

COMMUNIQUE

HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

R. H. SMITH, M. D.
AKRON, OHIO

2ND NATIONAL BLDG.
TELEPHONE: ME-8523 REG. NO.

FOR alcoholics

R

ADDRESS _____ DATE Feb 1937

always remember it

1. Trust God
2. Clean house
3. Help others

NR. 1 2 3 INF. *[Signature]* M. D.

2020 INTERVIEW OF DIANE S.

Diane's Higher Power that day in July 1981 was a California doctor. After 10 years of abusing other substances daily, followed by four and a half years of hard drinking daily, she had been very ill with colitis and was brimming with self-loathing. The evidence was clear: her drinking was continuous from a morning drink to quell the shakes to the last drink before unhealthy sleep, her neglect of her two sons was consistent with the start of her drinking, her world was crazy.

Diane determined to visit Doctor "Feel Good" hoping for a prescription to obliterate morning shakes and clear the insanity she felt. At his office, the doctor listened then lifted the script pad. He eased the pen eased fully across and completely down the pad. Diane assumed this was a lengthy and promising list of medications to cure all the mess she faced. In fact, Diane's actual Higher Power has quite a different list and outcome in mind. (In AA, we come to learn there are no coincidences.)

Turning the completed prescription into Diane's open hand, the doctor said, "You have a disease that the medical community cannot help you with." He continued to say he had written down information about seven different daily AA meetings in that California city. The doctor suggested she attend all these meetings starting that day. Their conversation closed with the doctor saying, "I may be there tonight."

Diane went to her first AA meeting that Friday night. AA reached out to her with love and acceptance and a cup of tea. (She almost spilled it while drinking only half of it.) She felt supported as she left with a list of phone numbers.

Her AA journey had begun. Diane got a sponsor she could relate to and planned her 90 in 90. Day 56 was a problem. She was home alone for the first time without her kids. She drank. Diane still those to hit a meeting that night. She drank again, but she called her sponsor immediately, because Diane knew if she did not, she would not tell her sponsor about her relapse. And so with rigorous honesty, Diane and started all over again. A new 90 in 90. Diane hit her reset. Looking back, Diane explained that relapse taught her a key lesson; every single thing those AA's told her was true.

Diane took that lesson to heart on July 17, 1981. Since then her experiences in continuous sobriety have allowed her to live the AA promises. Diane said, "Getting sober was the single most important thing in my life. AA gave me my life, my God, my family, my ability to care for my elderly family members, my love, Bill (also a member of the fellowship) and my ability to succeed in running my own business."

Today Diane is consistently involved with the steps trying one day at a time to fully live an AA program, one which has given her that life beyond her wildest dreams.

Interviewed By Kathy C.

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District 13 Officers**DCM**

Ken A. 702-764-7392
dcm@aahernando.org

ALTERNATE DCM

VACANT

TREASURER

Nina V. 352-597-7363
dtreasurer@aahernando.org

SECRETARY

Sue D.
dsecretary@aahernando.org

Intergroup Officers**CHAIRPERSON**

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

ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON

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

SECRETARY

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

TREASURER

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

OFFICE MANAGER

Mike E. 352-346-6428
info@aahernando.org

ASSISTANT MANAGER

J.J. M.
asstmanager@aahernando.org

INTERGROUP LIAISON

Susan G. 503-830-7360
ilaison@aahernando.org

HOTLINE 352-683-4597**Chairperson:**

Johnny V. 352-777-1575

WEBMASTER

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

Intergroup Meeting**First Friday of the month**

March 6th & April 3rd, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Forest Oaks Lutheran Church
 8555 Forest Oaks Blvd.,
 Spring Hill

