

COMMUNIQUE

HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

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FOUNDER'S DAY 2021

Thank you to those who volunteered to make this celebration happen this year despite the pandemic and other struggles we are facing. Over the past year we have lost many of our loved ones in this program and many of our fellows have lost family and friends. Yet we walk forward, together. We continue to have a life preserver ready for our fellows. Founder's Day this year is for all of you that cannot be with us but will always remain in our hearts and souls. It has been a stark reminder of our *Great Responsibility* to pass it on to one another so that we may continue to enjoy this miracle of sobriety. This Founder's Day we honor all of you that came before us.

On Founder's Day, June 10, 1935, most often what is discussed is the meeting between Dr. Bob and Bill W. in the Mayflower hotel. Two strangers talking to one another their problems with alcohol. They sat together in that lobby from 5:15 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. It is an example of how each day, somewhere in the world, recovery begins when one alcoholic talks with another alcoholic, sharing experience, strength, and hope. Anyone who chooses to get sober and stay in recovery has an intrinsic duty to be of service to others who also suffer from addiction. It is our duty. Our debt. Our gift.

Bill W. best described the significance of a meeting he attended in 1945 when he said: "It was here that the miracle really happened. This is the hill where the AA beacon was lit ten years ago. From here, the light spread outward to guide others." (Grapevine, July 1945). Akron, a Greek word meaning "summit," sits on a ridge overlooking the surrounding Ohio countryside. Our tribe, the children of the bottle, share a commonality--many of us have witnessed events that few people really know about. We have seen human behavior about which we rarely speak. However, when we come together in these kind of numbers at Founders' Day, we can feel magic. The notebook we carry in our minds never fades, for remembering the insanity is important, and celebrating the recovery is vital. Just as we once found those who drank the way we did, today we find others who are recovering--they carry the same notebooks in their minds. And that is what Founders' Day is all about: alcoholics and their friends coming together from all over the world to celebrate recovery."

This year, two people often not mentioned on this date, should be offered gratitude for this program and their lives. Without them, we may not have been here to celebrate this evening together. Those two people are Ebby and Sister Ignatia.

(Con't to pg 2)

FOUNDERS DAY 2021 (CONTINUED)

The building block of AA truly began one November night in 1934, when Ebby came to see Bill, who was then living in Brooklyn with his wife, Lois. Ebby told Bill, “I’ve got religion,” and while Bill drank gin and pineapple juice, Ebby, described the principles of the Oxford Group (like the importance of absolute honesty when dealing with defects), and talked about his growing belief in God and the efficacy of prayer. Ebby’s words, and his sober demeanor, stayed with Bill, who later recalled, “The good of what he said stuck so well that in no waking moment thereafter could I get that man and his message out of my head.”

On December 11, Bill checked himself back into Towns Hospital, where he’d previously been treated. Ebby visited him there on December 14th and essentially helped Bill take what would become Steps Four, Five, Six, Seven and Eight. A mere few days later Bill had his “white light” experience and never took another drink.

Bill W. described his spiritual awakening after meeting with Ebby: “What happened next was electric. Suddenly, my room blazed with an indescribably white light. I was seized with an ecstasy beyond description. Every joy I had known was pale by comparison. The light, the ecstasy – I was conscious of nothing else for a time. Then, seen in the mind’s eye, there was a mountain. I stood upon its summit, where a great wind blew. A wind, not of air, but of spirit. In great, clean strength, it blew right through me. Then came the blazing thought, “You are a free man. I know not at all how long I remained in this state, but finally the light and the ecstasy subsided. I again saw the wall of my room. As I became quieter, a great peace stole over me, and this was accompanied by a sensation difficult to describe. I became acutely conscious of a Presence, which seemed like a veritable sea of living spirit. I lay on the shores of a new world.”

Ebby had carried the message of the Oxford Group and of alcoholism to Bill with great care and dedication—that recovery from alcoholism was possible using spiritual principles, but only if it was combined with practical actions. Bill was deeply impressed by Ebby’s words but was even more affected by Ebby’s example of action. Here was someone who drank like Bill – and yet Ebby was sober, due to a simple religious idea and a practical program of action. The results were an inexplicably different person, fresh-skinned, glowing face, with a different look in his eyes. A miracle sat directly across the kitchen table from Bill. Ebby was not some “do-gooder” who had read something in a book. Here was a hopeless alcoholic who had been completely defeated by John Barleycorn, and yet, had in effect, been raised from the dead. It was a message of hope for an alcoholic – that God would do for us what we could not do for ourselves. Bill Wilson never took another drink, and left Towns Hospital to dedicate the rest of his life to carrying the message to other alcoholics.

