

# COMMUNIQUE

HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

## “ARE THEIR ALCOHOLICS IN THE COAST GUARD”

As a young man in the Coast Guard, I couldn't figure out what was wrong. I worked hard and played harder. My drinking was always getting me into minor scrapes, and it was getting a little out of control, but I thought I was ok. It was the price of doing business Then I got a DUI. As I was sitting in jail in Seattle, I couldn't believe what was happening. The judge (a really nice guy) had just called me a menace to society. ME!!!! My court date was a week away and I didn't know if my executive officers would get me out of here. Hell, they were ready to hand me my walking papers, they wanted me out! They did come, got out of jail and they handed me court martial papers.

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I was in deep trouble; thought came to me to call AA. An ex Navy guy named Frankie D. came to 12 step me. He listened to me and let me tell him my story and tended my story with his. It was the same story! 13 years prior he was on a ship tied to the same pier mine was, but he had been court martialled out of the Navy.

After going to meetings for 60+ days I was given a second chance, they would hold the court martial in abeyance. If I got into trouble, including drinking while in Vietnam I would be sent back to Seattle and court martialled. With resentment. I agreed. that resentment kept me sober. Frankie told me “don't drink between meetings, read the book and find another recovering Alcoholic when you get into Port.” I did what Frankie said and stayed sober for the 11 months in Vietnam.

After I went back to Seattle, I stayed sober and went to meetings. Four years sober I was transferred to the Coast Guard Headquarters to start a service wide Alcohol Program. Actually, they weren't even sure there were any alcoholics in the service, there were! This was the beginning; we structured a program based on AA. I also became an Alcohol Counselor

After doing that for a few years I left and found a job with the Forestry Service in Idaho and Utah. I loved this job, the freedom of working outdoors and taking care of the campgrounds and meeting all the campers.

I came to Florida often to visit family and after losing my Stepmom, I decided to move here permanently to take care of my Dad. After losing my dad, I was at a meeting one day and talking to a woman after the meeting, I happen to mention how bored I was, well that is all it took. She told me to get my butt to the Intergroup office and sign up for phone service. I've been working in the office for the last 5 years and enjoy every minute. Being able to help a drunk, is what I need to stay sober whether just giving meeting information or maybe picking them up for a meeting. Volunteering is my way of paying back and the gratitude I get for what AA has given me.

AA has worked for me for the last 51 years.

*Thomas C, Pasco County, FL*

[www.aahernando.org](http://www.aahernando.org)



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HEARRT@AAHERNANDO.ORG



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484-661-8753

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**ALTERNATE DCM**

Vacant

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Vacant

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**WEBMASTER**

Laurie C. 207-712-5677

[webmaster@aahernando.org](mailto:webmaster@aahernando.org)

**Intergroup Meeting****First Friday of the month**

July 10<sup>th</sup> & Aug 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:30pm

Outside (bring a chair)

Forest Oaks Lutheran Church 8555

Forest Oaks Blvd., SH, FL

**District 13 Committee  
Chairpersons****Accessibilities**

Kathleen C.

352-678-2127

[accessibilities@aahernando.org](mailto:accessibilities@aahernando.org)

**Literature Committee**

Eleanor B. 484-661-8753

[literature@aahernando.org](mailto:literature@aahernando.org)

Alternate: Jim B

[alliterature@aahernando.org](mailto:alliterature@aahernando.org)

**Public Information/Cooperating  
with the Professional Community**

Jeff B. – 813-205-1750

[PICPC@aahernando.org](mailto:PICPC@aahernando.org)

**Treatment Committee**

Kevin M.

[treatment@aahernando.org](mailto:treatment@aahernando.org)

**Archives Committee**

Steve D.

[archives@aahernando.org](mailto:archives@aahernando.org)

**Corrections Committee**

Howard M.

[corrections@aahernando.org](mailto:corrections@aahernando.org)

**Communiqué Committee**

Susan G. 503-830-7360

[communiqué@aahernando.org](mailto:communiqué@aahernando.org)

Alt: Laurie C. 207-712-5677

[webmaster@aahernando.org](mailto:webmaster@aahernando.org)

**Grapevine Committee**

Michelle B. 813-526-5281

[grapevine@aahernando.org](mailto:grapevine@aahernando.org)

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

July 6 & Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 at 6:15 PM

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

1214 Broad St, Masaryktown, FL

**Unity Meeting**

Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup>

**CANCELLED**

Saturday Aug 8th

**TBD**

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](mailto:unity@aahernando.org)

**2020 INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION  
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

