

COMMUNIQUE

HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

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DO YOU HAVE ANY AA JOKES?
PLEASE SUBMIT THEM TO US...
COMMUNIQUE@AAHERNANDO.ORG

Which do you think lasts longer in life, the good things or the bad things?

Good things last eight seconds, bad things last three weeks.

What about in between?

Read the Big Book!

BY: JANICE B. | MIDLOTHIAN, VIRGINIA

She learned the hard way to play by the rules and not break AA's connection *TRADITION FOUR: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.*

For the past three and a half years, I've had the privilege and pleasure of carrying an AA meeting into one of our womens' correctional facilities. Along with this wonderful opportunity have been some real growing and learning pains. My hope is to enlighten you and encouraged you to become involved in corrections work if you aren't already. Hopefully, you can learn from some of my mistakes.

As an alcoholic, I can always focus on the reasons not do this sort of work: I'm tired, women not showing up for meetings, gas prices, difficult corrections officers and staff, and the list goes on. But with the help of sponsorship and the Steps, today I do what I say I'm going to do—even when I don't want to. Each week, for the past several years, I showed up. And I have to say that this meeting at this correctional facility has been a favorite of mine. Each night when I would leave for the drive home after, I walked to my car a little lighter. I would feel refreshed, knowing that God was present at our meeting. What an incredible experience!

But as the years progressed, I began to feel too comfortable with the women, so I decided that it was OK to give out my phone number to soon-to-be-released offenders, even though the facility's policies clearly stated that there was to be no exchanges between volunteers and inmates. Well, it was only a phone number; that shouldn't be a problem, I thought. So I gave it out.

Because of this, I lost my volunteer status as a result of breaking the "no contact or exchange" rules. The decision I made was clearly in violation of the Department of Corrections' policies. There was a system already in place for helping people after release: Bridging the Gap. My actions could have jeopardized the relationship between the facility and AA. I was reminded of Step One and my powerlessness. And I particularly think of the Third Step in my attempt to control the outcome of the women who leave the facility.

But probably the biggest lesson I learned was how I didn't take into consideration our Fourth Tradition that states: "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole." I could have definitely affected AA and its relationship to the facility in this situation. This experience taught me a valuable lesson that I hope to carry with me in other situations: that I have to be very aware of practicing the Traditions in all areas of my life. I know that my mistake was not malicious or intentional. And I don't beat myself up over it. But I do know that if I can help another alcoholic learn from my mistake, then I will try.

I pray that God will lead someone else to become passionate about taking over where I left off, and will continue to allow have the hand of AA be there for them.

Trivia Quest

- 1) There is a Solution. Almost none of us liked the self-searching, the leveling of our pride the confession of our shortcomings which the process _____ for its successful consummation.
- 2) How many chapters are there in the Big Book?
- 3) Did Ebby die Sober?
- 4) What is the summary of steps 1,2 and 3.
- 5) What is the name of the town that is the site of Americas oldest marble quarry and the birthplace of Bill W?
- 6) What year were the 12 Concepts of AA World Service Adopted?

AA TIME CAPSULE

JACK J. (JERSEY JACK) PART 3

Jack moved to Florida in 1996. Jack immediately called the Hernando County Intergroup (once again thankfully a volunteer answered the phone) and told him about the Rough Roads group meeting. Jack went to the meeting and specifically remembers hearing “Brooklyn Bill” speak. Brooklyn Bill created the moniker “Jersey Jack” because at that time there were quite a few “Jacks” in the rooms: “Jack in the Back,” “Sailor Jack,” “Painter Jack,” “Chicago Jack,” and “Captain Jack.”

Jack also recalled how different AA was in New Jersey. He remembered the days when a group would jump in a van or even a bus and travel to other meetings, conventions or retreats together. On one of those occasions, Jack met Father Martin. To this day, videotapes are played in rehab centers across the United States.

Jack recalls receiving a card that Father Martin often gave to others that provided the best summary of Steps 1,2, and 3: “**I cant, He can, why don’t I let Him.**” Father Martin was not simply a speaker helping others, he was a recovering alcoholic.

Jack recently celebrated 47 years of sobriety on January 6,2021. The promises have come true in his life: he is a good friend, a wonderful father, a loving husband to his beautiful wife Marie and a mentor to many in the rooms of alcoholics anonymous. Sadly enough, the women Jack was living with and his drinking buddy tried to enter the rooms of A.A. after she saw the profound change within Jack. However, as the book describes, “ Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path. “Those who do not recover are people who cannot or will not completely give themselves to this simple program, usually men and women who are constitutionally incapable of being honest with themselves.” Jack’s ex-girlfriend committed suicide after driving her car into a garage, closing the door and letting the motor run. As we have seen so many times, she quit before the miracle happened.