**District 13 Committee
Chairpersons**

Accessibilities Kathleen C.
 352-678-2127
accessibilities@aahernando.org

Literature Committee

Eleanor B. 484-661-8753
literature@aahernando.org
 Alt.: Jim B

**Professional Community/ Public
Information Committee**

Jeff B. – 813-205-1750
PICPC@aahernando.org

Treatment Committee

Kevin M.
treatment@aahernando.org

Archives Committee

Steve D.
archives@aahernando.org

Corrections Committee

Howard M. corrections@aahernando.org

Communiqué Committee

Susan G. 503-830-7360
communique@aahernando.org
 Alt: Laurie C. 207-712-5677

Grapevine Committee

Michelle B. 813-526-5281
grapevine@aahernando.org

**District Meeting****First Monday of the month**

March 2nd & April 3rd, 2020 at 6:15 PM
 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
 1214 Broad St., Masaryktown

Unity Meeting

Saturday March 14th

Hosted by:

Let Go Let Goo Group

Saturday April 11th

Hosted by:

**WISE Women and
Serendipity Sisters**

Saturday May 9th

Hosted by:

More Serenity Sisters

Doors open at 6:30

Meeting at 7:00 pm.

Nativity Lutheran Church
 6363 Commercial Way
 Weeki Wachee, FL

**2020 INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION**

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
 July 2-5, 2020 | Detroit, Michigan
Love and Tolerance Is Our Code

REGISTRATION OPENS:

SEPT 9, 2019

ADVANCED DEADLINE IS:

APRIL 15, 2020

WAYS TO REGISTER:

Online: www.aa.org

Fax: (508) 743-3605

Mail to:

2020 International Convention
check, money order or credit card
c/o Convention Data Services
7 Technology Park Drive
Bourne, MA 02532

The registration fees after April 15, 2020 will be \$140 USD. Registration forms sent via mail and received after May 15, 2020, may not be processed. After May 15, 2020, online registration will remain open.

Hernando County Intergroup

Central Office & Book Store

4118 Lamson Ave.
 Lamson Woods Plaza
 Spring Hill, FL 34608
 Office Manager: Mike E.
352-683-4597

Intergroup Office Hours: Mon - Fri
 9 am-5 pm Saturday 10 am-2 pm
info@aahernando.org

Group Donation Addresses

Attention all Group Treasurers:

Please send donations to the following:

District 13 Treasurer

P.O. Box 5705
 Spring Hill, FL 34611
(please make checks payable to District 13)

Hernando County Intergroup

Donna M. Treasurer
 4118 Lamson Ave.,
 Spring Hill, FL 34608
(please make checks payable to Hernando County Intergroup)

North Florida Area Assembly

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

General Service Office

PO Box 459
 Grand Central Station
 New York, NY 10163
www.alcoholics-anonymous.org
(Please make checks payable to GSO)



ALTERNATE DCM NEEDED

There is a vacancy at the District Level. The Alternate District Committee Member position is open. Pursuant to the District 13 Structures and Guidelines all past and current General Service Representatives are eligible to run for the position. Others may be nominated if such nominations are accepted by a two-thirds majority vote.

All candidates should have a thorough understanding and appreciation of the AA Steps, Traditions and Concepts and be prepared to place principles before personalities. The Alternate DCM assists and participates in District responsibilities and should be prepared to serve as DCM if the DCM is unable to fulfill his/her responsibilities. The election is currently scheduled to occur during the March District meeting on Monday, March 2 at 6:15 pm. (Unless a motion is made and passes to move the election to a different date).