July 2-5

In Detroit, MI

Has been

**CANCELLED**

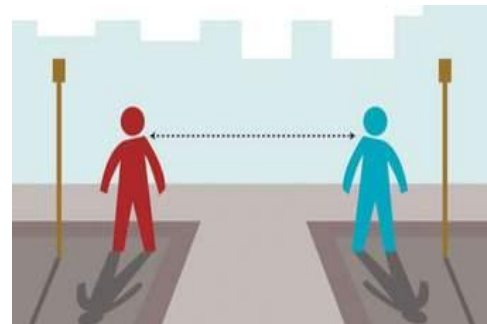
*Love and Tolerance Is Our Code*

There is however a  
new **Virtual  
Experience**

**2020 International  
Convention**

Just follow this link:

<https://2020convention.aa.org/>



**Hernando County Intergroup**

**Central Office & Book Store**

4118 Lamson Ave. Lamson  
Woods Plaza Spring Hill, FL  
34608 Office Manager: JJ M  
**352-683-4597**

Intergroup Office Hours: Mon - Fri 9  
am-1 pm Saturday 10 am-2 pm  
**info@ahernando.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**

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)*



**DCM**

A big thanks to Ken A for his endurance during his time as D-13 DCM. We are sorry to see you go. We appreciated your understanding and appreciation of the AA Steps, Traditions and Concepts and your preparedness to place principles before personalities. You have left us in capable hands as you took an active participation in sharing your knowledge and duties with your Alternate Eleanor.

Welcome Eleanor as our new DCM, per D-13 Structures and Guidelines you step right in as the DCM and we know you will thrive. Many Blessings to you both.

**DISTRICT SECRETARY NEEDED**

The District Secretary position is also open. Pursuant to the District 13 Structures and Guidelines. Duties include: Recording and distributing the minutes of District meetings; keep up mailing lists and sends out any District mailings/emails. secretary can act as liaison between officers and committee members. The secretary's responsibilities can be found in the AA Service Manual page S46. The election is currently scheduled to occur during the August District meeting on Monday, August 3 at 6:15 pm. (Unless a motion is made and passes to move the election to a different date).

**COVID-19 and AA Meetings**

Although we have no affiliation, please remember to follow all the CDC Guidelines in our meetings. This is about keeping our fellow AA's safe from this highly contagious virus.

Emergency Management and the Florida Department of Health in Hernando County encourage residents to remain informed. We can all help to prevent the spread of disease by:

1. Washing your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing
2. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
3. Avoid close contact with people who are sick, and stay home when you are sick
4. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
5. Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe

Check [www.AAhernando.org](http://www.AAhernando.org) for meeting information and [Nature Coast Serenity facebook page](#) for daily updates by Nancy E HEAART chair.

**JULY CALENDAR**

Fri 07/03/20 Intergroup Meeting 6:30 PM  
8555 Forest Oaks Blvd, SH  
Mon 07/06/20 District Meeting 6:15 PM  
1214 Broad St,  
Masaryktown

**Unity** Meeting has been **CANCELLED** for  
July and August

Intergroup and District meetings are  
outside Please bring a chair!!!

**TRADITIONS  
CORNER**
**TRADITION SEVEN**

The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority. (AA Service Manual S13)

*"I often say and shall always say that the Twelve Steps are one of the very great summaries and organic collections of spiritual truth known to history. They have an almost universal relevance (not a relevance for alcoholics alone). They will offer a way out for many a person who knows nothing personally of alcoholism."  
Rev Sam Shoemaker Grapevine July 1991*

"A.A.'s far-flung Twelfth Step activities, carrying the message to the next sufferer, are the very lifeblood of our A.A. adventure. Without this vital activity, we would soon become anemic; we would literally wither and die. "Now where do A.A.'s services — worldwide, area, local — fit into our scheme of things? Why should we provide these functions with money? The answer is simple enough. Every single A.A. service is designed to make more and better Twelfth Step work possible, whether it be a group meeting place, a central or intergroup office to arrange hospitalization and sponsorship, or the world service Headquarters [now the General Service Office] to maintain unity and effectiveness all over the globe. "Though not costly, these service agencies are *absolutely essential* to our continued expansion — to our survival as a Fellowship. Their costs are a collective obligation that rests squarely upon all of us. Our support of services actually amounts to recognition on our part that A.A. must everywhere function in full strength — and that, under our Tradition of self-support, we are all going to foot the bill." (AA Grapevine, Oct 1967)

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON PRACTICING THE SEVENTH TRADITION AT VIRTUAL MEETINGS**

Q. Our group is meeting virtually as a result of Coronavirus (COVID-19). Our meeting costs are low, so why do we need to take a Seventh Tradition collection?

