

# COMMUNIQUE

July 2022



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### Interested in sharing your story?

Contact Sue S. or submit it to:  
[Communique@aahernando.org](mailto:Communique@aahernando.org)



## WHEN GOD GIVES YOU A SECOND CHANCE

I grew up in an Italian home with Aunts, Uncles and Grandparents all living close together. They all came over from Italy when my mother was a teenager, the men all worked at the same Quarry down the street from our home. My Father grew up in the same village in Italy as my mother and when he came to America, they were married. He began working with my grandfather and uncles at the quarry, and he and my mother bought a house close by. My Uncles and Aunt all married and began having children and we were all close in age.

My favorite times were when the whole family would get together to make wine. My father had a grape pressing machine and had built a cold storage area in the basement. The day when the cases of grapes arrived by train, and the whole family got together to make wine was always fun. Our parents would let us grind the wheel that crushed the grapes, and we would watch it flow into the bottles. The leftover grapes were then used to make Grappa (a type of Italian moonshine). Each family would make enough wine to last the year.

Although I loved my family, it was difficult growing up with my father, he was extremely strict and would hit us if we stepped out of line even a little. My Father drank daily, but I don't think I ever saw him drunk.

When I was 14 my father left, he left my mother with 4 children ages 9 months to 14 years. He took money out of the bank and took our only car. It was a struggle for my mother to make it but having family close by to help, made it possible for her to get a job to support us. Because of that she was able to keep the house. We never heard from him again but other relatives in Italy kept in contact, so we knew approximately where he was living. When I was in my 50's I went to see my father and meet my half-sister, she described her life with him as turbulent and difficult, the same as mine was when he was around. I did keep in contact with my father a little, but he was a sick man, mentally.

After he left, my mother worked a lot, so I had freedom I had never experienced before. I started drinking with some older guys on the weekends then began experimenting with other substances and drinking more and more often. The progression began to get me in trouble in school, with the law, family and then my job.

When I was 20 years old, I got a job at the quarry my father, grandfather and Uncles worked at, and stayed there for 35 years. Because of my family connections my boss let many things slide, I probably should have been fired many times throughout the years because of my actions. When I would get my paycheck on Thursday, I would tuck \$20.00 in the corner of my wallet and head to the bar, that \$20 was for food for the rest of the week. I couldn't understand how other guys I worked with had families, homes and cars, I lived in an apartment and didn't own a car or have a family, and I could barely make it thru the weekend financially. And eating was last on my list of importance. I had roommates to help pay for any of my drinking or drugs I may need during the week, while I paid for the apartment.

Continued on page 3

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**Archives**

Open

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**WebMaster & Meeting List**

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**Central Office & Book Store**

4116 Lamson Ave  
Spring Hill, FL 34608  
Mon – Fri 9am to 1pm  
Saturdays 9am to Noon  
Office Manager: JJ M.  
(352) 683-4597  
Hotline: Jonny V

**Monthly Intergroup Meeting**

First Friday Of Each Month  
July 1st, 2022 @ 6:30 PM  
Forest Oaks Lutheran Church  
8555 Forest Oaks Blvd  
Spring Hill FL

Zoom Currently Unavailable  
(location wifi issues)

**Monthly District Meeting**

First Monday Of The Month.  
July 11th, 2022 @ 6:15PM  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
1214 Broad St.  
Masaryktown FL

Zoom ID: 987 5790 9290  
Password: district13

**Group Donations****District 13 Treasurer**

P.O. Box 10653  
Brooksville, FL 34605  
(checks payable to District 13)

**Hernando Intergroup Office**

4116 Lamson Ave  
Spring Hill, FL 34608  
(352)683-4597  
Office manager JJ M.  
Office Hours  
Mon-Fri 9am-1pm  
Saturday 9am-12pm  
Info@aahernando.org  
(make checks payable to  
Hernando Intergroup)

**North Florida Assembly**

P.O. Box 226  
DeLeon Springs, FL 32130  
(checks payable to NFAC)

**General Service Office**

P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
(checks payable to GSO)



Please let your Groups know that Intergroup has open positions.  
Zoom meetings information had change so many couldn't get on  
Zoom last month, hopefully we have corrected the issue.

**Story Continued:**

When I would stop at the local store the man behind the counter told me he was a friend of Bills. He would ask me if I wanted to go to a meeting with him and I would of course say no. One day he gave me his number, and instead of throwing it out, I tucked it in my wallet. Then months later, I had finally had enough, and understood that my life was unmanageable. My boss helped me find a detox and treatment center where I spent the next 30 days at. While I was there it was suggested I get a sponsor and I remembered the guy at the store had given me his number. I picked up the phone and called him, and he became my sponsor. Over the next 7 years, he showed me how life without alcohol could be fun.