Today, Jack has four adult children, and he is grateful that his youngest daughter has no memory of ever seeing her father hold a drink in his hands. His children never forget what January 6th means to their family. In fact, on Jack’s 45th anniversary two years ago, three of his children came to the Hernando Beach Tuesday noon meeting. Jack’s homegroup, to watch as Jack celebrated his anniversary amongst his many friends. This writer was honored to be present and watch how much his family loved him and how many of us in the room were there to celebrate his sobriety.

Jack’s other miracle is Marie, his beautiful wife of 37 years. Jack met Marie in 1983 at a dance in New Jersey. When Marie told Jack that she didn’t drink, he assumed she was also a fellow alcoholic. Believe it or not, she simply does not like to drink alcohol. Jack asked Marie to dance that evening and they have been together ever since.

All of the promises described in the big book and in the steps have come true for Jack. This is only true because Jack attends several meetings weekly and has done so for the past 47 years. He has always had a sponsor; he has worked the steps in every area of his life, he has lived the traditions in and out of the rooms, he has sponsored other men, he has committed to many different service positions and always fulfilled his responsibility that: “I am responsible, when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there, and for that I am responsible.”

Written by, Susan Gerber Davis
Q4 I can’t, He Can, Why don’t I let him.

DISTRICT 13 OFFICERS

DCM

Eleanor B.
484-661-8753
dcm@aahernando.org

ALT-DCM

OPEN
altdcm@aahernando.org

TREASURER

Laurie C 207-712-5677
dtreasurer@aahernando.org

SECRETARY

Mike E.
dsecretary@aahernando.org

DISTRICT 13 COMMITTEES

ACCESSIBILITIES

OPEN
accessabilities@aahernando.org

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

archives@aahernando.org

COMMUNIQUE CHAIRS

Sue S. 413-219-5133
Laurie C. 207-712-5677
communique@aahernando.org

CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE

OPEN
corrections@aahernando.org

GRAPEVINE COMMITTEE

OPEN
grapevine@aahernando.org

LITERATURE COMMITTEE

literature@aahernando.org
Alternate: Jim B
altliterature@aahernando.org

**PUBLIC INFO/COOPERATING
W/PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY**

JIM S
PICPC@aahernando.org

TREATMENT COMMITTEE

Joe C
treatment@aahernando.org

INTERGROUP OFFICERS

CHAIRPERSON

Wendy S. 727-505-5768
chair@aahernando.org

ALT-CHAIRPERSON

Ed S. 352-428-8438
altchair@aahernando.org

SECRETARY

Dee M. 352-442-6423
isecretary@aahernando.org

TREASURER

Donna M. 352-238-9697
igtreasurer@aahernando.org

OFFICE MANAGER

JJ M 352-6834597
Info@aahernando.org

ASST MANAGER

asstmanager@aahernando.org

INTERGROUP LIAISON

Anthony C
iglaison@aahernando.org

GROUP DONATION ADDRESSES:

Please send donations to:
DISTRICT 13 TREASURER
P.O. Box 10653
Brooksville, FL 34603
(payable to District 13)

HERNANDO COUNTY

INTERGROUP
4118 Lamson Ave.,
Spring Hill, FL 34608
(payable to Hernando County
Intergroup)

NORTH FLORIDA AREA

ASSEMBLY
5703 Red Bug Lake Road, Unit 241
Winter Springs, FL 32708
(payable to NFAC)

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

PO Box 459, Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
(payable to GSO)

DISTRICT MEETING

First Monday of the month
May 3rd, 2021 at 6:15 PM
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1214 Broad St, Masaryktown, FL

INTERGROUP MEETING

First Friday of the month
May 7th, 2021 @ 6:30pm,
Forest Oaks Lutheran Ch
8555 Forest Oaks Blvd.,
Spring Hill, FL

Welcome Back
Unity
Meeting
Hosted by
The Desire To
Saturday
May 8th
Doors open at 6:30
Meeting at 7:00 pm
Nativity Lutheran Church
6363 Commercial Way
Weeki Wachee, FL
For more info please contact:
Amy R.: unity@aahernando.org

HERNANDO CTY INTERGROUP
CENTRAL OFFICE/BOOK STORE
4118 Lamson Ave.
Spring Hill, FL 34608
Office Manager: JJ M
Hotline/Phone number
352-683-4597
Intergroup Bookstore Hours:
Mon - Fri 9 am-1 pm
Saturday 9 am-12 pm
BOOKSTORE EMAIL:
bookstore@aahernando.org

What is your Group doing the second Saturday of September and October???
There are opportunities to Host The Unity Meeting...Yummy!!!
Contact Amy R at unity@aahernando.org Q1 Requires

Service Corner

Hello District 13!!!