A The spirit of self-support ensures that even minimal expenses are borne by the whole group rather than by individual members. In addition, many groups want to continue support for other A.A. services. Local intergroup/central offices still have bills to pay, such as rent and utilities. Many have employees who are working hard to keep meeting information updated and respond to calls for help. The Online Intergroup of A.A. also has its own costs which require support, and many districts and areas continue to have expenses as they support the work of committees and plan future events. Furthermore, the General Service Office needs to cover its operating expenses in order to continue providing services. Literature sales, which traditionally help pay for services, currently are much lower than usual.

Q. If our group decides we want to "pass the virtual basket" how would we get started?

A Often a group will have their treasurer or other members gather shared experience and information on different digital payment options, then present that to the group for discussion at a business meeting. [Roger](#)

Q. What kind of options are available?

A Here are some of the digital payment platforms that groups using: Apple Pay, Cash-App, Google Pay, PayPal, Venmo and Zelle. Information on options being used locally may be available from your intergroup/central office, district or area. (GSO)



## SERVICE CORNER

### DCM RESPONSIBILITIES COME WITH BENEFITS

BY: PEGGY ROSE L. | SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

GENERAL SERVICE GIVES HER THE CHANCE TO PROVE  
THAT MEETING MAKERS REALLY DO MAKE IT.

My Service Sponsor mentioned part of my job as DCM of District 19 is to go to every meeting in my district that does not have a GSR. The “Your D.C.M.” pamphlet specifically defines this as a DCM duty. This got me a little excited, I must say, since I haven’t been to all of the meetings in this district, even though many are right around my home. I got a district roster from our area registrar and I noticed the last number at the bottom of the list indicates there are 85 groups.

I didn’t know it was my job to do these visits.

So, in the last 10 months I have visited 40 groups that have no GSR. Some groups I have visited multiple times. When I screened my groups that legitimately were alive and in my district I found 70. Then we had some new ones start up and so we are up to 80 again.

I found the method for scheduling group visits that worked best for me. I put it in my calendar, so I just go on that date and time. If I waited to see how I felt, I never would go— because I am scared. I’m scared to go to a group and talk about something that they might not want to hear about; or they might think I have an agenda; or they might think doesn’t relate to them personally. I have overcome this fear by being sure to tell the group, I am only there to share my own experience. I share about how much I am enjoying this job and how lucky I am to go to 80 groups on a rotational basis for two years and get to know the groups. I am really enjoying the visits now. I have a big smile on my face. Sometimes I am asked to lead or share and it’s great AA fun.

You know, we all take our turn in AA. It just happens to be my turn to do this job, it will be someone else’s in a little while. But while it is my turn, I am going to see what I can get out of it and what I can bring to it.

Below is some of the positive experience from my visits. I realize I don’t need to coordinate with every

GSR to do this job. Depending on the strength of representation in your district, you may decide differently.

Two male district officers visit the men’s meetings. Just the other day I asked a GSR if he was up at midnight to visit the Dark Midnight daily meeting in our district. He was happy to oblige.

I also noticed that more than 75% of dark groups in my district are not participating in the service structure of AA. They have no awareness of activities or financial matters. I believe that my responsibility to go to the dark groups directly coincides with the budget and it’s shortfalls. The budget we pass each year is probably accurate considering the amount of groups in our area. We as DCMs have been falling short in visiting the dark groups and rounding up the enthusiasm just waiting to be had. Most dark groups I go to understand their General Service responsibilities and stand up to the plate! I went to such a meeting on Saturday and met with a woman from that meeting today. She would like to consider doing the job but didn’t know what was involved. I gladly met her for coffee, which was another hour of service, and found out she thought she would just keep the literature job and do the GSR job, too. What a wonderful opportunity I had to express how other people could benefit from her decision and gain access to a new service position in her group. (Grapevine, October 2019)

#### AA TRIVIA QUESTIONS

Q1 Which of our cofounders had a dog named Roger?

Q2 What year and where the Responsibility Declaration adopted?

Q3 Who received the 20,000,000<sup>th</sup> copy of The Big Book? What year?

The [answers](#) are hidden somewhere in this issue....Happy Hunting.