I met my wife at a meeting, and we started dating and married about a year and a half later. Life was good, we traveled, bought a new house had 2 cars and great jobs I even had several promotions at work. Then everything changed, I went to the doctors, and he said my liver levels were high and I should see a specialist. After seeing the specialist and trying several different treatments, none of which worked, it was clear my only option was now a liver transplant. The process can be long and difficult, and many don't make it. I was too sick to continue working and had to retire after 35 years. I was lucky that the only requirement for retirement was 35 years, of service, which I had, so I was able to retire at 55 years old. After about a year I was in the hospital waiting to hear if I was well enough to receive a new liver and sick enough to need one, with maybe 24-48 hours left to live, I was finally put at the top of the list for a transplant and around 2 AM that morning, we got news that they had a match. That was 10 years ago June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Life today is so different, 3 years ago we made the move to the Spring Hill area and love it here. We still travel to Mass. for the summer months to visit family, but live most of the year in Florida. Unfortunately, Covid hit a few months after we got here so I couldn't attend many meetings for a long time, but when I could start getting out to meetings, I joined the Tranquility Group. My life has change so much over the years and I'm so grateful to be alive and be a member of AA. God has been good in my life. I believe you don't always know what you're missing when you're drinking, once you stop you begin to start living life, you see how beautiful life is and what second chances can give you. The 3 hardest words for me to say were "I need help", but once I did the world opened to lend a hand.

Randy J.

**A.A. Quotes**

As we go through the day we pause, when agitated or doubtful, and ask for the right thought or action. We constantly remind ourselves many times we are no longer running the show, humbly saying to ourselves many times each day "Thy will be done." We are then in much less danger of excitement, fear, anger, worry, self-pity, or foolish decisions. We become much more efficient. We do not tire so easily, for we are not burning up energy foolishly as we did when we were trying to arrange life to suit ourselves.

To this day I am amazed at how many of my problems – most of which had nothing to do with drinking. I believed – have become manageable or have simply disappeared since I quit drinking.

...one of the primary differences between alcoholics and nonalcoholics is that nonalcoholics change their behavior to meet their goals and alcoholics change their goals to meet their behaviors.

**Grapevine Quotes**

"Tolerance is the art of seeing yourself as others see you – and not getting mad about it."

"Even though some of the ghosts of the past may still be spooking around, popping up from time to time to scare me, today I can pretty much handle them. Today the only real monster I have to face is myself, that part of me that tries to urge me back to drinking."

"I have no secrets, and I fear no man, I am not anxious about death, I am alive, forever, within this 24 hours."

**UNITY MEETING****July 9, 2022****Doors open at 6:30 for food and fellowship Please bring a desert.****Meeting @ 7:00 Hosted by:****Hope Group****Nativity Lutheran Church****6363 Commercial Way****Weeki Wachee, FL****August Host will be:****Lunch Bunch****Intergroup Corner**

Jim B. is Hernando County new Intergroup Alt Chairperson. Jim comes to the Intergroup committee with a long list of service positions, both in Intergroup and District as an Intergroup Rep and a GSR. Jim is also currently on the Communique committee and has been for the last 6 years. His many years in different positions should greatly benefit Intergroup.

Jim has 12 years of sobriety and is a member of Rough Roads. Please welcome Jim when you see him.

Thank you for your service.

**Founders Day**

Founders Day was a hit!!!! Thanks to all the volunteers, the co-chairs, Dee and Debbie, they all worked hard to make this event possible. The food, music and speaker were great. The tables were decorated with flowers with little hats to follow the mad hatter theme. The event featured a mad hatter hat contest and had many participants. Congratulations to the winner Sandy. Hope you'll join us next year.

**\$5**  
SUGGESTED DONATION

**SUNSET GROUP**

**BBQ AND SPEAKER MEETING**

**SATURDAY, JULY 30TH | 4:30 BBQ | 5:30 SPEAKER MEETING**

SIDE DISHES AND DESSERTS ARE APPRECIATED  
FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT OUR 7TH TRADITION. PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR GROUP PIE

ANY QUESTIONS CALL  
ED S. 352-428-8438

NO ALCOHOLIC  
TURNED AWAY

**Service Opportunities**

- \* **Intergroup office in need of volunteers.**
- \* **District 13 Archives**
- \* **District 13 Literature**
- \* **Corrections is in desperate need Of volunteers, If interested please contact Debbie Q for more information. (314)607-4670**

