go to the new person and help him or her come to believe.

Joe McQ (of the Big Book Study Tapes)



Don't worry about it...
A lot of people don't like kids.

I Think Santa is a Women

I hate to be the one to defy sacred myth, but I believe he's a she. Think about it. Christmas is a big, organized, warm, fuzzy, nurturing social deal, and I have a tough time believing a guy could possibly pull it all off! For starters, the vast majority of men don't even think about selecting gifts until Christmas Eve. It's as if they are all frozen in some kind of Ebenezerian Time Warp until 3 p.m. on Dec. 24th, when they - with amazing calm - call other errant men and plan for a last-minute shopping spree. Once at the mall, they always seem surprised to find only Ronco products, socket wrench sets and mood rings left on the shelves. (You might think this would send them into a fit of panic and guilt, but my husband tells me it's an enormous relief because it lessens the 11th-hour decision-making burden.) On this count alone, I'm convinced Santa is a woman. Surely, if he were a man, everyone in the universe would wake up Christmas morning to find a rotating musical Chia Pet under the tree, still in the bag. Another problem for a he-Santa would be getting there. First of all, there would be no reindeer because they would all be dead, gutted, and strapped on to the rear bumper of the sleigh, amid wide-eyed, desperate claims that buck season had been extended. Blitzen's rack would already be on the way to the taxidermist. Even if the male Santa did have reindeer, he'd still have transportation problems because he would inevitably get lost in the snow and clouds, and then refuse to stop and ask for directions. Add to this the fact that there would be unavoidable delays in the chimney, where the Bob Vila-like Santa would stop to inspect and repoint bricks in the flue. He would also need to check for carbon monoxide fumes in every gas fireplace, and get under every Christmas tree that is crooked to straighten it to a perfectly upright 90-degree angle. Other reasons why Santa can't possibly be a man:- Men can't pack a bag.- Men would rather be dead than caught wearing red velvet.- Men would feel their masculinity is threatened, having to be seen with all those elves.- Men don't answer their mail.- Men would refuse to allow their physique to be described, even in jest, as anything remotely resembling a "bowlful of jelly."- Finally, being responsible for Christmas would require a commitment. I can buy the fact that other mythical holiday characters are men. Father Time shows up once a year unshaven and looking ominous. Definite guy. Cupid flies around carrying weapons. Uncle Sam is a politician who likes to point fingers. Any one of these individuals could pass the testosterone screening test. But not St. Nick. Not a chance.

Unknown source.....

CHECK our Events Calendar to see whatever **ZOOM** and online meetings we have posted. **Do you have a ZOOM meeting that is not listed on our web site? Email us the info so we can list you on our site. Please let us know from which group you are from. If you send us too little information, we will not post your ZOOM meeting. This is to make sure we are posting Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and not just someone who wants to post a non-Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. Happy Holidays. Stay Safe. Stay Sober.**

NOTES FROM INSIDE THE CENTRAL OFFICE

November 10th, 2020 the Board of Directors for Central Office		REPRESENTING GROUP
BOARD MEMBERS		
ROD Q.	CHAIRPERSON	SOBER ON SATURDAY GROUP
JOHN T.	TREASURER	LIVINGSOBER/PASS IT ON GROUP
MICHELE S.	BOARD MEMBER	SAFE,SANE & SOBER GROUP
RITA Y.	BOARD MEMBER	OLD SCHOOL GROUP
OPEN	BOARD MEMBER	
OPEN	BOARD MEMBER	
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OPEN	BOARD MEMBER	

Rod Q. opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. (Because of time restraints the Board & Council meeting has been combined.) Board Members present: Rob Q. Chairperson, John T Treasurer, Michele S., Rita Y. Secretary Report: Tim read the October Minutes and then gave a brief synopsis of where we are currently standing here at the Central Office in November.. Treasurers Report: Tim presented the October Treasurer's Report noting that we were \$ 3,855.40 in the red for the month (NOTE: The \$2,8866.85 in the September report was a senior moment misprint) of October and \$ 10,510.69 in the red for the year. Tim went on to explain that although this looks bad on paper, to remember that our budget was based off last year's budget and that the budget is like a goal that we hope to achieve. We still have enough cash to pay our expenses and purchase our literature. Unfortunately the COVID virus has hurt us through contributions and mainly literature sells. Rod asked if our link between PayPal and our bank had been corrected. Tim gave an affirmative. Old Business: Rod asked if any groups had updates to their live or ZOOM meetings. Several people gave updates. New Business: Rod asked everyone's opinion on getting back to live meetings at the Central Office. Al wanted to wait and see how the COVID situation was in January. Maybe just how a Board meeting. There was no further discussion. Announcements: Make sure to leave your name and group in the chat for roll call. Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer. The next Board & Council Meeting will be December 8th, 2020 at 7:00 pm on ZOOM I.D. & Password were send in the Board & Council minutes.

