



Tri-County Central Office News

Happy New Year!!!

A
Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-County Central Office, Inc.
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January, 2021

PRACTICING THESE PRINCIPLES

Bill says, in "The Milestones Ahead," "It is true that the love of one drunk for another is wonderful to behold." As we go all out to help another alkie in our Twelfth Step work, he says, "there is an expression of almost pure love, the kind of love that has no price tag on it." But in our association with others (to quote Bill again) "are we able to carry these principles into all our affairs?" We sometimes quarrel a great deal, not often about things that matter too much, but there is a great deal of unnecessary anger, ambition, pride, a tendency to cling to people. All the problems of personal relationships which have to do with an emotional sobriety, a happy sobriety, are yet far from solution. "It is plain to all of us that unless this society can develop enough brotherhood and partnership amongst its members, we shall some day fall into disunity, and the basis of partnership and brotherhood has to be greatly improved personal relations." All of which brings to mind the following thoughts. It sometimes seems as though we are the most scrappy bunch of people in society. Small wonder, since before A.A. we fought in saloons and then went home and fought with our wives for no reason at all. Then we fortunately found A.A. but we just don't get well over night. We find fault with the manner in which our group Secretary and Chairman conduct meetings; we engage in factional disputes regarding inter-group affairs, and complain about A.A. business in general. But doesn't most of this occur because we think that matters are not being conducted in the best possible manner? Perhaps since we are all so enthusiastic about our wonderful program, and being a super-critical lot to start with, we are unconsciously only trying to protect and guard it against anything that we think might prove injurious. In the final analysis, don't we all want to do only what is good for A.A.? Then we have no major differences but differ only in our opinion as to how best to do good, which is, after all, only a matter of detail. Thus, perhaps the remedy for our problems is already available through the application of our First and Second Traditions in the following manner: When a question involving a difference of opinion arises, all members of the group can be invited to express their opinion on the subject. Then all the facts pertaining to the subject will be presented which makes it much easier to judge the issue in a fair and impartial way. Since our First Tradition says "personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity," it would make to be certain that our unity comes first. We can play it safe by adopting the policy used by the General Service Conference which provides that no action should be taken on any question unless by consent of at least three-quarters of the Conference members. A mere majority should not authorize action because if even a small minority are in opposition, this would tend to destroy our unity. But the important thing is that by asking the entire group to voice its sentiments, we are using our Second Tradition, which says: "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority, a loving God as He made express Himself in our group conscience." Here we tie ourselves to the greatest power in existence, the power that really makes A.A. tick. If we are sincere in our approach this plan will invariably give us the right answer as the group conscience speaks. When working in A.A. we are dealing with the most precious commodity in the world, human lives. Since we all have the same disease, God knows we do need,

Daily Tips for Old and New Members

The unhappiest person in the world is the alcoholic who has an insistent yearning to enjoy life as he once knew it, but cannot picture life without alcohol. He has a heart-breaking obsession that by some miracle of control he will be able to do so. Sobriety is the most important thing in your life without exception. You may believe your job, or your home life, or one of many other things come first. But consider, if you do not get sober and stay sober, chances are you won't have a job, a family, sanity, or even life. If you are convinced that everything in life depends on your sobriety, you have so much more chance of getting sober and staying sober. If you put other things first you are only hurting your chances.

- (1) Cultivate continued acceptance of the fact that your choice is between unhappy, drunken drinking and doing without just one small drink.
- (2) Cultivate gratitude you have had the good fortune of finding out what was wrong with you before it was too late.
- (3) Expect as being natural and inevitable, that for a period of time, (and it may be a long one) you will recurrently experience the craving, not for a drink as such, but for the soothing glow and warmth a drink or two once gave you.
- (4) Don't permit yourself to think a drink or two would make some bad situation better, or at least easier to live with. Substitute the thought: "One drink will make it worse, - one drink will mean a drunk."
- (5) Cultivate the enjoyment of sobriety. How good it feels to be free of shame, mortification and self-condemnation. How good it is to be free of fear of the consequences of a drunk just ended, or a coming drunk you have never before been able to prevent.
- (6) Cultivate gratitude. Gratitude that so much can be yours for so small a price. Gratitude that you don't have to drink. Gratitude that A.A. exists, and you found out about it in time. Gratitude that you are only a victim of a disease called Alcoholism, that you aren't a degenerate, immoral weakling, or the self-elected victim of a vice or a person of doubtful sanity.
- (7) Seek ways to help other alcoholics and remember the first way to help others is to stay sober yourself.
- (8) And don't forget that when the heart is heavy and resistance is low, there is much comfort in a true and understanding friend standing by you. You have that friend in A.A.