**Anniversary information** can now be submitted from our website. Look for the link "Anniversary Submissions" at the top of our homepage, [www.aahernando.org](http://www.aahernando.org)

Let us know if you would like to share an announcement or future event for your group or meeting. Email us at:

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



# District 13 Committee Member's Corner Eleanor B.

Singleness Of Purpose. Thursday 6:00pm  
Big Book Study. (C/BB)  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
2301 Deltona Blvd.  
Spring Hill, FL

Singleness Of Purpose is a medium sized, closed meeting with only a few (3) members. This meeting is the best Big Book study that I have ever been to. The meeting opens in the usual manner, and then gets right into the Big Book. One member reads a page from the Big Book and one member looks in the AA dictionary for any words we may not be familiar with; such as "devil may care". The Chair then asks a question relating to the 1st sentence of the page, and members read the answers one line at a time. Therefore, reaffirming the page that we just read. What an eye opener! The Chair then opens up the meeting to share on what was read. Members share their feelings and ideas.

True students of the Big Book, these AA members are serious and dedicated to this process. Taking the Big Book, page by page, sentence by sentence- understanding each word and phrase. Membership is free and open to all! Be sure to bring your Big Book to this amazing meeting and get ready to learn! I was left with this thought, "sanity, security, safety and peace of mind is found in AA".

Respectfully  
Eleanor B-DCM District 13

## The 12 Traditions Illustrated

Based on a series that first appeared in Grapevine in the 1960s, this classic pamphlet retains its retro, light-hearted illustrations as well as its clear and plainly spoken language. Taken together, the text and images convey both the spirit and the practical application of our Traditions.

### The Seventh Tradition

*Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.*

Part of our personal recovery came in making ourselves into responsible human beings



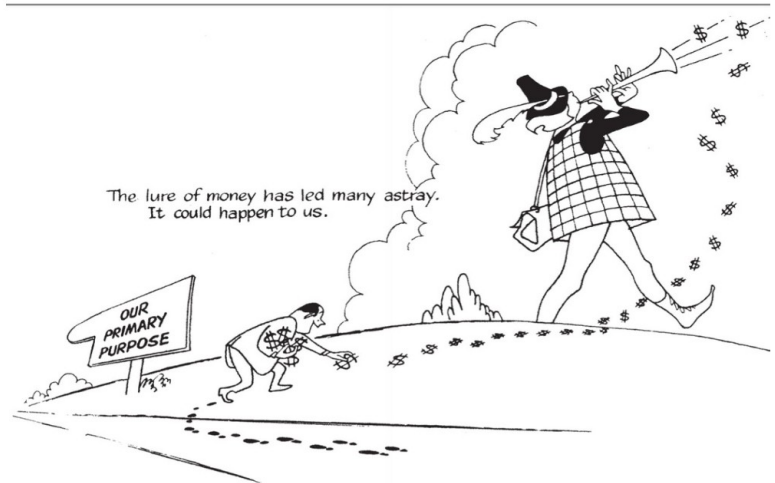
As active alcoholics we were always looking for a handout- in one way or another...



"Passing the basket" at meetings is our way of meeting our responsibility for the work of A.A. Our own contributions support the group, the General Service Office, and all A.A. activities



Experience has shown us, also, that A.A. as a whole needs to be self-supporting and independent



## District 13 Treasury Report

### May 2022 Treasurers Report

QuickBooks Desktop Export Tips

Sheet1

	May 22	Jan - May 22	Beginning Balance	2399.20		
	May 22	Jan - May 22		May 22		
A Desire/Friendship Group	0.00	0.00	Income		Savings	
AA Way of Life	0.00	0.00	Corrections Contributions	40.12	Beg Bal	1119.52
AlGood Grp	0.00	0.00	Group Contributions	271.00	Interest	0.01
Anonymous	0.00	25.00	Communique	187.50	End Balance	1119.53
Audio Big Book Group	0.00	0.00	Total Income	498.62		
BYOBB	0.00	0.00	Expenses			
Founders day	0.00	0.00	Archives Rent	50.00		
Fun & Frolic Group	0.00	20.00	Communique	0.00		
Happy Hour Grp	25.00	25.00	Pre Conf Printing	47.50		
Hernando Beach Group	50.00	0.00	Secretary Minutes	0.00		
Hope Group	0.00	200.00	Treatment	0.00		
Let Go Let God	25.00	75.00	Zoom	14.99		
Living Sober	0.00	0.00	Total Expenses	112.49		
Principles Before Personalities	0.00	20.00	Net Income	386.13		
Ridge Manor Big Book Group	0.00	0.00	Ending Balance	2785.33		
Rough Road Group	0.00	0.00	Corrections Beginning Bal	2375.79		
Serendipity Sisters Group	0.00	0.00	Deposits:	May	YTD	
Singleness Of Purpose Gp	36.00	150.00	Hope Group	20.81	68.81	
Spring Hill Group	100.00	100.00	Intergroup	19.31	36.31	
Sunset Group	0.00	0.00	Principles Before Personalities	0.00	40.00	
The Steps we took	0.00	0.00	Ridge Manor Big Book Group	0.00	38.63	
There Is A Solution Group	35.00	160.00	Rough Road Group	0.00	54.00	
Thursday Night Welcome	0.00	0.00	Total	40.12	237.75	
Tranquility Group	0.00	0.00				
WISE Women	0.00	50.00				
Womens Serenity Group	0.00	75.00				
	271.00	900.00				
			Corrections Ending Balance	2415.91		