* Know Your District *

Let Go & Let God - meets Friday @ noon
United Church Of Christ
4244 Mariner Blvd.
Spring Hill, Fl

Let Go & Let God is an open discussion meeting, dealing with topics from Gratitude to Relapse, and everything in between. There is a feeling of belonging when you walk in the door. Masks are required by the Church and chairs are separated by small tables, giving everyone plenty of space. There is so much wisdom at this meeting as a result of solid, long term, sincere sobriety. You can feel the power of the AA program touch your heart and soul at this meeting. Shout out to Bob S. (GSR) and Amy R. (Alt.GSR) who proudly represent their group!

Please take the time, if you can, and visit these amazing meetings in our district!

In Humble Service
Eleanor Black, DCM District 13

1 - 800 - HOT-LINE an Interview with Johnny V

How many of us have called the AA Hot Line because we were desperate, sick and tired of being sick and tired? I wanted to find out what is behind this magical number in Hernando County and met with Johnny V.

Johnny V has been sober for twelve years and in May will celebrate thirteen. He was an all day drinker, did not attend family functions and/or events because of this addiction to alcohol. He finally admitted to his dad that he cannot do this any longer and so his journey began. *

Twelve years ago Johnny called the AA HotLine admitting to himself he was "sick and tired, of being sick and tired". Phil answered his call and instructed Johnny he should attend the Fun & Frolic group. Bringing his dad, with nineteen years of sobriety, with him to this AA meeting. At the meeting Johnny met his first sponsor. His sponsor let him know that service work, Step 12, is a big part of AA's success; from personal services, sponsorship, listening to group members, volunteering for group services, etc. Johnny did become involved with the everyday duties of service work; making the coffee, cleaning, doing the norm in the beginning. Then Johnny wanted to help more and volunteered as a Hernando County HotLine Representative and has been the Committee Chair on and off for the past nine years.

(Johnny V con't)

Johnny told me being a Committee Chair requires someone to be available to take calls 24 hours a day all year long. He sets up three shifts; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 1 to 5 p.m.; and then 5 p.m. to 9 a.m., making sure all shifts are covered at all times. Once a volunteer is given training the calls are transferred from the HotLine to their phone. Many services are found by calling from finding a meeting place & time; looking for a ride; someone needs help with a loved one; a woman needing to speak with a woman; someone to give them hope; etc. And the number of calls that come in vary, from maybe five to none and more depending on the seasons. You just never know and know someone needs to be at the other end when a call comes.

Johnny has a lot of stories he could share with us and one, bitter, sweet, memory in particular stands out over the years of service being our HotLine Specialist. About eight years ago this guy named Pat called at 12:30 in the morning and Johnny answered the call. He spoke with Pat for quite awhile finding out his likes and dislikes and one being the Beatles music. This hit home with Johnny and they were able to have a good conversation. Pat attended AA meetings. A year later, Pat called Johnny and thanked him for being there when he needed him most. He thanked Johnny for saving his life and this personally meant so much to Johnny. You see, Johnny's father was dying of cancer and he could not save his dad, however, Johnny, was sober when he passed. As Johnny was telling me about Pat, he was told that Pat was tragically killed riding his bicycle...he had three years sobriety.

As the conversation ended, Johnny stated, "I do what I can do. I am beyond grateful and thank God every day that I am sober and able to do service work." Service work is one of the most important parts of AA - it keeps us reminded we are only a drink away....

* Johnny's story has appeared in The Communique. November, 2016 and August, 2019.

Do you have a Hotline Story? Please let us know and we can share your experience strength and hope.

We need our stories of hope in these trying times.

Get typing and email them to:
communique@aahernando.org

Q2 11



Tradition IV:

Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

What does “affects AA as a whole,” mean?

There are many AA conference approved items that share experience about many of the issues that affect us.

DECEMBER 1962

P. O. Box 1980

BY: G. R. | SYDNEY NSW

Practice these Concepts. . .

Have just read the 12 Concepts of Service. Rather deep at the moment, but a few bedtime readings should help me to get in the picture. When I first came to AA I fondly imagined that all I'd have to do was learn the Twelve Steps off by heart and I'd qualify as an active member. Now I know that the only way I can imprint them on my heart is by putting them into action. That seems to be the way with the Traditions and other AA principles. They have to be put into practice first before they can be really understood.

