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Hopeless And Alone

I was born and raised on a farm in northern Wisconsin. On Sunday, there was hunting, fishing, and Packer games. Growing up, alcohol was always in our home: a fully stocked liquor cabinet, gallons and gallons of homemade wine in the cellar, and beer stacked on the back porch. We got sips of beer if we carried the bottles, and there was wine at most holiday dinners. I don't ever remember seeing anyone drunk, but every party had alcohol.

I first got drunk at 14. My sister had to bring me with her to a beer party after a high school sporting event. Not much else was served. I learned to sneak out to parties, but drinking wasn't really my thing. Yet.

I skipped out of school a lot with friends, and there was always alcohol. If I had nothing else, I could get served or get someone to get it for me. It wasn't a big deal. The legal drinking age was 18, and by then I had dropped out of school, gotten my GED, and was drinking every day. I was in a bad relationship; today we call it gas lighting. I wasn't allowed friends or family events. He tried to make me stop drinking in bars. Drinking quickly became my thing. I married my first husband at 22 because I thought he drank like I did. Maybe I should have spent more than a month choosing a husband, but he did get me out of that previous relationship.

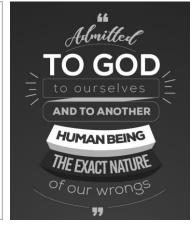
My drinking escalated. I got hurt at work because of my drinking, so now I didn't need to get sober. I had pills to sell to supplement my extra drinking. My husband left me to travel with the carnival, so I followed. I got a job, and guess what I did? I drank. I met a man. He drank like I drank. I fell in love. After about a month, we tried to stop seeing each other, but I was so heartsick even my husband noticed. So, we got back together and did the old geographic change (again.)

At this point I had no one but this one drinking buddy, no home, no car, and was still sick. He was the only person who still tolerated my drinking, the only one I hadn't run out on. Then he got caught driving drunk. It was not his first time. His sister got him into a detox hoping to help him.

I came into the program of Alcoholics Anonymous not having any idea what I was getting into. I came to "support" him. I knew it was just a matter of time that he ...

(Continued on page 3)

TEP 5



EVENT CALENDAR

Mon 05/01 District Meeting 6:15 PM 1214 Broad St, Masaryktown Fri 05/05 Intergroup Meeting 6:30 PM 8555 Forest Oaks Blvd, Spring Hill Sat 05/13 Unity Meeting, 6:30 PM 6363 Commercial Way, Weeki Wachee Sun 05/21 Post Conference Results, 2:00 PM 20641 Chestnut Street, Dunnellon Intergroup Meeting 6:30 PM 8555 Forest Oaks Blvd, Spring Hill Fri 06/02 Sat 06/03 Accessibilities 10:00 AM 4116 Lamson Ave. Spring Hill + Zoom Mon 06/05 District Meeting 6:15 PM 1214 Broad St, Masaryktown Sat 06/10 Unity Meeting, 6:30 PM 6363 Commercial Way, Weeki Wachee Founders Day 4:00 PM 109 S. Broad Street, Brooksville Sat 06/24

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Intergroup Officers CHAIRPERSON

Frank S.

chair@aahernando.org

ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON

Jim B. 727-642-3533 altchair@aahernando.org

SECRETARY

Dee Mc. 352-442-6423 igsecretary@aahernando.org

TREASURER

Suzanne M. 352-584-5656 igtreasurer@aahernando.org

Intergroup Contacts

OFFICE MANAGER

JJ M. 352-683-4597 info@aahernando.org 4116 Lamson Ave. Spring Hill

Intergroup Office Hours

Mon-Fri 9am-1pm Saturday 9am-12pm (Checks payable to Hernando Intergroup)

COMMUNIQUÉ (INTERGROUP)

John K. 352-650-2324 communique@aahernando.org **HOTLINE** 352-683-4597

Chairperson:

Johnny V. 352-346-6096

HEAART

Nancy E. 352-232-5207 heaart@aahernando.org

INTERGROUP LIAISON

Pam H. 352-424-5352 igliaison@aahernando.org

UNITY MEETING

Anne Marie Chair 352-277-6304 Nancy Asst. Chair unity@aahernando.org

WEBMASTER & MEETING LISTS

John K. 352-650-2324 webmaster@aahernando.org

Intergroup Meeting

First Friday

May 5th, Jun 2nd at 6:30 PM Forest Oaks Lutheran Church 8555 Forest Oaks Blvd., Spring Hills