November 10th, 2020 the Central Office Representatives met:	
COUNCIL MEMBERS	REPRESENTING GROUP
CARY B.	SOBRENITY GROUP
ARIEL M.	STEP SISTERS IN SOBRIETY
BRAD W.	TAMPA NIGHTLY NEWCOMERS
RYAN C.	NEW TAMPA MONDAY MEN'S
KARA H.	WEDNESDAY NIGHT INCARNATION
CRAIG O.	THE PROMISES MEETING
JEFF H.	IT'S IN THE BOOK GROUP
CATHY C.	SIMPLY SOBRIETY GROUP
MARGARET S.	CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP
DEBBIE S.	TO IMPROVE OUR CONSCIENCE CONTACT
AL B.	THURSDAY NIGHT BIG BOOK

Sobrenity Group Presents:
10 Days of Midnight Meetings
Dec. 24th 2020 to Jan. 2nd 2021
With Special Guest Chair People
Room opens 11:30pm till 1:30am
Masks are required to attend.

Why collect 7th Tradition for an online meeting?
Our regular meeting locations still have operating expenses...
Central Office and the General Service Office still have operating expenses such as... Websites – which we may now rely on more than ever! Phone lines, rent and insurance on office space, Utility, and other ongoing expenses, Paid Special Workers who deserve our continued support. Their compensation is crucial to their ability to serve us. We realize that even though the immediate need for virtual connections is relatively inexpensive, the real expenses of our fellowship continues. aasfmarin.org

We now have a Contribution button on our web site
www.aatampa-area.org

ANNIVERSARY TIME

It Work-It Really Does—Ask them how they did it!!!

GROUP	Honors To	Date	Years
HIGH-NOONER'S PLANT CITY	TOM C.	12/15/12	8 YRS
HIGH-NOONER'S PLANT CITY	KURT R.	12/28/68	52 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	TOMMY P.	12/27/19	1 YR
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	MIKE H.	12/18/19	1 YR
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	MICHAEL P.	12/26/09	11 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	JANET S.	12/01/09	11 YRS
LIVING SOBER/AS BILL SEES IT	DIANE S.	12/28/18	2 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY	PAUL H.	12/07/10	10 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY	MARK L.	12/17/00	20 YRS
NEW WAY WOMEN'S	ANN K.	12/12/05	15 YRS
NEW WAY WOMEN'S	ELLIE C.	12/14/86	34 YRS
STEP BY STEP GROUP	KAY M.	12/08/01	19 YRS
ON THE WAY HOME	MARISA	12/30/17	3 YRS
ON THE WAY HOME	SILVANA	2/02/07	13 YRS
ON THE WAY HOME	JENN N.	12/05/05	15 YRS
ON THE WAY HOME	NEVA S.	12/31/99	21 YRS
ON THE WAY HOME	DON B.	12/12/89	31 YRS
MUSTARD SEED GROUP	RUSS K.	12/09/07	13 YRS
MUSTARD SEED GROUP	ANITA F.	12/06/07	13 YRS
RIVERSIDE GROUP	NICK C.	12/12/11	9 YRS
RIVERSIDE GROUP	ROB S.	12/26/07	13 YRS
RIVERSIDE GROUP	BOB C.	12/28/90	30 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	BRET W.	12/01/14	6 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	BART S.	12/31/12	8 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	DONNIE L.	12/01/11	9 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	BESTY B.	12/18/02	18 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	AL G.	12/02/86	34 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	BOBBY B.	12/31/07	13 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	BRIAN A.	12/02/94	26 YRS
JUST WHAT I WANTED	LAURA M.	12/24/08	12 YRS
JUST WHAT I WANTED	BARBIE A.	12/31/03	17 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP	DEBBIE S.	12/12/11	9 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP	TERRIE P.	12/23/09	11 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP	BETH P.	12/09/09	11 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP	GABRIELLE S.	12/26/08	12 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP	NEVA S.	12/31/99	21 YRS