HERNANDO COUNTY INTERGROUP MAY 2020 TREASURERS REPORT

		<u>May 2020</u>	
	Beg Bal Checking	5502.69	
	add deposits	2036.17	
	less expenses	(1318.33)	
	Ending Balance	6220.53	
	Beginning Balance Savings	3062.41	
	add interest	0.02	
	Ending Balance	3062.43	
<b>Income</b>			
	Group Contributions		
	Unity 7th Trad	0.00	
	Group Contributions	<u>1488.79</u>	1488.79
	Sales	.	
	AA Grapevine	13.00	
	AAWS Books	250.96	
	Medallions	53.25	
	Other Recovery Items & Books	<u>37.83</u>	355.04
	Other Income		
	Archives Rent	0.00	
	Unity 50/50-Soda	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
			<u>1843.83</u>
	Less: Cost of Goods Sold	<u>(287.75)</u>	
	Total Cost of Goods Sold		<u>(287.75)</u>
Gross Profit			1,556.08
Expense	Rent	360.00	
	Office Supplies	127.99	
	Square fees	3.00	
	Telephone	154.20	
	Travel	50.00	
	Utility Exp	52.74	
	Total Expense		<u>747.93</u>
Net Income			<u>808.15</u>

<u>May 2020</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Algood Grp	80.00	160.00
Anonymous	291.24	889.20
Aripeka Open Speaker	60.00	180.00
Fresh Air	15.00	15.00
Fun & Frolic	0.00	100.00
Garden Grove Grp	80.00	80.00
Heavy Hitters	100.00	100.00
Hernando Beach	0.00	25.00
Hope Grp	0.00	100.00
Let Go and Let God	0.00	100.07
Living Sober Grp	4.71	4.71
More Serenity Sisters	0.00	25.00
Precisely II	100.00	200.00
Principles Before Personalities	334.04	649.91
Ridge Manor Grp	0.00	200.00
Rough Road Grp	149.00	411.34
Singleness of Purpose	160.00	160.00
Step Sisters	20.00	40.00
Sunset Grp	0.00	360.00
The Steps We Took	6.80	26.80
There is a Solution	0.00	90.00
Together We Stand	0.00	30.00
Umbrella Group	88.00	182.10
Unity Meeting	0.00	157.90
WISE Women	0.00	100.00
Women's Serenity Group	0.00	36.90
	1,488.79	4,423.93

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**  
[www.aahernando.org](http://www.aahernando.org)  
 FOR ALL YOUR EVENT INFO AD MEETING SCHEDULES WHEN YOU ARE ON THE GO. PLEASE SEND MEETING UPDATES AND EVENT INFO TO  
[info@aaahernando.org](mailto:info@aaahernando.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.)

Toronto 1965

**DISTRICT 13 TREASURER'S REPORT**

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Please provide your group anniversaries by the 15<sup>th</sup> to [anniversaries@aahernando.org](mailto:anniversaries@aahernando.org)

**Group Anniversary( date registered GSO)**

<b><u>Group Anniversaries</u></b>	<b>Years</b>
Let's Get Serious	12

**Member Anniversaries**      **Years**

<b><u>Al Good</u></b>	
Ralph G.	2

**Aripeka Open Speaker**

Doe T.	15
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**Friendship Group**

Jack M.	30
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**Heavy Hitters**

Jim W.	37
Rachel	35
Fern L.	34
Jamie	8
Kelly B.	6
Pam H.	4
Roni	4

**Hernando Beach**

Clark C.	32
Dave P.	3

**Hope Group**

Sam C.	51
Michele L.	1
Calvin	1

**JULY 2020 ANNIVERSARIES**

**Let's Get Serious**

Frank R.	28
Tat2 Dan	13
Todd R.	10
Rachel K.	35

**Life Goes On**

Sam C.	51
Ben F.	32

**More Serenity Sisters**

Bobbie K-L	414
Sarah (June)	1

**Principles Before Personalities**

Mari-beth R.	9
John C.	9
Marsha D.	3
Carl S.	1

**Promises Group**

Diane	7
Marcus	5

**Ridge Manor Big Book**

Larry	44
Adam S.	26
Sandy W.	5
Peter R.	4
Laura S.	3

**Rough Roads**

Johnny H.	31
Harry P.	27
Mike C.	21
Bernadette C.	21
Steve N.	7

**Saturday Night Beginners**

Frank R.	28
Dan W.	13
Stacy C.	9

**Serenity Sisters**

Lori P.	27
Karol L.	5

**Spring Hill Monday Night**

Tony R.	29
Ralph B.	2

**Sunset Group**

Phil P.	16
Ed S.	15

**Umbrella Group**

Steve G.	29
Brooks H.	17
Brian W.	8

**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 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.

(reprinted from [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org))

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