District 13 Officers

DCM

Lori Ann S. 631-480-3200 dcm@aahernando.org

ALTERNATE DCM

Mark S. 727-858-8366 altdcm@aahernando.org

SECRETARY

<VACANT>

dsecretary@aahernando.org

TREASURER

Linda M. 812-841-5601 dtreasurer@aahernando.org

District 13 Committees

ACCESSIBILITIES

Richard C. Chair Diane B. Alt Chair accessibilities@aahernando.org

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PARLIAMENTARIAN

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TREATMENT

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District Meetings

District-1st Monday

May 1st, Jun 5th at 6:15 PM Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 1214 Broad St., Masaryktown

Accessibilities-Sat before 1st Mon

Jun 3rd at 10:00 AM

4116 Lamson Ave, Spring Hill and Zoom Meeting ID: 852 0319 0787 Passcode: 820000 (all 2023 meetings)

Unity Meeting Schedule

Saturday, May 13th

Hosted by: Serendipity Sisters

Saturday, June 10th Hosted by: **Hope**

Doors open at 6:30, meeting at 7:00 pm. Nativity Lutheran Church, 6363 Commercial Way, Weeki Wachee, FL

For more information please contact: Anne Marie, Chair: 352-277-6304, unity@aahernando.org

2023 AREA 14 ASSEMBLY DATES

July 7-9

Sept 29-Oct 1

Area Assembly location: Mission Inn Resort & Club, 10400 County Road 48, Howey-in-the-Hills, FL. 352-324-3101, 800-874-9053 (toll free.) Check in 4:00 PM, check out 12:00 PM.

See Area Assembly website for more information:

aanorthflorida.org/assembly agenda.asp

Here are some digital resources for recovery:

A.A. Grapevine podcast:

https://www.aagrapevine.org/podcast

A.A. Grapevine on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/@AAGrapevine

A.A. Podcasts:

https://player.fm/podcasts/Alcoholics-Anonymous

YouTube Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2nfvf9DeDA7 QYvLeq4pQ-w

Meeting Change



Beginning Friday May 5th, **A Desire** group is moving from St. Andrew's on Deltona Blvd to People Helping People, 1396 Kass Circle in Spring Hill. The meeting hall at St. Andrew's can only handle 35 attendees, and they don't want to turn anyone away. **A Desire** meets Friday nights at 7:00 PM.

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Hernando County Intergroup

Central Office & Book Store

4116 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 9 am-12 pm info@aahernando.org

Group Donation Addresses

Attention all Group Treasurers:

Please send donations to the following:

District 13 Treasurer

7381 Lykes Dublin Road Brooksville, FL 34601 (Checks payable to District 13)

Hernando Intergroup Office

Suzanne M. – Treasurer 4116 Lamson Ave. Spring Hill, FL 34608 (Checks payable to Hernando Intergroup)

North Florida Area Assembly PO Box 6301

Jacksonville FL 32205-9998
aanorthflorida.org

(Checks payable to NFAC)

General Service Office

PO Box 459 Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163

aa.org

(Checks payable to GSO)



(Continued from page 1)

... would get tired of my drinking unless I could find a way to somehow deprogram the detox out of him after he got out of trouble. I was in a city and state I had never been in, I knew no one, I had no job, no car, no money, nowhere to go, and no hope. And I didn't drink.

I went to some A.A. meetings with him while he was in detox. My first few meetings just intensified my hopelessness; the simplicity and straightforwardness of this program. I saw men happy, working things out with their families, laughing and joking. I was almost jealous of these guys in the detox. They had this great opportunity.

He had me pick him up the book "Alcoholics Anonymous." I couldn't go to the detox to see him that night, so I started reading. And I read all day. As I read, Bill W. explained to me the program of A.A. And he told me that I could have this program, for me. I could use this to get sober. And I saw my life laid out: broken, dirty, damaged, and dark. I wasn't sure that I wanted to get sober, but I knew I didn't want what I saw. I found some hope.