SELF-SUPPORT-November, 2020

© Today in November of 2020 we have 223 Groups with 536 meetings a week. Contributions in November totaled \$ 3,011.77. This accounts for what 34 Groups or individuals in our area have contributed in November. Included we also received \$ 160.00 from 5 members for the Birthday Club. Our total income for November was \$ 7,250.81. Our Total Cost of Goods Sold was \$ 3,013.07. Subtracting the Total Cost of Goods Sold from our November income left us with a Gross Profit of \$ 4,237.74. Our Total Expenses for November were \$ 5,092.03. Subtracting our Expenses from our Gross Profit gave us a Net Income of minus-\$ 5,092.03 for the month of November. In spite of the COVID-19 virus, many groups are still continuing to support us however they can. Many meetings are still live, but many have gone to ZOOM for the time being due to the requirements of the facility that they meet in. We thank you for your continuing support. As they say in the rooms of AA "this too shall past." And this virus will. No matter *how good or bad* it may appear that we are doing from one month to another, it takes your consistent contributions and support to keep us operating on a steady level. 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 continue 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 !!!

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

Home Group	Honors To	Date	Years
	CARMEN L.	10/22/70	50 YRS
11th STEP GROUP	JANICE P.	11/17/90	30 YRS
11th STEP MEDITATION	MARIE K.	11/17/84	36 YRS
STEPPING STONES	KAREN S.	12/1989	31 YRS

**That's 617 Years of Sobriety!
Congratulations for your Sobriety
One Day at a Time!
Somebody is doing something Right!!!!!! ☺❤👏**

The Birthday Club: Contributions to the Central Office help support the local services to members and groups throughout Hillsborough and East Pasco Counties and help ensure that the A.A. message is carried around our area. Members customarily contribute \$1, \$2 or even \$5 a year for each year of sobriety—others may give a penny or a nickel a day for each day of their sobriety. Ask your Treasurer if they have any Birthday envelopes available. We usually send one out when a group sends in their contribution to Central Office or call or email your Central Office. **933-9123 or aainfo@aatampa-area.org**

WE CONTINUE TO NEED 12 STEPPERS!!!

TRADITION TWELVE

A glance at the Twelve Traditions will instantly assure anyone that “*giving up*” is the essential idea of them all. In each Tradition, the individual or the group is asked to give up something for our general welfare. Tradition One asks us to place the common good ahead of personal desire. Tradition Two asks us to listen to God as he may speak in the group conscience. Tradition Three requires that we exclude *no* alcoholic from AA membership. Tradition Four implies that we abandon all idea of centralized human authority or government. But each group is enjoined to consult widely in matters affecting us all. Tradition Five restricts the AA group to a single purpose, carrying our message to other alcoholics. Tradition Six points at the corroding influence of money, property, and personal authority; it begs that we keep these influences at a minimum by separate incorporation and management of our special services. It also warns against the natural temptation to make alliances or give endorsements. Tradition Seven states that we had best pay our own bills; that large contributions or those carrying obligations ought not be received; that public solicitation using the name Alcoholics Anonymous is positively dangerous. Tradition Eight forswears professionalizing our Twelfth Step work but it does not guarantee our few paid service workers an unquestioned amateur status. Tradition Nine asks that we give up all idea of expensive organizations; enough is needed to permit effective work by our special services—and no more. This Tradition breathes democracy; our leadership is one of service and it is rotating; our few titles never clothe their holders with arbitrary personal authority; they hold authorizations *to serve, never to govern*. Tradition Ten is an emphatic restraint of serious controversy; it implores each of us to take care against committing AA to the fires of reform, political or religious dissension. Tradition Eleven asks, in our public relations, that we be alert against sensationalism and it declares there is never need to praise ourselves. Personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and film is urgently required, thus avoiding the pitfall of vanity, and the temptation through broken anonymity to link AA to other causes. Tradition Twelve, in it’s mood of humble anonymity, plainly enough comprehends the preceding eleven. The Twelve Points of Tradition are little else than a specific application of the spirit of the Twelve Steps of recovery to our group life and to our relations with society in general. The recovery steps would make each individual AA whole and one with God; the Twelve Points of Tradition would make us one with each other and whole with the world about us. Unity is our aim.