Anonymous



CHECK our Events Calendar to see whatever ZOOM and online meetings we have posted. Do you have a ZOOM meeting or a regular posted and the information is incorrect or 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 New Year.

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NEW YEAR'S AND THE PERENNIAL BEGINNER

If you're new in AA, if this is your first AA New Year's, you're probably like I was — full of good resolutions. At least, you're full of resolutions to *make* good resolutions for the coming year. And I expect I know pretty well what kind of resolutions they'll be. You will, almost certainly, resolve to live this next year "one day at a time"; to watch your ego, never again to allow yourself to become prideful and too big for your britches. You'll promise to guard your humility as you would a tender and precious flower, watering it each day with gratitude. You'll resolve to try to pay back in some measure for the blessing of sobriety by being of service to others. You'll promise yourself never to turn down either a Twelfth Step call or any other opportunity to help another drunk. In that great first-year glow of AA sobriety, you will make the goldarnest set of Pollyannaish resolutions you ever heard of. And I say, *good for you!* Go right ahead and make them! And, if you don't keep them so good in 1956, make them all over again in 1957! And 1958! And 1958! And 1959! And I pray you'll live so long and so well that you'll be making them in 1999! Some little time has passed since I made my first AA New Year's resolutions. I'm what is called an oldtimer now. But I guess there was a period when I looked back on my first AA resolutions as "kid stuff." Sobriety had become a comfortable sort of habit. Meanwhile, I was hearing and reading a lot about the special problems of the oldtimer—all about how the meetings and the very structure of AA were geared to and for the newcomer, leaving the oldtimer out in the cold, trying not to be bored with the same old case histories, horror stories and bad jokes. I don't remember believing that, or feeling "left out." But I guess they were talking about me without my realizing it. At any rate, somewhere along the line I lost the old combination. What used to be merely an occasional bad day lengthened into weeks and finally into a full scale depression. And I couldn't pull out of it. All the fears came back. All the bafflement. And, at last, the self pity. No drinks. Oddly enough, not even a thought of taking one. It got so bad that I considered cutting my throat, but never of taking a drink. This was terrible. I tried everything, or *thought* I was trying everything. And nothing helped. But enough! This is not the story of the agonies of an eighteen-month depression. It's the story of how simple the answer was. Actually the answer was right in front of me all the time. Right in my own group and in the person of an old AA friend of mine named Frank. On the North Shore of Long Island, and throughout the New York Metropolitan area, Frank is an oldtimer who is listened to with respect. He's intelligent, sophisticated — and tough! He's been everywhere, seen everything. In his own words, he's known it all, from champagne in the luxury of ocean-going liners to "smoke" on the Bowery. About the time this issue of the Grapevine hits your house or Group, Frank will be finishing up his fourteenth year of continuous sobriety. Frank is no cherub—more of a gargoyle. He looks like a cross between a played-out playboy and a Spanish pirate. Hardly the guy you'd pick as a stand-in for the innocent little naked kid with the sash who symbolizes each New Year. But Frankie is my boy, my symbol of New Year's. For, regardless of how often I have heard Frank speak at AA meetings (it must be well up into the hundreds), I don't think I ever heard him fail to tuck this little thought into his talk: "No matter how long I am sober, in AA I intend to remain the perennial beginner." Simple? Sure. Ridiculously simple. Stay as sweet as you are. Be the perennial beginner. What's it mean? It means to me—that my happiness as well as my sobriety depends on my state of mind and, please God, don't let me forget how easily I can turn anthills into mountains. It means that, by the mere passage of time, I must have assumed that I had "graduated" or "risen above" those first few

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ROY Y.