Ebby, however, took a different path, one that caused him to have a series of relapses. The man whom Bill Wilson called his sponsor could not stay sober himself. His life became a nightmarish succession of binges followed by short periods of sobriety. Ebby was sober two-and-a-half years when he died, but he did put this much together in his final years. We should give him credit for that because he gave us so much — particularly when he won the battle with ale that weekend in 1934 when he carried his message to Bill W. Without that magnificent victory, the outcome could have been much different for all of us.

In 1960, at the Long Beach, California Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous, Bill Wilson wrote this dedication in an AA book that he gave to Ebby:

“Dear Ebby,
No day passes that I do not remember that you brought me the message that saved me – and only God knows how many more.

In affection, Bill”

Lois Wilson shared her insights into Ebby in her biography, *Lois Remembers*, and stated that while Bill wanted sobriety with his whole soul, Ebby appeared to want just enough sobriety to stay out of trouble. In addition, Lois said, “Beyond that crucial visit with Bill, Ebby seemed to do little about helping others. He never appeared really a member of AA. After his first slip, many harmful thoughts seemed to take possession of him. He appeared jealous of Bill and critical, even when sober, of both the Oxford Group and AA.” Lois felt that it was important that AA’s know why Ebby was not considered the founder of AA. Ebby carried the message to Bill, but he never followed it up with the years of devoted action needed to develop the AA program by giving away what was so freely given to him. Ebby is an example of not following two of the “must’s” of the AA program: “we have to be willing to go to any length to get it” and that “half measures availed us nothing.”

Some of Ebby’s own letters bring to mind Lois’s observation noted earlier, that Ebby seemed to be “around” AA, but never really “in” it. Typical correspondence from AA’s devotes substantial discussion to the AA Program and the application of the Steps to their own lives. Ebby’s letters avoid these topics and are significant for what they don’t say.

Earlier, in 1947, his sister-in-law received a letter from Ebby, and she wrote back suggesting that the answer to his problems was to devote himself to helping others and then continued, “But as I read your letter this thought is far from your mind and you are again concerned with the petty and material affairs of your surroundings and the bickering’s and by-plays of your associates, with the thought still deep in your mind that you have been persecuted and discriminated against by others, while the real facts might well be that it is your own ego that is at fault.” (Con’t pg 5)

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GROUP DONATION ADDRESSES:

Please send donations to:

DISTRICT 13 TREASURER

P.O. Box 10653
Brooksville, FL 34603
(payable to District 13)

HERNANDO COUNTY

INTERGROUP
4116 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**

July 5th, 2021 at 6:15 PM
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1214 Broad St, Masaryktown, FL

INTERGROUP MEETING**First Friday of the month**

July 2nd, 2021 @ 6:30pm,
Forest Oaks Lutheran Ch
8555 Forest Oaks Blvd.,
Spring Hill, FL

Welcome Back**Unity****Meeting**

Hosted by

Hope Group

Saturday

July 10th

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**

4116 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

Information on local AA:

info@aahernando.org

Service Corner

Step Six

"We became willing to ask God to help us remove our defects of character."

HOW it works, Honest, Open-minded and Willing.

To arrive at Step Six we are assuming you have worked the previous five steps to the most honest of your abilities. You have been honest, you have stopped saying no, and you have been willing to ask for help; from God, yourself and another human being.

Now to Step six, how brilliant of the founders of this program to understand that to rid ourselves of all our defects of character all at once and completely would be an almost impossible task.

Suggested; become willing to turn over to your newfound Higher Power just one, two or a few of the most glaring defects and become willing to have that Higher Power help you to change those old bad habits just as that Higher Power removed the compulsion and obsession to drink alcohol.

Suggested; become willing to change your attitude. The old negative, selfish, self-centered thinking must be changed if one hopes to be returned to sane thinking.

Suggested; recovery is not a destination, it is a journey and changes for the better must be on going as you trudge the road to a happy destiny.

Therefore, approach Step Six with a positive attitude that says I will never be perfect; however, I can work on becoming a better person, every day for the rest of my life.