Reprint Permission/ Language of the Heart

CORN DIET

Let’s be realistic and down-to-earth. What are the three corniest words in the English language? Millions of people have said them down through the ages. Millions more will continue to do so. The three words are: “I Love You.” A fellow says them to a girl, she replies in kind, and they get married. What happens? A new life is started, another home established, children frequently bless the marriage, and there is a new kind of happiness and understanding. All from the three corniest words in the English language. Let’s bring it down to AA. Over and over again, new members (and some older ones) shrink from the three remarkably simple and miraculously curative AA slogans—First Things First, Easy Does It, Live and Let Live. “Corny!” is the label scathingly applied to them. Now what have these slogans done for me? At the top of my AA “corn diet,” I place Easy Does It. It’s practice, after repeated failures, eventually placed a check-rein on my quick temper, curbed my impulsive emotions, softened the rough side of my sarcastic tongue, gave me clarity of mind and physical relaxation. Nothing else in the program could have accomplished so much, at the beginning, for a bewildered and harassed man like me. How childish and immature First Things First sounded! I resented such a kindergarten admonition and scorned the members who suggested it to me. Then desperation forced me to try it. It didn’t work, of course, until I had lots of practice in its personal application. Thanks be for the pure, unadulterated “corn” in First Things First. It brought orderliness and proper sequence into my sober life, replacing alcoholic dilly-dallying and confusion. I had to do one thing at a time—the most important to me as of that moment—and I did it in each instance to the best of my ability. And bless the person who thought of Live and Let Live. Like many others, my home was the last place to feel the benefits of my sobriety. Until the day my wife said to me, “How about a little of the Live and Let Live with me and your sons? You’re considered so charming in your group and you’re such a devil at home!” Like the couples who get married because of the three corniest words in the English language we, too, can establish a new way of life and develop happiness and a better knowledge of ourselves and others with these wonderfully simple and productive slogans. Let’s not underrate their value to us. Let’s not pass them by because they seem so ordinary and elementary and beneath our “superior intelligence.” If your existence is confused and complex (as mine was) though you’re sober now, start today or tonight to simplify it by planting a few kernels of “corn” (slogans) in your mind and your heart. And then watch yourself grow in serenity, courage and wisdom.

J.F., Elmhurst, Long Island Group Reprint Permission/ AA Grapevine December 1954

The Central Office continues to remain open for business and answering the phones and we try to update our website as often as possible as new updates come in. We would ask, if you know what you already need to pick up, call or email us ahead of time and we can have your literature order ready to go when you get here. Many AA members have asked us about contributions...*how can we help when our meeting is not meeting and there is no 7th Tradition Basket to pass around?* Simple, if you want, just make out a check or money to the Central Office and send it in. If you want us to credit the contribution to your Home Group, let us know or you can make it as Anonymous. We also now have a Contribution button on our web site if you would like to take advantage of that. Whatever you decide.