That was in 1991. By the grace of God and the fellowship of this program, I have not had to pick up a drink. It's still just one day at a time.

Linda M., District Treasurer Member, There Is A Solution



HEAART REPS! June 1st is the start of another hurricane season. Find your HEAART folders, and keep them close by. Please text or email Nancy E. if:

- your group has had any changes such as time or location
- you have had changes to your phone number or email
- you can no longer be a rep

If you belong to a group, and there is no HEAART rep, let your group know it would be beneficial for the group to have one. The description of a HEAART REP is as follows: if a state of emergency is called (example: hurricane, fire, or Covid), the HEAART rep is the one who would check to see if their meeting has been shut down and what meetings are still up and running.

This is a "learn as we go" situation. Who would have ever predicted Covid? Because of HEAART and the resources that we have, we were able to get the information out to our fellowship. Thank you to all the HEAART reps for your service, and I pray for an uneventful hurricane season. Please text Nancy E. at 352 -232 -5207 or email her at:

heaart@aahernando.org

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DCM Corner

recent Area Assembly (April 14 – 16) our delegate Mary A. asked for the area consensus of agenda items from GSRs of each group. She then voted on these agenda items during the 73rd General Service Conference (April 23 – April 29.) These items will be part of changes in A.A. in the U.S. and Canada. That's why the GSR position is so important. The GSR represents the group at the district and area levels, bringing the groups' thought, news, and problems to the district committee member and to the Delegate, who then passes them on to the conference.

Mary will be having a post conference result meeting on Sunday, May 21 from 2:00pm - 4:00pm at Dunnellon Presbyterian Church, 20641 Chestnut Street, Dunnellon, FL. Any member is invited to hear the results of the conference voting.



District 13 and Hernando County Intergroup Present the 13th Annual





Founders Day Saturday June 24th, 2023

Doors open at 4:00 PM, skit at 4:30 PM, dinner at 5:00 PM, Archives presentation at 6:15 PM followed by Sobriety Countdown and speaker: Paulette R. from Miramar, FL. Tickets \$9 (only 200 available.) First United Methodist Church of Brooksville, 109 S Broad Street, Brooksville. Please bring a dessert to share. For tickets and info, call Donna M. 352-238-9697.

Your voice should be heard as a member of A.A. At the Service in AA is upon all of us in our fellowship, most do not see it. It does not matter what position you have; we are all in this together. Some of us have special talents that are needed to conduct our business while others use their talents to keep the meeting rooms up and running. It doesn't matter what talent you have; just remember you are an important part of our fellowship! The three legacies of AA are: Recovery, Unity, and Service.

> It all starts when we find a home group and get involved. Everyone has their place in our program. It all starts when we are involved in our program. Being in service gives you a purpose in life. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety.

In Service, Mark S., Alt DCM

Meeting In A Box

Are you or do you know of anyone who is unable to regularly attend meetings? Convalescing at home, recovering, or caring for a loved one? Extended stay at assisted living facility or hospital? We have a fully self-contained meeting in a box, portable to take to any location and designed to leave no trace from set up to clean up. Coffee and percolator, cream, sugar, cups, readings, format, and commemorative chips for all who attend.

Contact Richard C. or Dianne B. at accessibilities@aahernando.org

Meeting In A Bag

Accessibilities committee is announcing Meeting in a Bag, also called Mini-Meeting in a Box. If you are planning to visit a member of AA in the hospital, residential center, convalescing at home, or caring for a loved one, and they can't make it to a meeting, simply contact Accessibilities committee, and take one of these with you. Visiting is great, but sometimes a meeting can be even better. It includes everything needed: format readings, and our commemorative chips.

Richard C. (352) 346-8338 call, text, or email accessibilities@aahernando.org.

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About Concept 5

Throughout our world services structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

Newcomers to A.A.'s General Service Conference are often surprised at the pains taken by the presiding officer to make sure the minority has a second opportunity to present its views. Even after extensive debate on an issue, followed by a vote in which a "substantial unanimity" is reached, those who opposed are pooled individually to see if they wish to speak further to their minority view. In fact, numerous instances can be cited in which the majority view is so compelling the Conference has reversed itself.