I will go to meetings to be reminded that I do not want to be the person I was before I started to work the Steps.

ME and the Boss, Brooksville, Florida

A.A. Publishes *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* Book in ASL

Alcoholics who are Deaf can now access A.A.'s program of recovery in a new American Sign Language translation of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

December 12, 2019

Tradition Six

"An AA group ought never endorse, finance or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose. "

Experience, the old timers tried it and it did not work.

Hospitals, clinics, re-habs, institutions, halfway houses, and etcetera may suggest that AA may be appropriate for their clients, however, AA as such should not be involved in any legal and or binding way.

"Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. ... Our primary purpose is **to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.**"

You cannot share what you do not have. Don't tell me, show me. Be the best example of the Big Book that someone may ever see, and the never ending huge list of cliches is plastered on some wall of some AA meeting room somewhere in the world.

Today, understand that an organization that is not organized requires that it remain Anonymous so that it can continue to do the work of their primary purpose.

Writers opinion: the use of AA meetings or functions to proselytize the beliefs of any religion, be it Christian, Muslim, Jewish or any other religion is a violation of Tradition Six. Thus, any person who declares themselves to be an alcoholic and wants to be a member of AA should be allowed to choose a God of their own understanding and need not adhere to any specific religion. Alcoholics Anonymous may not be the only way to get sober but mixing AA and religion is a good way to keep many a new candidate for recovery from making an honest and unbiased choice.

ME and the Boss, Brooksville, Florida

(Con't from pg 2)

AA's agree that no matter what happens to them, the most important thing is to not pick up that first "sucker" drink. Once alcohol is placed in our bodies, the results are physically inevitable in the same way that once a dose of castor oil has been taken, all the mental will power in the world is of no avail. Our problem as alcoholics centers in our minds, in having an entire psychic change as the result of taking the actions set out exactly in the 12 Steps. It is said in the rooms, "If you do what we did, you'll get what we got." Ebby was unable, for whatever reasons, to put the AA program of action into his life on a regular basis. Perhaps If Ebby had been willing and able to take similar actions of love and service, he would have been a co-founder with Bill Wilson. But he would not, or could not, do the day-to-day work with others needed to bring AA into a concrete reality. Rather than realistically looking at his own shortcomings in establishing AA, Ebby wallowed in resentments, the greatest obstacle to sobriety and the number one killer of alcoholics. For whatever the reasons, Ebby never seemed to give himself completely to the simple program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

There are many others who achieve periods of sobriety yet relapse from time to time. They are not to be condemned but welcomed back into the Fellowship. Their experience is a lesson to others that alcohol as an enemy is indeed cunning, baffling and powerful. If anyone might feel smug or superior, he or she should be grateful that they have not gotten that bad – yet. Whatever his problems may have been with sobriety, Bill was always grateful to Ebby and so should all AA's.

Bill said, in "The Language of the Heart", "Ebby had been enabled to bring me the gift of grace because he could reach me at depth through the language of the heart. He had pushed ajar that great gate through which all in AA have since passed to find their freedom under God."

And, finally, a Founder's Day should never be celebrated without an expression of gratitude to Sister Mary Ignatia. Bill W. wrote the following on a scroll for Sister Ignatia that can still be seen at Rosary Hall. This is the inscription:

IN GRATITUDE
FOR SISTER MARY IGNATIA
ON THE OCCASION OF HER GOLDEN JUBILEE

Dear Sister,

We of Alcoholics Anonymous look upon you as the finest friend and the greatest spirit we may ever know. We remember your tender ministrations to us in the days when AA was young. Your partnership with Dr. Bob in that early time has created for us a spiritual heritage of incomparable worth. In all the years since, we have watched you at the bedside of thousands. So watching, we have perceived ourselves to be the beneficiaries of that wondrous light which God has always sent through you to illumine our darkness. You have tirelessly tended our wounds; you have nourished us with your unique understanding and your matchless love. No greater gifts of Grace than these shall we ever have. Speaking for AA members throughout the world, I say: "May God abundantly reward you according to your blessed works – now and forever!"

In devotion.

Toomego,
the acronym for Too Much Ego.
(tu-me-go)

The individual that suffers with toomego should not be confused with the Control Freak, although there are many habits and *characteristics* which they have in common.