Our lives are waves that come up out of the ocean of eternity, break upon the beach of earth, and lapse back to the ocean of eternity. Some are sunlit, some run in storm and rain; One is a quiet ripple, another is a thunderous breaker; and once in many centuries comes a great tidal wave that sweep over a continent...but all go back to the sea. Roy Yeargan, the first member of A.A. in the state of Texas, on Thursday January 18, 1990, at 3:00a.m. passed from our mist in Kerryville, Texas. Roy was born on January 24, 1906, and he would have been 84 years old. He had his last drink September 15, 1940. Roy first met Larry Jewell, a newspaper reporter from Cleveland, Ohio, in Houston, Texas, on February 15, 1940 and that was the start of A.A. in Texas. This is how it all came about according to the following excerpts from a tape of one of Roy's many talks in A.A.: Roy awakened after a long drunk in a .15 cent flop house on skid row in Houston, Texas, sometime during early January 1940. "I lay there trying to figure out what was wrong with me, for this had happened time after time. I cleaned up the best I could and went to see one of my former employers, Luke, to ask for a job. On the way over there I made up a story...that I was doing fine and had been sober for 6 months, etc. As soon as I saw Luke, he asked me how I was getting along, and forgetting about the story I had cooked up, I surprised myself as I began telling him the truth.. 'Luke, the drinking is getting worse than ever...I have tried to stop and I cannot; I don't know what to do.'" "Luke told me he had been reading in the paper about something new called Alcoholics Anonymous that could help a person quit drinking, and that the Houston Press was going to run articles about it everyday for six days. The next day Luke got me a paper and I did not have to finish the first article to know that the writer knew all about me. "Larry Jewell, a newspaper reporter in Cleveland, Ohio, had sobered up after years of drinking. Because of bad health, he moved to Houston for the warmer winters. He had written the six articles published in the Houston Press. After several unsuccessful efforts. I was able to talk to him and he invited me to come to see him. After talking to Larry just a few moments, I realized that for the first time in my life I had seen a prayer of mine answered. I had a spiritual experience or spiritual awakening a it wa later changed to read in the Big Book." "The first thing you do when you come to AA is to find out what your trouble is. I used to tell a dog story. All my life I have been scared of dogs. It got to be pretty embarrassing when I would run from a little Pomeranian and a little 5 foot girl would walk up to a vicious-looking police dog. I always knew why I was scared of dogs...when I was a little boy I was bitten by a dog. Dogs were my problem. After I got sober in AA I started thinking back on that..why the dog bite me. I was playing with a little girl, the owner of the dog, and we were playing tag. I was chasing her and the her dog thought I was going to hurt her and that is why he bit me. All these years I went around running from dogs—still chasing girls. As I've said, it is very important to know just what your problem is." I found Larry Jewell in February of 1940. To me he was my god. I never had any problems—anytime I had a problem I would go to Larry and he would tell me what to do. After about six month I had an opportunity to go to California. In those days we didn't question things. Everything was a sign—just what God wants me to do. So, I went back to L.A., remarried my first wife, got drunk, and moved back to Houston.

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and have a right to expect, the help of one another. If we waste time in petty bickering, we are not only jeopardizing our own serenity and sobriety but also endangering the chances of recovery for “the millions who don’t yet know.” Therefore, it behooves us to remember at all times that in our association with one another, our A.A. unity must come first.

Permission A.A. Grapevine/ March 1954

NEW YEAR’S AND THE PERENNIAL BEGINNER..... from page 2

simple principles. I had become too sophisticated in AA to be able to realize that the answers were always the same. I had forgotten how to “feel” like a beginner. Three years ago, the tension snapped. It was over. Frank, my tough angel, helped do it for me although he never knew it. He said “perennial beginner” again one night. And suddenly I understood. I had become a man living in suspense—without a “beginning,” without any “roots.” Ergo, without any real faith. Do you know what my resolutions are for 1956? Right! One day at a time. Watch the pride. Be truly humble. Be grateful. And try to serve as best I can. Those resolutions did me very well in 1944. I think they’ll do equally well in 1956—for this eternal beginner! I remember hearing Doctor Bob, in Cleveland, say, “Keep it simple. AA is good because of two very simple things. Love and Service.” Come to think of it, a man at Galilee talked a lot like that, too. He said, “Keep it simple,” also. Personally, I don’t think that AA has to be reshaped to fit the oldtimer, but rather the other way ‘round. The oldtimer should keep reshaping himself so as not to grow out of the simple mold that saved him the first time around. For me, the answer is to try to remain the “perennial beginner.” Call me Pollyanna. Call me slap-happy. But I’m having one helluva good time! I hope you are too. Happy New Year!