Group	NOV	Y T D	Group	NOV	Y T D	Group	NOV	Y T D
11th Step Group- Christ King		581.85	Live and Let Live Group		80.00	Sober @ 7 Group	191.02	1,145.12
11th Step Meditation		32.00	Living in the Solution		493.00	Sober on Saturday Group	100.00	500.00
AA 101 Group		698.80	LivingSober/As Bill Sees It		511.50	SoberSticks Event		200.00
Alpha Group		270.00	Lunch Bunch Group	400.00	400.00	Sobriety at Sunrise Group		277.00
Anniversary Dinner 2020		7,007.81	Lutz @ Noon		36.00	Sobriety at Sunset Group		130.20
Anonymous Donations	446.53	5446.34	Mid Day Matinee Group		1,200.00	Solutions Group	65.00	715.00
As Bill Sees It--Riverview		124.80	Morning Express Group		237.01	Southshore Men's Group		355.50
As Bill Sees It Mens Odessa		390.00	My Turn Group		300.00	Southside Men's Group # 1		2,123.00
Attitude of Gratitude Group	100.00	250.00	Never Too Early Group		160.00	Southside Men's Group # 2		197.90
Back to Basics Group		31.00	New Beginnings-(5:45)Joe's	56.87	305.87	Southside Men's Group #3		500.00
Barracks Brigade Group	20.00	100.00	New Beginnings Brandon		41.00	Southside Men's Group #4		300.00
Bill D's Group		150.00	New Beginnings-(Our Club)		623.87	Spiritual Development		76.00
BIRTHDAY CLUB	160.00	1,977.78	New Hope Big Book		390.00	Spiritual Growth Group		300.00
Brandon Free Thinkers		39.00	New Way Women's Group		174.00	Step Sisters in Sobriety		750.00
BrandonSaturday Night		143.03	Nooners Group--Riverview	73.65	657.69	Stepping Stones Group (w)	31.00	304.14
By the Book Men's Group		105.00	Nooners Group--Tampa		342.79	Sun City Center Group		107.20
BYO 12 & 12 Group		169.38	Noontime Celebration Gp.		650.00	Sunday Afternoon Step Mtg		175.50
Came To Believe Group	10.00	530.00	Northdale Group		115.00	Sunday Speakers - 3333		225.00
Cardinal Group - Odessa		5,757.06	Old School Group		3,925.18	Sunshine Group		910.00
Clean Air Group	25.00	70.51	On the Way Home Tpa 5:30		238.55	Sweet Surrender Group		114.00
Close to Home Group		150.00	One Day at a Time Group		202.15	Tampa Bay Institutions	50.00	500.00
District Two General Service		313.51	Palma Ceia Group		0.36	Tampa Bay Speakers Gp.		30.00
Dover Group		86.71	Palma Ceia Big Book Group		200.00	Tampa Group		150.00
Druid Hills Big Book Group		219.05	Pilgrim Group -St Leo's		208.98	Tampa Nightly Newcomers-ZOOM	201.63	725.78
Early Risers Group - Joe's		81.63	Plank Owners Group		330.00	Tampa Palms Big Book		240.00
Expect a Miracle Group		337.00	Primary Purpose Group		11.08	Tampa Palms Monday Men's		481.54
Experience, Strength & Hope	25.00	220.00	Promises Meeting Group	188.00	782.86	Tampa Sat Night Speakers		0.11
Fireside Group		222.74	Reflections Group-Lake Mag		100.00	TGIS Group		142.58
Freedom in Sobriety Group		195.69	Riverside Group		111.10	Thank God it's Friday Group		190.81
Fresh Start Group		100.00	Rule 62/Keep it Simple		138.00	The 164 Group		582.00
Friday Night Lights Group		171.85	Rush Hour Serenity Group		305.42	The 164 Group Wesley Chapel		293.00
Friday Night Big book		200.00	Ruskin Fellowship Group		300.00	The Meeting Place Group		975.00
Friday Women's Friendship		573.27	Ruskin 11th Step Meditation		93.00	Town & Country Wed. Group		300.00
Grapevine Gals Group		318.03	Safe Haven Group		50.00	Turning Point Group -Z-H.		540.00
Hard Knox Group		66.30	Safe, Sane & Sober Group		513.85	Valrico/Brandon Wed Night		220.25
Helping Hands Gp.-P.C.		250.00	Saturday Night Fever Gp.		384.00	UT 717 Group		50.00
Hide-A-Way Group		1092.06	Saturday Serenity Group		150.00	Wed Night Step Workshop		55.00
High Nooners Group		800.00	Seekers of Serenity II Group	19.84	88.38	Wellspring Group		285.00
High Nooners Group Plant City		150.00	Simply Sobriety Women's		306.89	Wesley Chapel Group		610.17
It's in the Book Men's Gp.	165.73	797.13	Sisters in Sobriety Group		116.90	With Room to Grow Group		250.00
In Loving Memory		100.00	Sober @ 6 Group		296.75	Women's Big Book Tampa		80.70
Just What I Wanted Big Book	104.00	113.25				Women's Big Book Ruskin		103.25
Keep It Simple/Pass It On		674.20				Women's Friendship Group		138.50
Keep it Simple Group Dade City		646.43						
Keystone Group		747.45						
Kingsway Group		235.00						
Life Enrichment Group	578.50	1,082.63	Total	738.36			638.65	
Little Harbor Grapevine		175.00						
						Monthly Total	3,011.77	
Total	1,634.76			YTD Total	15,571.18		YTD Total	16,349.25
	YTD Total	33,993.29				Grand Total	65,913.72	