Some of the shortcomings that the toomego suffers with are the inability to look at themselves in a mirror, the upward pointed nose that does not allow them to see those who are beneath them, the need to always win in the game of one upmanship, bigger, better, smarter, best, and forgetting the EGO is itself the acronym for Easing God Out.

There is a God today and it is not me, or you. As we well know, most drunks are egomaniacs that suffer with an inferiority complex. They are the sickest who allow one or the other of these character defects to dominate their lives. Recovery is about putting balance into one's life, to think of others, to show and know what unconditional love is. In Alcoholics Anonymous we are suggested to work the steps and by doing so we become humble enough to put ourselves into the right size, we leave the ego at the door.

Today, look into the mirror, make sure your nose is pointed straight ahead, be a good loser or winner and pray to the God of your understanding that all of your choices today will be driven by the motive of doing the next right thing.

May God bless you with a contented ego.

ME and the BOSS, Brooksville, FL

"THE JOKES ON US"

What's the difference between a heavy drinker and an alcoholic?

When the heavy drinker gets arrested for DUI he says "ugh, I shouldn't have drank that last shot."

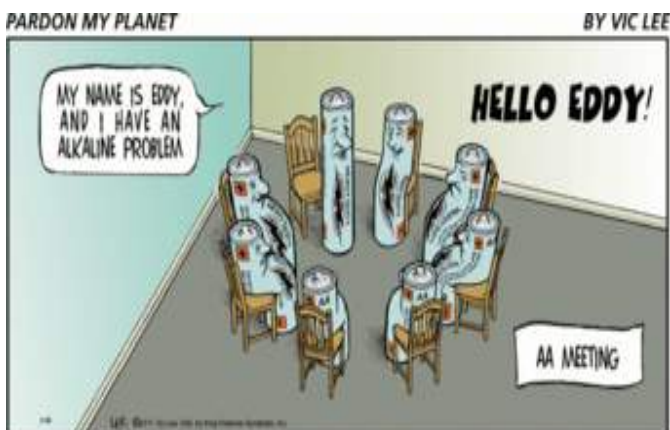
When the alcoholic gets arrested for DUI he says "ugh, I should have taken a different street home."

Fun & Frolic

Group. Thursday 11:00am
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
2301 Deltona Blvd.
Spring Hill, FL.

Fun & Frolic is an open discussion, small group with "dynamite" sobriety! The topic of this meeting was "connecting with and helping others". Sharing our experience, strength and hope, one day at a time is the only way to stay sober! Pointing out the fact that our primary purpose is to stay sober and carry the message to others who are sick and suffering. We become members of the "No Matter What" club. When life comes in on us, and it will, we go to any length to stay sober - No Matter What! The message that I left the meeting with was, "Where God Is There Will Be True Victory". This is a small group looking for support, so please visit Fun & Frolic Group - I guarantee you will be blessed!

In Service
Eleanor B
DCM District 13



ATTENTION!! WE MOVED!!

The Hernando County Intergroup Office is now bigger and better!! We moved to **4116 Lamson Avenue**, Spring Hill, Fl.(right next door to where we were).

We have got a huge inventory of AA Literature, Books, Cards, Audio/Visual, Medallions, etc. We can even "special order" any item in our catalog!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!

Please contact me if you are interested, training is available!!

In Service,

JJ Morrison
Intergroup Office Manager
info@aahernando.org
Office # 352-683-4597

Intergroup Treasurers Report April 2021
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	<u>Apr 21</u>		<u>Apr 21</u>	<u>Jan - Apr 21</u>
Income				
Group Contributions	1,320.75	Algood Grp	80.00	160.00
Sales		Audio BB Grp	0.00	235.00
AAWS Books	149.00	Gratitude Night	0.00	317.00
Medallions	137.80	Hernando Beach	100.00	100.00
Non AA Books	-139.03	Hope Grp	100.00	100.00
Other Recovery Items	63.50	Let Go and Let God	0.00	50.00
Sales - Other	14.25	Living Sober Grp	0.00	100.00
Unity Meeting	341.50	No Home Group	0.00	17.61
Other Types of Income - Other	<u>60.00</u>	Precisely II	0.00	200.00
Total Income	1,947.77	Ridge Manor Grp	300.00	300.00
Cost of Goods Sold		Rough Road Grp	0.00	2.70
Less: Cost of Goods Sold	<u>1,094.86</u>	Singleness of Purpose	125.00	125.00
Gross Profit	<u>852.91</u>	Sunset Grp	150.00	600.00
Expense		The Steps We Took	0.00	50.74
Rent - Unity	150.00	There is a Solution	60.00	90.00
Electric Exp	93.42	Tranquility Group	75.00	75.00
Rent, Parking, Utilities	720.00	tuesday night B.B.	100.00	100.00
Meeting List Printing	-4.00	Umbrella Group	0.00	5.00
Printing and Copying	0.00	Unity Meeting	170.75	170.75
Telephone, Internet, Website	<u>156.86</u>	WISE Women	0.00	100.00
Total Expense	<u>1,116.28</u>	Women's Serenity Group	60.00	60.00
Net Income	-263.37		<u>1,320.75</u>	<u>2,958.80</u>