A.S. , Great Neck, New York
Reprint Permission/AA Grapevine/ January-1959

‘It has often been said of A.A. that we are interested only in alcoholism. That is not true. We have to get over drinking in order to stay alive. But anyone knows the alcoholic personality by firsthand contact knows that no true alky ever stops drinking permanently without undergoing a profound personality change.’
Reprint Permission/ AA World Services As Bill Sees It...page 1

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We thought “conditions” drove us to drink, and when we tried to correct these conditions and found that we couldn’t do so to our entire satisfaction, our drinking went out of hand and we became alcoholics. It never occurred to us that we needed to change ourselves to meet conditions, whatever they were.

Reprint Permission/ AA World Services As Bill Sees It...page 1

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When we look back, we realize that the things which came to us when we put ourselves in God’s hands were better than anything we could have planned.

Reprint Permission/ AA World Services As Bill Sees It...page 2

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Someone once remarked that pain is the touchstone of spiritual progress. How heartily we A.A.’s can agree with him, for we know that the pains of alcoholism had to come before sobriety, and emotional turmoil before serenity.

Reprint Permission/ AA World Services As Bill Sees It...page 3

ROY Y.....continued from page 2

We were in business for over a year before w had our first woman, Esther Elizardi. She went to Dallas and started AA there and helped start a group in San Antonio. World War Two had a lot to do with how fast the groups got started. Priorities were somewhat changed. At the time there was just a beginning in Chicago, Akron, Cleveland and New York. Akron, Cleveland and New York had been in business five years then. So you see how slow it was. “I believe that if a person comes to AA with a desire to stop drinking and asks God for help that he is given a reprieve like I was given—you don’t have to know anything. That period when I first came in —never a time before or since have I known the security that I knew in those days. I knew everything was going to be alright. “ I went to Houston first and visited the group, then on up to Dallas to see Esther and Ed Frye and Hal Newman, a few of those who came for help in Houston, then went back to their homes. I went to see Bill W. in New York . There he sat in the crummy little office on Vesey Street...just Bill...nobody else, in his tennis shoes. I went to Akron and met Dr. Bob and the old-timers there. I reported for duty at Wright Patterson Field in Dayton, Ohio. I had a nice time visiting the Dayton Group and the next day got orders to go to Miami, Florida. AA was going pretty good there. Then I was shipped to Tampa, Florida. There was no AA Group there and I requested that I be sent to Oklahoma City, Will Rogers Field. Then I got my orders: Drew Field, Tampa, Fla. Siberia—to me. I wrote New York to see if they had received any inquiries from Tampa about the program. In December 1943, I had not had any word from New York. It was Christmas, the department stores all decorated and the sound of carols in the air. I had a good case of self-pity. “I did everything in my power to get my orders changed, but as usual to no avail. I fought against going to every part of the country I was sent, I wanted to be sent somewhere else. But God had other plans for me. Like some tall lanky Johnny Appleseed, I went across the nation and even Alaska, leaving Bi Books in libraries, schools, looking, hoping for people to work with and start groups. I didn’t want any part of Tampa. I went to mail call and there was a letter from Bill W. giving me the address of a man who had written for the book. I made the 12-Step call on the druggist. He said he did not have a problem, but he had an ice-cream maker who really needed help. I called Ernie and told him to meet me. He did and we talked and he wanted to try. I made the drug store my headquarters. The druggists did not embrace A.A., but he knew all the drunks in town. That was the start of AA on the West Coast of Florida.” “After the war, I went to Washington, D.C.; we were supposed to set up a program for alcoholics in the D.C. penal institution. I moved right into the institution. By the time my papers came through, they asked me to sign for my papers and I would be on the payroll. I said I can’t do that. I can’t take a job like that. I am a printer...my AA work is an avocation.”

Excerpts from a talk made by Roy in 1984
All persons in the foregoing article referred to by full name are now deceased.

From the Silent Rostrum Newsletter Houston, Texas February/March 1990

NOTES FROM INSIDE THE CENTRAL OFFICE

December 8th, 2020 the Board of Directors for Central Office

ROD Q.	CHAIRPERSON	SOBER ON SATURDAY GROUP
JOHN T.	TREASURER	LIVINGSOBER/AS BILL SEES IT
MICHELE S.	BOARD MEMBER	SAFE,SANE & SOBER GROUP
RITA Y.	BOARD MEMBER	OLD SCHOOL GROUP
OPEN	BOARD MEMBER	

(Because of some technical problems, recording started late and I did not received the full chat print out—so report is kind of incomplete—sorry)

On October 13th, 2020 we conducted our first ZOOM Board and Council Meeting.