CALENDAR

Mon	3/02/20	District Meeting 6:15 PM	1214 Broad St, Masaryktown
Fri	3/06/20	Intergroup Meeting 6:30 PM	8555 Forest Oaks Blvd, Spring Hill
Sat	3/14/20	Unity Meeting 6:30 PM	6363 Commercial Way, Weeki Wachee
Sun	3/15/20	District 13 Pre-Conference Workshop 3:00 PM	1214 Broad St., Masaryktown
Sat	4/18/20	Hernando County Intergroup Annual Picnic, Noon,	Tom Varn Park, 301 Darby Lane, Brooksville

From Central Bulletin Volume 1, No. 2 November 1942

GOSSIP

Gossip is one of the cardinal sins. It is not a single act, like murder, that stop's one's life and falls back to punish the offender. It is the breath of the Devil, soiling every ear it touches. It is the **most deadly** of poisons. It blights many lives, it smites the innocent with the guilty. An old Italian legend tell the following:

In the old days, a peasant confessed to a priest that he had slandered an innocent man. The priest said to him, "For your penance do this now: Take a bag of chicken down. Go to every yard in the town and drop one bit down into each garden. Do not miss one yard. When you have finished, return to me."

The sinner believed his punishment was light. With his bag of down he made the circuit of the village and carefully dropped one soft feather into each garden. Then he reported to the priest, saying "I have done my penance."

"No, my son", replied the old abbe, "You will not have done your penance until you take this bag, go again on your rounds, collect every feather you have dropped and bring it here to me."

The gossipier protested that it would be impossible: he could not find the bits of down in a lifetime; many of them had blown away.

"So it is with gossip," replied the priest. "It is easily dropped. But never again, no matter how hard you try can you gather back the words you have so thoughtlessly scattered."

"Create in me a clean heart, O, Lord."



**TRADITIONS
CORNER**
TRADITION THREE

(Copyright© The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., February 1948)

The Third Tradition is a sweeping statement indeed; it takes in a lot of territory. Some people might think it too idealistic to be practical. It tells every alcoholic in the world that he may become, and remain, a member of Alcoholics Anonymous so long as he says so. In short, Alcoholics Anonymous has no membership rule.

Why is this so? Our answer is simple and practical. Even in self-protection, we do not wish to erect the slightest barrier between ourselves and the fellow alcoholic who still suffers. We know that society has been demanding that he conform to its laws and conventions. But the essence of his alcoholic malady is the fact that he has been unable or unwilling to conform either to the laws of man or God. If he is anything, the sick alcoholic is a rebellious nonconformist. How well we understand that; every member of Alcoholics Anonymous was once a rebel himself. Hence we cannot offer to meet him at any halfway mark. We must enter the dark cave where he is and show him that we understand. We realize that he is altogether too weak and confused to jump hurdles. If we raise obstacles, he might stay away and perish. He might be denied his priceless opportunity.

So when he asks, "Are there any conditions?" we joyfully reply, "No, not a one." When skeptically he comes back saying, "But certainly there must be things that I have to do and believe," we quickly answer, "In Alcoholics Anonymous there are no musts." Cynically, perhaps, he then inquires, "What is this all going to cost me?" We are able to laugh and say, "Nothing at all, there are no fees and dues." Thus, in a brief hour, is our friend disarmed of his suspicion and rebellion. His eyes begin to open on a new world of friendship and understanding. Bankrupt idealist that he has been, his ideal is no longer a dream. After years of lonely search it now stands revealed. The reality of Alcoholics Anonymous bursts upon him. For Alcoholics Anonymous is saying, "We have something priceless to give, if only you will receive." That is all. But to our new friend, it is everything. Without more ado, he becomes one of us.

Our membership Tradition does contain, however, one vitally important qualification. That qualification relates to the use of our name, Alcoholics Anonymous. We believe that any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation. Here our purpose is clear and unequivocal. For obvious reasons we wish the name Alcoholics Anonymous to be used only in connection with straight AA activities. One can think of no AA member who would like, for example, to see the formation of "dry" AA groups, "wet" AA groups, communist AA groups. Few, if any, would wish our groups to be designated by religious denominations. We cannot lend the AA name, even indirectly, to other activities, however worthy. If we do so we shall become hopelessly compromised and divided. We think that AA should offer its experience to the whole world for whatever use can be made of it. But not its name. Nothing could be more certain.