District 13 Treasurers Report

		<u>Apr 21</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>			Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	TOTAL
Bank Beg Balance		2,733.27		A Desire/Friendship Grp		440.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	440.00
Income				AlGood Grp		0.00	0.00	0.00	30.00	30.00
Group Contributions				Audio Big Book Group		235.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	235.00
Corrections Contributions		87.10	135.94	Hope Group		0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Group Contributions - Other		365.00	1,457.00	Let Go Let God		50.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	75.00
HCI 1/2 Communique		<u>0.00</u>	<u>510.00</u>	Living Sober		0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Total Income		452.10	2,102.94	Rough Road Group		37.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.00
Expense				Singleness Of Purpose Gp		0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Archives Rent		60.00	60.00	Sunset Group		0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	150.00
Bank Charges		0.00	87.85	There Is A Solution Grp		30.00	0.00	0.00	60.00	90.00
Communique printing		255.00	1,020.00	Tranquility Group		0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Postage/mailbox		0.00	76.50			792.00	0.00	0.00	665.00	1,457.00
Printing		0.00	10.00						(575.00)	
Total Expense		<u>315.00</u>	<u>1,254.35</u>	Corrections Beg Bal		900.61			*****	
Net Income		<u>137.10</u>	<u>848.59</u>			Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	TOTAL
Ending Balance		2,870.37		Hope Group		0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	3.00
5/3 deposit in transit		<u>575.00</u>		Intergroup		5.41	20.43	0.00	8.55	34.39
		*****		Ridge Manor Big Book Grp		0.00	0.00	0.00	58.55	58.55
				Rough Road Group		0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	20.00
				Singleness Of Purpose Gp		0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	20.00
				TOTAL		<u>5.41</u>	<u>23.43</u>	<u>20.00</u>	<u>87.10</u>	<u>135.94</u>
				Corrections Ending Bal		<u>1,036.55</u>				

JUNE 2021 ANNIVERSARIES

<u>Group Anniversaries</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Let Go & Let God</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Sunset Grp</u>	<u>Years</u>
WISE Women	14	Sandy	3	Warner	4
East Does It	38	Kathy	35		
		Larry A	41	<u>Tranquility</u>	
				Michael D	3
		<u>Principles B4 Personalities</u>		Candy S	17
<u>Member Anniversaries</u>		Kim B	1		
<u>Al Good</u>		Donna M	8		
Dave P	5	Ben P	11		
Sam P	34	Karen P	11		
Roy T	45			Ernie P	
		<u>Promises</u>		My sincerest apologies	
		Bobby W	34	for the typo. The	
				correct number of years	
<u>Aripeka Open Speaker</u>		<u>Ridge Manor Big Book</u>		and well earned in my	
Jennifer	4	Waylon J	6	opinion, is 22 Years!!!	
Andy	40	Brooke M	10		
		Lydia G	15		
<u>Heavy Hitters</u>					
Michelle J.	3	<u>Rough Road</u>			
Michele F.	7	Jerry B	43		
Maggie M.	8				
Mary S.	30	<u>Serenity Sisters</u>			
Maria Z.	30	Dee N	24		
Jim W.	38				
		<u>Singleness of Purpose</u>			
<u>Hernando Beach</u>		Anthony C	4		
Sam P	34				
		<u>Spring Hill Monday Night</u>			
<u>Hope Grp</u>		Bill OD	41		
Danny B	3	Laura D	22		
Waylon J	6	Rich K	20		
Lisa W	14				

Group and Individual ANNIVERSARIES

Please provide your information on anniversaries by the 15th of the month to anniversaries@aahernando.org