



# COMMUNIQUE



## One DUI Too Many

When I was growing up, my dad's brothers were drinking all of the time, and I liked being around them because they seemed to be having a good time. My dad was always yelling at us when he got home from work. He was a workaholic and seemed to only care about working and money and impressing people. My uncles got me to taste beer sometimes, and I didn't like the taste, so I didn't drink more than sips.

The first time that I got drunk was when I was in 10th grade and went to a party. I got sick that night from drinking and said that I would never drink again. When I did drink again, I didn't drink enough to get drunk. That went on for some time. I could take it or leave it. I graduated high school in 1980, and the New Year's Eve of 1981 I got really drunk, got really sick and said that I would never drink again. It took a while, but I wound up drinking again. As time passed, I accumulated several DUI arrests. My drinking led to drug use, and I got arrested for that as well.

In 2004 I was arrested on a drug charge and went into Hernando County Drug Court. It's a voluntary program to keep from going to jail. I was ready to quit the drug that I got arrested for, but I wasn't ready to stop drinking. Part of the drug court program requirements was that I had to attend A.A. meetings. I came into A.A. then and continued to drink. About every two months I would drink, and alcohol would lead me back to that drug. I was in A.A., and I wasn't ready. I didn't see a problem with my drinking even though I had three DUIs.

On July 2nd 2005, I got my fourth DUI. That was my bottom. I finally became willing to get sober and do whatever it took to stay sober. It was a relief that the battle was over, and I had lost. I was really desperate not to drink again, so I got a sponsor and worked the twelve steps of A.A. I received the gift of sobriety on the seventh step when I received a sudden spiritual awakening, and the obsession was suddenly removed. The promises came true from the spiritual awakening, and it's been like looking at the world through a different set of eyes.

Because of my fourth DUI, the State of Florida had permanently removed my driver's license. I remained sober, and some people in A.A. signed forms that stated (under the penalty of perjury) that I had stayed sober. As a result, in April of 2012, my driver's license was reinstated.

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TRADITION 1

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.



## EVENT CALENDAR

- Fri 01/05 Intergroup Meeting 6:30 PM 8555 Forest Oaks Blvd, Spring Hill
- Fri 01/05 Area Assembly 8:00 AM 10400 County Road 48, Howey-in-the-Hills
- Sat 01/06 Area Assembly 8:00 AM 10400 County Road 48, Howey-in-the-Hills
- Sun 01/07 Area Assembly 8:00 AM 10400 County Road 48, Howey-in-the-Hills
- Mon 01/08 District Meeting 6:15 PM 1214 Broad St, Masaryktown**
- Sat 01/13 Unity Meeting 6:30 PM 6363 Commercial Way, Weeki Wachee
- Fri 02/02 Intergroup Meeting 6:30 PM 8555 Forest Oaks Blvd, Spring Hill
- Sat 02/03 Accessibilities 10:00 AM Zoom only
- Mon 02/05 District Meeting 6:15 PM 1214 Broad St, Masaryktown
- Sat 02/10 Unity Meeting 6:30 PM 6363 Commercial Way, Weeki Wachee



## 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](mailto: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](http://aanorthflorida.org)  
**(Checks payable to NFAC)**

### Please note new address:

#### General Service Board

PO Box 2407  
James A Farley Station  
New York, NY 10116-2407  
**(Checks payable to GSB)**



*"One DUI Too Many" continued from page 1 ...*

My sobriety date is July 3rd 2005. It would be very difficult for me to give back what this program has given me. I still work the steps daily. I never dreamed that my life would ever be like what it is today. That's only because of working the 12 steps and because all of the people here that have helped me. I always wanted to start my own business, but it didn't happen until I got sober and started doing what was suggested.

I don't take credit for my sobriety or all of the good things that have happened since working the program. Instead, God and A.A. get all the credit. I love A.A. and can't thank this program and everyone in it enough for what my life has become.

Ed S.

Sunset Group

## Just For Today

**Just for today** I will try to live through this day only, and not tackle all my problems at once. I can do something for twelve hours that would appall me if I felt I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

**Just for today** I will be happy. This assumes to be true what Abraham Lincoln said, that "Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be."