Let us of AA therefore resolve that we shall always be inclusive and never exclusive, offering all we have to all, save our title. May all barriers be thus leveled, may our unity thus be preserved. And may God grant us a long life --and a useful one!

All Inclusive Never Exclusive,

**"We aren't a bit afraid you'll harm us, never mind
how twisted or violent you may be."**

from Twelve Steps Twelve Traditions

www.aahernando.org

SERVICE CORNER

Established and supported by local groups to carry out the functions of a centralized office, intergroups have provided thousands of desperate alcoholics with their first contact with Alcoholics Anonymous, either over the phone, in person, or increasingly online. What Bill W. called “A.A.’s first organized service center”—the forerunner of today’s intergroup—sprang up in the Chicago suburb of Evanston. Around 1940, an A.A. member named Sylvia used the proceeds of her monthly alimony check to rent an apartment and establish a phone line. In 1941, after publication of the Jack Alexander article about A.A. in the Saturday Evening Post, Sylvia’s apartment began to resemble, according to Bill, “a sort of Chicago Grand Central,” with so many phone calls that Sylvia had to enlist the aid of Grace Coultice, a non-alcoholic secretary. Most intergroup offices at that time were simply phone lines listed as belonging to A.A. but were in fact connected to members’ homes. Sylvia’s apartment inspired the opening of numerous early intergroup offices all over the Midwest. By the time of the first General Service Conference in April 1951, at least 16 intergroup offices were serving local groups.

Many of those who have never had occasion to call intergroup (or who look up meetings on websites in strange towns without quite thinking of who is maintaining that website) wonder why they should support intergroup offices with their financial donations. The General Service Office publishes Guidelines and other service material that share the accumulated experience of intergroups in the United States, Canada and worldwide. These define an intergroup as “an A.A. service office that involves partnerships among groups in a community—just as A.A. groups themselves are partnerships of individuals. It is established to carry out functions which are best handled by a centralized office....It exists to aid the groups in their common purpose of carrying the Alcoholics Anonymous message to the alcoholic who still suffers. (*Box 459, Fall 2017*).

Why is Intergroup the subject of the Service Corner this month? A simple email and phone call from Connecticut to the Hernando County Intergroup office helped keep two people sober today. Michelle S. called and emailed our Intergroup office and was “shocked how quickly a woman named Laurie responded to her.” Michelle received phone numbers of several local women so she could make contact and remain accountable while on vacation in March. Her last visit to Spring Hill, Florida resulted in a relapse after 20 years of sobriety. This time Michelle wants to ensure she remains sober during her stay here in March. My phone rang yesterday afternoon after a PLOM type of day, as Tom D. calls it (Poor Little Old Me). I initially did not pick up the call, assuming it was spam or a debt collector since it was from Connecticut. Thankfully, my higher power and my sponsor’s voice directed me with good orderly direction and I immediately returned the call. Michelle and I talked for quite some time about her relapse and about how amazed she was regarding the fast and friendly response she received from our Intergroup office. Michelle described her local intergroup office as one that is no longer operating. She was planning on contacting her delegate in Connecticut if our local office had not responded. Michelle now has five years of sobriety and does not want to lose what she has today so she is planning out her meetings ahead of time and talking to me and others before her arrival. I told her that her Hernando County family is awaiting her arrival and will take very good care of her during her stay. I realized that Michelle had what I wanted, a desperate desire to stay connected and remain sober after a relapse. In her voice I heard a very grateful and eager alcoholic who was beyond thankful that our local office answered her call for help. In her voice I heard what I needed to hear that day. Her voice, her gratitude, her desperate desire to remain sober filled me with the hope and desperation I briefly lost during my poor little old me days recently. It is so very true that it only takes one alcoholic helping another to survive this cunning, baffling and powerful disease and while talking with Michelle I imagined Dr. Bob and Bill W. sitting with one another after Bill picked up the phone in desperation, these strangers talked to one another like they had met years ago, not realizing they were both saving each other’s lives. Michelle helped me more than I helped her. That is exactly How it Works. I needed the reminder and I am grateful we have the Intergroup office and volunteers that we have. Michelle does not have a local Intergroup to rely upon and I was reminded that gratitude for what is right in front of me is what will keep me alive today. One day and one conversation at a time. (*Anonymous*).