This is A.A.'s "Right of Appeal" in action, and Bill says the same principles should apply to meetings of our area communities, trustee communities and boards. On an issue of grave importance, the minority has the actual duty of presenting its views.

This "Right of Appeal" recognizes that minorities frequently can be right; that even when they are in error, they still perform a most valuable service when they compel a thorough-going debate on important issues. The well-heard minority, therefore, is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority.

"Trusted servants," according to Bill, "do for the groups what the groups cannot do for themselves." And in exercising their "Right of Decision" (see Concept III) trusted servants are almost always "a small but truly qualified minority" -- whether in the form of area communities, staffs, boards or even the General Service Conference itself. It is incumbent upon them, therefore, in their own meetings to pay special deference to the minority voice.

This concept also warns us of "the tyranny of the majority" and points out that in A.A. a simple majority is seldom sufficient basis for a decision; or in the case of an election following the "Third Legacy Procedure," "to go to the hat." (See Service Manual, Chapter I.)

The "Right of appeal" also permits any person in the service structure, whether paid or volunteer, to petition for redress of a personal grievance. He or

she can complain directly to the General Service board, without prejudice or fear of reprisal.



T am responsible.

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

I am responsible.

Step 5

Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

Tradition 5 (Short Form)

Each group has but one primary purpose — to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Tradition 5 (Long Form)

Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Concept 5

Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.



Mother's Day Is May 14th, 2023 PAGE 6 MAY 2023

INTERGROUP TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MARCH 2023

Hernando C	County Intergroup Treasu	rer's report	
	Mar-23		
Checking		Savings	
Beginning Balance	\$ 2,455.13	Beginning Balance	\$ 1,163.16
Total Withdrawls	\$ (5,252.53)	Total Withdrawls	\$ (1,500.00)
Total Deposits	\$ 3,714.99	Total Deposits	\$ 1,000.01
Ending Balance	\$ 917.59	Ending Balance	\$ 663.17

Expenses

Ехрепаса	
Rent - Intergroup Office	\$ (600.00)
Spectrum 2 months	\$ (275.94)
AAWS	\$ (285.88)
Printing Plus - W&W	
WREC 2 months	\$ (117.00)
Recovery accents	\$ (737.75)
Hazelden	\$ (423.86)
Ck 1014 communique mar23	\$ (162.50)
Ck 5474 past due communiqu	\$ (1,577.60)
Transfer to savings	\$ (1,000.00)
Bank fees	\$ (72.00)
Total	\$ (5,252.53)

DONATIONS	Mar	YTD
Fun And Frolic	0.00	100.00
Let Go and Let God	0.00	50.00
Precisely II Big Book	0.00	100.00
Singleness of Purpose	0.00	49.00
Sunset Group	360.00	360.00
The Steps We Took	70.00	70.00
Together We Stand	30.00	30.00
Unity	419.50	865.75
Total	879.50	1,624.75

Deposits

Cash/Checks	3427.6
Square (Credit Cards)	287.39
Total	3714.99

What is Accessibilities?

The purpose of an Accessibilities Committee is to determine resources and recommend activities that will help carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to those with accessibility needs, both inside and outside the rooms of AA. **Examples of Accessibility needs:**

- •Deaf/Blind, Hard of Hearing or Low Vision
- Homebound or Bedridden Technology/Literacy
- •Speech and Language Barriers •Military/Veterans
- •Reading Comprehension •Remote Communities
- Foreign Language / English as a second language
- Cooperation with the Elder Community CEC

•Nursing Homes/Assisted Living •Loners Internationalists Correspondence Service •Lack of Transportation/Mobility •Childcare Availability

The Accessibilities Committee is looking for enthusiastic people to help us carry the message of A.A. to anyone needing help. We meet in person at the intergroup office at 10:00 AM and via Zoom. Here is the Zoom connection info for the rest of 2023:

Meeting ID: 852 0319 0787, Passcode: 820000

If you are interested in joining us, or know of anyone needing assistance, please contact Richard C. or Diane B. at accessibilities@aahernando.org

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DISTRICT TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MARCH 2023