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 gave a brief synopsis of where we are currently standing here at the Central Office in November.

Treasurers Report: John T. presented the November Treasurer’s Report noting that we were \$ 5,092.03 in the red for the month and \$ 15,602.72 in the red for the year. Tim noted that we now have a Contribution button added to our website and have received \$ 988.95 from online contributions that are not reflected in the Treasurer’s Report.

Old Business: Discussed Christmas Bonus for Office Manager and Contract Workers and the Office Managers evaluation. It was decided to discuss this after the regular meeting with just the Board members

New Business: Kara asked about the Daily Planners we usually get in December. Tim let her know that they are at the Office. Brad informed everyone that the Tampa Area ZOOM meeting had problems with ZOOM Bombers and asked for Tim to remove it from the Central Office web site and that if anyone needed the new link to contact him. Some members updated meeting or ZOOM information.

Announcements: Sobrenity Group is having their 10 Days of Midnight Meetings for the Christmas Holidays.

The next Board & Council Meeting will be January 12, 2021 at 7:00 pm on ZOOM
Timothy S. Office Manager/Secretary for the Board & Council

For contributions, you can make a contribution to Central Office on our web site at www.aatampa-area.org Support the Central Office

CHOICE IN DRINK?

Further reflection on Step One brought about a different understanding of its context. The first the two parts of this step are separated by a dash—not a hyphen. A dash fulfills both segments of a sentence, e.g.:

“We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.”

At first, I considered the second part “*unmanageable*” to mean; drunk tanks, getting fired again, losing friends, etc.—and it sort of does. However, much more prevalent is the word “*powerlessness*” in the first part which had caused my life to become “unmanageable.” My real powerlessness was when I started drinking, I could not stop, but when I stopped drinking, I could not stop starting. (Physical Allergy and Mental Obsession).

While years of “quitting drinking” failure by use of willpower, I never knew about the allergy-obsession syndrome: I never realized that I was powerless; that I had: “*no choice in the matter of drink.*” (p. 24 of the BB)

As alcoholic despair deepened throughout the last Twenty-four years of drinking. My efforts were not superficial: No more Lucky Strike cigarettes! High protein milkshakes! Running! Handball! Swimming! Weightlifting! Why I felt wonderful! Who needs booze? I was like the guy on page 57 of the Big Book (Fitz M): “*He couldn’t drink if he would.*” But alas, I came to believe that I *had* to drink whether I chose to or not—it would seem as though “quitting drinking” just got me drunk—and often in short order.

Could I have the dramatic relief as Fitz? Well, like Fitz, I asked God for help and have not had to drink alcoholic since my very first AA meeting. Choosing to drink alcohol has been removed from my emotional vocabulary, e.g.: Choosing “to drink” or “not to drink” no longer occurs to me. I certainly hope that “choice in drink” never returns.
Bob S

Sister Mary Ignatia of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine. St. Thomas Hospital, the first religious hospital to receive prospective members of AA for treatment on a regular basis. Detox wards are relatively commonplace today, but in the mid-thirties, the idea of hospitalizing an alcoholic was considered foolish indulgence. These, after all, were the experience-poor, faith-powerful early days, when alcoholism was still considered a moral issue rather than an illness. Sister Ignatia’s gamble was helping co-founder Dr. Bob set up a detox ward at St. Thomas Hospital. The archives in the General Service Office hold a tape of a talk she gave at the International Convention at Long Beach, Calif. In 1960. If you’re ever in New York, you can visit the archives and listen to her relate an incident from the beginning days of their detoxing efforts. Her voice is gentle, with a slight quaver, as if she was nervous addressing such a large group of AA’s. It is difficult to imagine that anyone who sounds like that could be involved in something adventurous or nonconformist. Yet she smuggled their first drunk into the hospital through the flower room—literally under the nose of a disapproving night supervisor. With characteristic understatement, she says: “I recall very distinctly coming to the chapel for prayer shortly after five one morning, only to be met by the night supervisor, who told me—in no unmistakable terms—that the next time I admitted a DT to the hospital, I had better stay up all night myself to run the corridors after him.” Thank you, Sister Ignatia, for all of us.