HERNANDO COUNTY INTERGROUP JANUARY TREASURER'S REPORT

January 2020

Beginning Balance

Checking	6060.90
add deposits	2965.01
less expenses	(3214.65)
Ending Balance	5811.26

Beginning Balance

Savings	3062.31
add interest	0.02
Ending Balance	3062.33

Jan 2020	<u>TOTAL</u>
Anonymous	1.15
More Serenity Sisters	25.00
Precisely II	100.00
Principles Before Personalities	81.60
Ridge Manor Grp	200.00
Rough Road Grp	123.00
Step Sisters	20.00
There is a Solution	25.00
Unity Meeting	96.00
WISE Women	100.00
Women's Serenity Group	36.90
	<u>808.65</u>

Income:

Unity 7th Trad	96.00	
Group Contributions	<u>712.65</u>	808.65
Sales:		
AA Grapevine	38.00	
AAWS Books	564.44	
Medallions	283.00	
Other Recovery Items	<u>280.00</u>	1,165.44
Other Income:		
Archives Rent	90.00	
Unity 50/50-Soda	<u>170.00</u>	<u>260.00</u>
		<u>2234.09</u>
Less: Cost of Goods Sold	<u>(909.55)</u>	
Total COGS		<u>(909.55)</u>
Gross Profit:		<u>1,324.54</u>

Expense:

Filing Fee Non-Profit	70.00	
Computer Exp	99.99	
Printing Meeting Lists	209.50	
Rent Unity	150.00	
Rent	360.00	
Office Supplies	50.31	
Square fees	1.18	
Telephone, Internet, Website	800.06	
Unity Exp	47.93	
Utility Exp	85.71	
Total Expense		<u>1874.68</u>
Net Income		<u>-550.14</u>

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

With the realization that A.A. must steer clear of outside contributions in order to maintain its autonomy and independence came the understanding that the money necessary for A.A.'s survival would have to come from individual A.A. members and groups. As Bill W. put it in 1957, "Our spiritual way of life is safe for future generations if, as a Society, we resist the temptation to receive money from the outside world. But this leaves us with a responsibility — one that every member ought to understand. We cannot skimp when the treasurer of our group passes the hat. Our groups, our areas, and A.A. as a whole will not function unless our services are sufficient and their bills are paid. (reprinted from F-3 Self-Support AAWS.)

ANNIVERSARIES

Please provide your group anniversaries by the 15th to anniversaries@aahernando.org

Group Anniversary(date registered GSO)

Serenity Sisters	29	Years
More Serenity Sisters	28	Years
Heavy Hitters	28	Years
Steps We Took	19	Years
Steps in the Right Direction	15	Years

Al Good

Jim S.	38	Years
Scott S.	10	Years
Bill S.	9	Years

Aripeka Open Speaker

Terry B.	36	Years
Richard E.	32	Years

Fun & Frolic

George H.	43	Years
Raymond L.	32	Years

Heavy Hitters

Cliff	36	Years
Wayne S.	11	Years
Robin W.	5	Years
Nikko L.	1	Years

Hernando Beach

John D.	31	Years
Kathy A.	16	Years

Hope Group

George H.	43	Years
Lisa B.	3	Years
John S.	2	Years

Ladies Big Book

Angela R.	3	Years
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Let's Get Serious

George H.	43	Years
Tracey R.	20	Years

Let Go & Let God

John D.	31	Years
Ellen	20	Years
Kathy A.	16	Years
Andrew S.	1	Years

MARCH 2020 ANNIVERSARIES

More Serenity Sisters

Louella	9	Years
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Principles Before Personalities