Traditions Checklist**Tradition IV**

Tradition Four: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.

1. Do I insist that there are only a few right ways of doing things in AA?
2. Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of Loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?
3. Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?
4. Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?
5. Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths—his lengths, not mine—to stay sober?
6. Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?

Concept IV:

Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional “Right of Participation,” taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

Concepts Checklist

Concept IV: At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional “Right of Participation,” allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

- Do we understand the spiritual principles underlying the “Right of Participation”?
- What does “in reasonable proportion” mean? Do we understand when it is appropriate for A.A. paid staff to have a vote at the General Service Conference or in our local service structure?
- Do we expect that, because we are A.A. members, we should be allowed to vote at any group, even if we are not active members of that group? Q3 Some say yes, some say no.??

OCTOBER 1988

Don't Blow Your Stack!

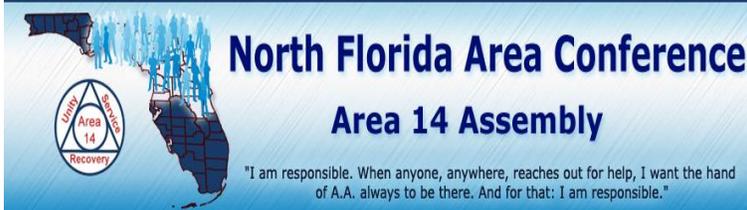
BY: CONCEPT XII, WARRANTY FIVE

. . . It is evident that the harmony, security, and future effectiveness of AA will depend largely upon our maintenance of a thoroughly nonaggressive and pacific attitude in all our public relations. This is an exacting assignment, because in our drinking days we were prone to anger, hostility, rebellion, and aggression. And even though we are now sober, the old patterns of behavior are to a degree still with us, always threatening to explode on any good excuse. But we *know* this, and therefore I feel confident that in the conduct of our public affairs we shall always find the grace to exert an effective restraint.

Q5 East Dorset

Intergroup Treasurers Report February 2021

	<u>Feb 21</u>		<u>Feb 21</u>	<u>Jan - Feb 21</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Group Contributions				
Gratitude	133.00	Algood Grp	80.00	80.00
Group Contributions - Other	<u>235.48</u>	Audio BB Grp	0.00	235.00
Total Group Contributions	368.48	Gratitude Night	133.00	133.00
Sales		Let Go and Let God	0.00	25.00
AA Grapevine	12.00	No Home Group	0.21	0.61
AAWS Books	311.00	Precisely II	100.00	100.00
Medallions	140.20	Rough Road Grp	0.27	0.27
Non AA Books	14.25	The Steps We Took	50.00	50.00
Other Recovery Items	<u>104.50</u>	There is a Solution	0.00	30.00
Total Sales	581.95	Umbrella Group	5.00	5.00
Income - Other	<u>0.00</u>	WISE Women	<u>0.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>
Total Income	950.43	TOTAL	<u><u>368.48</u></u>	<u><u>758.88</u></u>
Other Types of Income				
Unity Meeting	164.00			
Other Types of Income - Other	<u>45.00</u>			
Total Other Types of Income	<u>209.00</u>			
Total Income	1,159.43			
Cost of Goods Sold				
Cost of Goods Sold	<u>503.15</u>			
Total COGS	<u>503.15</u>			
Gross Profit	656.28			
Expense				
Unity Meeting				
Rent - Unity	<u>50.00</u>			
Total Unity Meeting	50.00			
Facilities and Equipment				
Rent, Parking, Utilities	<u>360.00</u>			
Total Facilities and Equipment	360.00			
Intergroup Services Exp				
Meeting List Printing	<u>-10.00</u>			
Total Intergroup Services Exp	-10.00			
Operations				
Printing and Copying	138.43			
Supplies	<u>0.00</u>			
Total Operations	<u>138.43</u>			
Total Expense	<u>538.43</u>			
Net Ordinary Income	<u>117.85</u>			
Net Income	<u><u>117.85</u></u>			

Future Assembly Dates:**2021****April 9-11 | July 9-11 | October 8-10****2022****January 7-9 | April 8-10 | July 8-10 | October 7-9**


North Florida Area Conference
Area 14 Assembly

"I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible."