2022DONATION2	Apr	May	Jun	Qtr Total
A Desire	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
Anonymous	\$ -	\$ 0.03	\$ -	\$0.03
Allgood Grp	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
Aripeka Big book	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
AA Way of Life	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
Audio Big Book	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
Bring Your own Big Book	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
District printing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
District archives	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$100.00
Founders Day	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
Happy Hour	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$25.00
Fun And Frolic	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
Heavy Hitters	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
Hernando Beach	\$ -	\$ 100.72	\$ -	\$100.72
Hope Group	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
Lets Get Serious	\$ -	\$ 0.66	\$ -	\$0.66
Let Go and Let God	\$ 25.00	\$ 0.03	\$ -	\$25.03
Life goes on	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
Living Sober	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
More Serenity Sisters	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
Monday Night Meeting rental	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
P.B. P.	\$ 219.30	\$ 144.90	\$ -	\$364.20
Precisely II	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$200.00
Ridge Manor Group	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
Rough Road Group	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
Serenity Sisters	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
Singleness of Purpose	\$ -	\$ 36.00	\$ -	\$36.00
Spring Hill Monday Night	\$ 60.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$60.00
Step In the right direction	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
Sunset Group	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
The Steps we took	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
There is a Solution	\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$30.00
Together We Stand	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
Tranquility Group	\$ 37.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$37.50
Thursday Night Welcome	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
Tuesday Night B.B.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
Unity	\$ 296.00	\$ 347.00	\$ 284.00	\$927.00
Umbrella Group	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
Wise Women	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
Womens Serenity Group	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00
	=====	=====	=====	=====
	\$ 842.80	\$ 729.34	\$ 334.00	\$1,906.14

### Message from the treasurer: Intergroup Treasury Report

As May was a transition period for me, this bank statement was submitted and approved as the treasurer's report. I have done my best to update donations and will continue to look over receipts to insure I record each and every one.

**Please make sure you get a receipt for any funds delivered to the Intergroup office.**

Hernando County Intergroup	Checking	Savings
<b>5/1/2022</b>		
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$ 2,980.44	\$ 3,062.91
<b>Deposits</b>	\$ 2,551.01	
	\$ -	
<b>Checks</b>	\$ (787.50)	
<b>Withdrawals/Debits</b>	\$ (1,010.61)	
<b>Interest</b>		\$ 0.03
<b>Ending Balance</b>	\$ 3,733.34	\$ 3,062.94
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Group Contributions</b>		
<b>Office Sales</b>	?	
<b>Sales tax</b>	?	
	\$0.00	
<b>Unity</b>		In Donations
<b>Archives rent</b>		In Donations
<b>District Copies</b>		In Donations

## The Seventh Step

*“Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”*

What is humility? What can it mean to us? The avenue to true freedom of the human spirit. Necessary aid to survival.

Value of ego-puncturing. Failure and misery transformed by humility. Strength from weakness. Pain is the admission price to new life. Self-centered fear chief activator of defects. Step 7 is change in attitude which permits us to move out of ourselves toward God.

## THE SEVENTH TRADITION

*Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.*

We do have to be practical. A group can hardly hold its regular meetings on a street corner, and an empty basket won't fill a coffee urn. As soon as we become active in a group, we learn how many expenses are involved in making meetings effective. Then our horizons broaden. What about the intergroup or central office so many of us call to ask for help? Phone companies don't give free service. Beyond our own locality, we learn about the A.A. General Service Office and the work it does for our groups everywhere. A.A. activity is self-supporting at all levels, and in every case the responsibility comes right back to us, the individual members, for we are A.A.