Jim S.	38	Years
Steve S.	32	Years
Howard B.	11	Years
Scott S.	10	Years
Bill S.	9	Years
Terry M.	7	Years
John P.	9	Years
Tracy H.	3	Years
Dan M.	2	Years

Promises

Frank S.	12	Years
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Ridge Manor Big Book

Kathy H.	46	Years
Gail	7	Years

Rough Road

Chuck S.	47	Years
Pat H.	46	Years
John W.	44	Years
Ray L.	32	Years
Scott H.	23	Years
Charlie W.	1	Years

Saturday Night Beginners

Tracey R.	20	Years
Rick B.	10	Years

Serendipity Sisters

Sherill A.	18	Years
Eileen B.	10	Years

Serenity Sisters

Joanne H.	23	Years
Carole M.	8	Years
Erin M.	3	Years

Singleness of Purpose

Howard B.	11	Years
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Spring Hill Monday Night

Terry B.	36	Years
Andy W.	20	Years
Dave K.	6	Years

Step Sisters

Louella	9	Years
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Steps We Took Friday Night

Ed B.	40	Years
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Tranquility Group

Howard B.	11	Years
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Umbrella Group

Jim S.	38	Years
Kathleen G.	31	Years
Mike(Michigan)	28	Years
Terry	7	Years

Women's Sunday Serenity

Erin C.	29	Years
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Young Men's

Andy B.	34	Years
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The Birthday Plan

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 per year. 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. (reprinted from www.aa.org)

**The General Service Office
Post Office Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163-0459**

DISTRICT 13 TREASURER'S REPORT

	DISTRICT YTD	CORRECTIONS YTD	JANUARY CHECKING ACCOUNT	
Aripeka Big Book			Beginning Balance	3267,81
Aripeka Open Speaker			Intergroup Reimb.	
Ask It Basket			Group Contributions	324,74
Audio Big Book			Indiv Contributions	173.00
Brooksville Heavy Hitters			Expenses	-815,15
BB				
Easy Does It			Closing Balance	2,950.40
Fellowship We Crave				
Friendship Group			SAVINGS ACCOUNT	
Fun & Frolic Group			Beginning Balance	1000.35
Happy Hour Group			Ending Balance	1000.36
Hernando Beach Group				
Hope			EXPENSES	
Ladies Big Book Study			AAWS	
Let Go & Let God			Accessibilities	
Lets Get Serious			Archives (rent thru Feb)	90.00
Life Goes On			Area Assembly Rms	431.79
Living Sober			Bank Fees/ Bank Fees/Checks	
More Serenity Sisters			CPC/PI	
Principles before	\$81.60	\$81.60	Communique	241.29
Personalities		\$20.00		
Promises			Events/Workshops	
Ridge Manor Big Book	\$40.00	\$40.00	Gas Reimbursement	
Rough Road Group	\$25.00	\$25.00	Grapevine	
Saturday Night Beginner		\$41.00	Literature	
Serenity Sisters			Office Supplies (tape recorder)	51.07
Singleness of Purpose			Photocopies	
Spring Hill			Postage	
Step in the Right			Rent (\$15/mo.)	
Direction			Treatment	
Step Sisters	\$20.00	\$20.00	Other	
Steps We Took Study				
Group			TOTAL EXPENSES	815.50
Sunset Group	\$25.00	\$25.00		
The Usual Suspects			CORRECTIONS	
There is a Solution	\$50.00	\$50.00	Beginning Balance	693.73
Thursday Night Step				
Group			Contributions	61.00
Together We Stand			Ending Balance	754.73
Tranquility Group				
Umbrella Group				
W.I.S.E. Women				
Womens Serenity	\$22.14	\$22.14		
Young Men's Group				
Individuals Contributions	\$173.00	\$173.00		
Intergroup Contribution				
Unvouched				
TOTAL	\$436.74	\$436.74		
		\$61.00		\$61.00