Reprint Permission/ AA Grapevine/ July 1984

ANNIVERSARY TIME

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

GROUP	Honors To	Date	Years
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP	AMANDA F.	01/06/14	7 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP	PEGGY C.	01/01/14	7 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP	SHELLY P.	01/10/13	8 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP	KATHLEEN M.	01/01/13	8 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP	NANCY	01/13/11	10 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP	VAL M.	01/19/10	11 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP	LAURA M.	01/06/04	17 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP	JUNE T.	01/09/99	22 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP	STEPHANIE C.	01/29/91	30 YRS
HIGH-NOONERS Plant City	CHET K.	01/22/87	34 YRS
HIGH-NOONERS Plant City	DENNIS O.	01/28/84	37 YRS
FRIDAY NIGHT BIG BOOK	LYNN P.	01/11/08	13 YRS
JUST WHAT I WANTED	SARAH G.	01/03/09	12 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	JESSICA F.	01/15/11	10 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	BRIAN K.	01/29/83	38 YRS
NEW WAY WOMEN'S	SHERRI F.	01/11/96	25 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY	MIKE C.	01/03/11	10 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY	ED S.	01/15/86	35 YRS
TAMPA NIGHTLY NEWCOMERS	BRAD W.	01/02/12	9 YRS
11th STEP GROUP	KATHY M.	01/17/86	35 YRS
MORNING MEDITATION	GENE S.	01/25/88	33 YRS
SIMPLY SOBRIETY	ARISSA H.	01/29/17	4 YRS
CLEAN AIR GROUP	SUE Z.	01/16/89	32 YRS
ON THE WAY HOME	JIM	01/17	4 YRS
ON THE WAY HOME	JO ANN S.	01/19/05	16 YRS
ON THE WAY HOME	ROBIN J.	01/06/02	19 YRS
ON THE WAY HOME	HENRY S.	01/28/90	31 YRS
RIVERSIDE GROUP	SUSAN S.	01/28/10	11 YRS
RIVERSIDE GROUP	JEFF S.	01/08/05	16 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	ANDREA E.	01/05/15	6 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	BILL B.	01/02/11	10 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	DAVID G.	01/24/95	26 YRS
KEYSTONE GROUP	TERRY M.	01/05/83	38 YRS

SELF-SUPPORT-December, 2020

© Today in December of 2020 we have 223 Groups with 536 meetings a week. **Or at least, we had that.** Since COVID hit some groups have had to shut down for now, some continue to meet and some are doing their meetings on ZOOM. This year Central Office has taken a big hit in contributions and literature sales. We haven't had to break into our Prudent Reserve—yet, but have come pretty close. So, with that said....Contributions in December totaled \$ 8,840.40. This accounts for what 45 Groups or individuals in our area have contributed in December. Included we also received \$ 100.00 from 4 members for the Birthday Club and \$5,337.68 from our PayPal contribution button on our web site.. Our total income for December was \$ 12,802.06. Our Total Cost of Goods Sold was \$ 2,895.89. Subtracting the Total Cost of Goods Sold from our December income left us with a Gross Profit of \$ 9,906.17. Our Total Expenses for December were \$ 8,992.08. Subtracting our Expenses from our Gross Profit gave us a Net Income of plus+\$ 914.09 for the month of December. **(Please note: the contributions page does not reflect the PayPal contributions. I hope to add the totals starting in January.)** 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 pass." 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. . 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
KEEP IT SIMPLE	JIM VAN K.	11/28/04	17 YRS
NEW WAY WOMEN'S	ANN K.	12/12/05	15 YRS
NEW WAY WOMEN'S	ELLIE C.	12/14/86	34 YRS
NEW WAY WOMEN'S	SHERRI F.	01/11/96	25 YRS

**That's 669 Years of Sobriety!
Congratulations for your Sobriety**

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**

WANT TO HELP ANOTHER ALCOHOLIC?

2021
CARRY THE
MESSAGE
PROJECT



GRAPEVINE & LA VIÑA are Great Twelfth Step Tools!

Give a gift subscription to an alcoholic who needs it. Great for:

- Sponsees • Newcomers • Prisons • Detoxes • Doctor's Offices
- Group Celebrations • District and Area Events • Giveaways

Get your group, district, area or AA friends to join in.
Carry the Message, it's easy!

Go to aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message to get started and see our new Carry the Message video at www.youtube.com/c/AAGrapevine

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.