Perhaps, especially when we are very new, our contributions clink rather than rustle. The first members were in the same fix, and it seemed to them that A.A. would need more outside help than the modest gifts then coming in. Their plans required grand-scale philanthropy. (Tradition six hadn't evolved yet; Bill W. recalled a scheme for “a chain of hospitals.”) But John D. Rockefeller Jr., an early friend said, “I am afraid that money will spoil this thing.” A few A.A.'s had already reached the same conclusion; gradually, this minority became a majority as experience showed that members themselves *could* provide enough to finance A.A.'s proper aim.

In its simplest application, Tradition Seven is easily understood: when we hear about a new A.A. group being started with funds from a Federal antipoverty program, our quick reaction is “Somebody goofed!” but then we come to “borderline cases; Groups put on raffles for the benefit of their central office and invite the public to buy tickets; a hometown paper runs an ad for an A.A. dance and show. Both projects routine for any other society. For us, both mean we've got the handout again, asking nonmembers for money.

Often, of course, we don't have to ask. A.A. is now high on the worthy-cause list; G.S.O. and groups politely turn down many unsolicited gifts and bequest. In Tradition Seven, there's a note of realism: Handsome gifts may have strings attached. We even put a limit of \$5,000 on the amount *members* may leave A.A. in their wills or contribute annually while living, so that none of us can buy influence in A.A. no matter how rich we are.

Money may pose different problems if a group treasury grows too fat, beyond a prudent reserve. Squabbling over uses for spare cash, groups have lost their unity and strayed from their primary purpose. But there's one simple solution that strengthens our unity and advances our purpose: Give the excess to A.A. activities and services.

## **July ANNIVERSARIES**

### **Groups:**

Let's Get Serious – 13 years

### **Members:**

#### **A Desire**

Misty R – 4 years  
Gabby M – 1 year

#### **All Good**

Ralph G – 4 years

#### **Aripeka**

Doe T – 16 years

#### **Brooksville Group**

None Reported

#### **Fun and Frolic**

None Reported

#### **Happy Hour**

None Reported

#### **Heavy Hitters**

Fern L – 36 years  
Jim W – 38 years  
Kelly B – 7 years  
Pam H – 5 years  
Rachel - 36 years  
Roni – 5 years

#### **Hernando Beach**

Kenny K – 24 years  
Clark C – 34 years

#### **Hope Group**

Calvin – 2 years  
Michele L – 2 years  
Sam C – 52 years

#### **Ladies Big Book**

None Reported

#### **Let Go Let God**

Rachel – 37 years

#### **Lets Get Serious**

Frank R – 29 years  
Rachel K – 36 years  
Tattoo Dan – 14 years  
Todd R – 11 years

#### **Life Goes On**

Ben F – 33 years  
Sam C – 52 years

#### **More Serenity Sisters**

Zsuzsi – 2 years  
Rebecca – 2 years  
Bobbie – 46 years  
Breda – 19 years

#### **Principles B4 Personalities**

Marsha P – 5 years  
Nick O – 2 years  
Richard C – 1 year  
Johnathon M – 2 years  
John C – 11 years  
Mari-Beth – 11 years

#### **Promises**

Sandra T – 2 years  
Marcus A – 7 years  
Diane P – 9 years

#### **Ridge Manor Big Book Group**

Adam S – 28 years  
Larry H – 46 years  
Mike G – 32 years  
Richard C – 1 year \*

#### **Rough Roads**

Bernadette C – 14 years  
Harry P – 29 years  
Johnny H – 33 years  
Mike C – 23 years  
Steve N – 9 years

#### **Spring Hill Monday Nite**

Ralph G – 4 years

#### **Serendipity Sisters**

None Reported

#### **Serenity Sisters**

Carol K – 7 years  
Karol L – 6 years  
Lori P – 28 years

#### **Singleness of Purpose**

None Reported

#### **Step in the right direction**

None Reported

#### **StepSisters**

None Reported

#### **Steps We Took**

None Reported

#### **Sunset Group**

Ed S – 16 years  
Alex M – 3 years  
Phil P – 17 years  
Gary F – 46 years

#### **There is a Solution**

None Reported

#### **Thursday Night Step**

None Reported

#### **Tranquility Group**

None Reported

#### **Women's Serenity**

Diane S – 41 years  
Gabby – 1 year  
Maribeth – 11 years  
Peggy B – 26 years  
Rebecca – 2 years

#### **Young at heart**

None Reported

#### **Young Mens**

None Reported

**Congratulations to all of those celebrating!** Have you ever considered sharing your story? Let us know. We are always looking for stories to feature and we will come to you.

**Send us Anniversary information for your group** at [www.aahernando.org](http://www.aahernando.org)  
Look for the "Submit Anniversaries" link at the top of the home page.