DISTRICT 13 MAR 2023

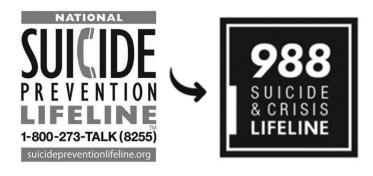
Beginning Balance		\$86.15	
Expenses			YTD
Archive Rent	(\$50.00)		\$150.00
Meeting Rent	(\$50.00)		\$75.00
Area Room Rent	\$0.00		\$297.48
Communique	(\$325.00)		\$975.00
Service Fee	\$0.00		\$47.00
Treatment	\$0.00		\$61.24
Total		(\$425.00)	\$1,605.72
Donations		\$335.16	
Communique Paymer	nt*	\$1,740.10	
Ending Balance		\$1,736.41	

District Donations		YTD
Anonymous	\$0.00	\$150.00
Aripeka BB	\$0.00	\$150.00
Happy Hour	\$0.00	\$50.00
Hernando Beach	\$25.00	\$25.00
Hope Group	\$100.00	\$100.00
Its All Good	\$0.00	\$50.00
Let Go Let God	\$25.00	\$100.00
Meeting in Box	\$0.00	\$4.00
Ridge Manor BB	\$0.00	\$360.00
Rough Roads	\$0.00	\$60.00
S.A.Y.S.	\$0.00	\$10.00
Singleness of Purpose	\$0.00	\$145.00
Sunset Grp	\$0.00	\$240.00
TIAS	\$70.00	\$70.00
Tranquility Group	\$115.00	\$115.00
Total	\$335.00	\$1,629.00

CORRECTIONS	
Beginning Balance	\$1,597.84
Expenses	(\$159.75)
Donations	\$58.84
Ending Balance	\$1,496.93

Corrections Donations		YTD
Hope grp	\$6.00	\$43.50
Intergroup Pink Can	\$37.84	\$54.68
Living Sober	\$0.00	\$72.37
Ridge Manor BB	\$0.00	\$54.65
Tranquility	\$15.00	\$15.00
Total	\$58.84	\$240.20

^{* -} Intergroup payment for 1/2 Communique expense (several payments from 2022 included)



If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide, please call 988 (formerly 1-800-273-8255(TALK)). 988 is a 24/7, free, confidential counseling line that connects individuals to a trained specialist in suicide crisis intervention. *One common misconception of the line is that people need to be suicidal to contact 988, yet that is not the case.* Call, text, or chat 988 if you are feeling overwhelmed, upset, or worried about a suicidal loved one, and talk through the steps to take to feel better.

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MAY ANNIVERSARIES



Send us anniversary information for your group at www.aahernando.org. Look for the "Submit Anniversaries" link at the top of the home page, or email them to

anniversaries@aahernando.org. Please submit by the 25th of the month for the following month.

Group Anniversaries

(Date registered with GSO) Hernando Beach29 **AlGood** Joel S.1 **Fun and Frolic** Neil N.18 **Happy Hour** Chrystal C.6 **Heavy Hitters** Linda S.22 Cole B......4 Shellie1 Theresa F.8

Aaron M
Hernando Beach Jimmy G
Hope Mike K4
Ladies Big Book Sandy C9
Let Go and Let God Richard3 Johnny V15
Principles Before Personalities Geof G3
Bob H
Promises Eileen B
Ridge Manor Big Book Brian M7 Gail L4
Rough Roads Mary P
Spring Hill Monday Night Ben M19
Serendipity Sisters Jeanne N6
Serenity Sisters Amanda G3
Singleness of Purpose Rachel2

Steps We Took
Chuck G7
Tom A8
Tom D46
Sunset
Jeff B36
Jon Paul36
There Is A Solution
Derek T3
Joanie10
Thursday Night Welcome
Wyatt M1
Together We Stand
Eileen B9
Tranquility
Tranquility Randy S31
Tranquility Randy S
Tranquility Randy S
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Tranquility Randy S



24 Hour **HOTLINE**

Karen L.5

Victoria F.1

7 DAYS week 365 DAYS a year 352-683-4597

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

webmaster@aahernando.org

If you find a mistake in this newsletter, please consider that it is there for a purpose. We publish something for everyone, and some people are always looking for mistakes.