VISIT OUR WEBSITE**aahernando.org**

for all your event info and meeting schedules when you are on the go. If you have any changes or event information to add please email:

info@aahernando.org

District 13 Treasurers Report

	Feb 21	
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Group Contributions		
Corrections Contributions	23.43	
Total Group Contributions	23.43	
Total Income	23.43	
Expense		
Operations		
Postage, Mailing Service	-29.50	Refund
Printing and Copying		
Communique	255.00	
Total Printing and Copying	255.00	
Total Operations	225.50	
Bank Service Charge	87.85	
Total Expense	313.35	
Net Ordinary Income	-289.92	
Net Income	-289.92	

Group	Jan	Feb	YTD
A Desire Group	440.00		440.00
Anonymous	217.50		217.50
Audio Big Book Grp	235.00		235.00
Hope Group		3.00	3.00
Intergroup	5.41	20.43	25.84
Let Go Let God	50.00		50.00
Rough Road Group	37.00		37.00
There Is A Solution	30.00		30.00
	1,014.91	23.43	1,038.34



Alt-DCM and SIX COMMITTEE CHAIRS NEEDED!! GOING TO MEETINGS, BUT NEED MORE! TIME TO GET ACTIVE

Alt-DCM

The alternate is a backup for the D.C.M. If the D.C.M. resigns or is unable to serve for any reason, the alternate steps in.

GRAPEVINE (Generate Interest)

The Grapevine Chair shares information about the AA Grapevine and La Vina our unique "Meeting in Print"

PARLIAMENTARIAN (Ensure Meeting Integrity)

This position is a two-year term that is appointed by the DCM. Duties include: attend monthly District meetings, assist in keeping the meeting operating within Roberts Rule of Order, and must have a Working Knowledge of District 13 Structures and Guidelines. Contact the DCM if interested.

LITERATURE (spread the word)

The Literature Chair keeps the local groups up to date on all conference approved literature, audio, visual material or other special items.

ACCESSIBILITY (Assist those with limited accessibilities)

The chairperson provides support and helps to carry the message to those who have accessibility issues that can limit their attendance at regular A.A. meetings.

ARCHIVES (Preserve District History)

This is a 2-year position that requires familiarity with District history. Ensuring proper cataloging and storage with an understanding of historical records.

CORRECTIONS (Share AA message with inmates)

The Correction Committee Chair coordinates meetings that carry the message in prisons and jails to those that cannot attend regular AA meetings.

Q6 1962

APRIL 2021 ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Group Anniversaries</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Ladies Big Book</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Serenity Sisters</u>	<u>Years</u>
Let Go Let God	23	Lori D	3	Candy M	21
Young Mens	23	Chrystal	4	Tia	21
Sat AM Step	32	Linda M	5	Maureen B	41
		Tracey G	11	Joan G	50
<u>Member Anniversaries</u>		Kathy K	31	Linda C	50
<u>Al Good</u>					
Dorsey P	16	<u>Let Go & Let God</u>		<u>Spring Hill Monday Night</u>	
Bob H	38	Gindee	24	Richie N	34
				Roger L	34
<u>Aripeka Open Speaker</u>		<u>More Serenity Sisters</u>			
Neil	16	Jane B	33	<u>Step Sisters</u>	
Bruce	31			Lori D	3
Nan	34	<u>Principles B4 Personalities</u>			
Ralph M	50	Michelle P	1	<u>There is a Solution</u>	
		Michelle D	1	Dawn S	5
<u>Happy Hour</u>		Shellee L	1		
Karen B	38	Melanie D	8	<u>Tranquility</u>	
		Ed F	31	Louis S	33
<u>Heavy Hitters</u>		Louis S	33		
Seth B.	1			<u>Umbrella Grp</u>	
James B.	1	<u>Promises</u>		Shawn G	2
Tiffany C.	2	Patty B	34		
Constance Z.	12			<u>Womens Serenity Grp</u>	
Sherry T.	14	<u>Ridge Manor Big Book</u>		Linda M	6
Cliff R.	37	Kellie W	2	Tia Mc	21
Sue S.	37	Gary E	8	The Birthday Plan	
		Paul B	22		
<u>Hernando Beach</u>				<p>Contributions to the General Service Office support G.S.O.'s services to members and groups throughout Canada and the U.S. and help ensure that the A.A. message is carried around the world. The services that the G.S.O. provides the A.A. groups cost more than \$6 per member contribute year. Members customarily \$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.</p> <p>(reprinted from www.aa.org)</p> <p>The General Service Office Post Office Box 459 Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163-0459</p>	
Denise W	1	<u>Rough Road</u>			
Stephanie	35	Melanie D	8		
		Jon G	9		
<u>Hope Grp</u>		Jim B	11		
Fernando M	6	Jim H	32		
Jackie K	42	Al S	47		

<p>Group and Individual ANNIVERSARIES Please provide your information on anniversaries by the 15th of the month to anniversaries@aahernando.org</p>