**Just for today** I will adjust myself to what is, and not try to adjust everything to my own desires. I will take my "luck" as it comes, and fit myself to it.

**Just for today** I will try to strengthen my mind. I will study. I will learn something useful. I will not be a mental loafer. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration.

**Just for today** I will exercise my soul in three ways: I will do somebody a good turn, and not get found out; if anyone knows of it, it will not count. I will do at least two things I don't want to do – just for exercise. I will not show anyone that my feelings are hurt; they may be hurt, but today I will not show it.

**Just for today** I will be agreeable. I will look as well as I can, dress becomingly, keep my voice low, be courteous, criticize not one bit. I won't find fault with anything, nor try to improve or regulate anybody but myself.

**Just For Today** I will have a program. I may not follow it exactly, but I will have it. I will save myself from two pests: hurry and indecision.

**Just for today** I will have a quiet half hour all by myself and relax. During this half hour, sometime, I will try to get a better perspective of my life.

**Just for today** I will be unafraid, especially I will not be afraid to notice what is beautiful, and to believe that as I give to the world, so the world will give to me.



Recovery didn't open up the gates of Heaven and let me in ... Recovery opened up the gates of Hell and let me out.

**Intergroup Officers**

**CHAIRPERSON**

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

**ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON**

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

**SECRETARY**

Eleanor B. 484-661-8753  
 igsecretary@aahernando.org

**TREASURER**

<V A C A N T >  
 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)

**COMMUNIQUE (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**

Nancy C. 706-386-9857  
 igliaison@aahernando.org

**UNITY MEETING**

Deborah-Anne C. 631-522-0734  
 Donna M. 352-238-9697

**TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

John K. Chair 352-650-2324  
 Andrew W. Co-chair

webmaster@aahernando.org

**Intergroup Meeting**

**First Friday**

Jan 5<sup>th</sup>, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM  
 Forest Oaks Lutheran Church  
 8555 Forest Oaks Blvd,  
 Spring Hill



**District 13 Officers**

**DCM**

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

**ALTERNATE DCM**

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

**SECRETARY**

<V A C A N T >  
 dsecretary@aahernando.org

**TREASURER**

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

**District 13 Committees**

**ACCESSIBILITIES**

Diane B. Chair  
 Laura L. Co-Chair  
 accessibilities@aahernando.org

**ARCHIVES**

<V A C A N T >  
 archives@aahernando.org

**COMMUNIQUE (DISTRICT)**

Maryanne N. 914-466-9116  
 communique@aahernando.org

**CORRECTIONS**

Debbie Q. 314-607-4670  
 Lisa W. 912-312-0210  
 corrections@aahernando.org

**GRAPEVINE**

Tom H. 352-502-1274  
 grapevine@aahernando.org

**LITERATURE**

Linda S.  
 literature@aahernando.org

**PUBLIC INFO (PICPC)**

Jim S.  
 picpc@aahernando.org  
**PARLIAMENTARIAN**  
 Eleanor B.  
 parliamentarian@aahernando.org

**TREATMENT**

Joe C.  
 treatment@aahernando.org

**District Meetings**

**District-1st Monday**

Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, Feb 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 PM  
 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
 1214 Broad St., Masaryktown

**Accessibilities-Sat before 1st Mon**

Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 AM  
 4116 Lamson Ave, Spring Hill and  
 Zoom Meeting ID: 827 8314 8424  
 Passcode: 995 008, all 2024 meetings)

**Unity Meeting Schedule**

Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>

Hosted by: **Singleness of Purpose**

Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>

Hosted by: **A Desire**

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

**2024 AREA 14 ASSEMBLY DATES**

January 5-7

April 5-7

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](http://aanorthflorida.org/assembly_agenda.asp)



**The hotline is looking for Hernando County A.A. members to sign up for the 12<sup>th</sup> step volunteer list. You can sign up by calling the intergroup office at 352-584-5656.**

**Communique Email List**

Anyone wishing to subscribe to the Communique email list can send an email with a subject line of "Opt In" to the address below requesting to be added to the email list. You will automatically receive the Communique in your email inbox on the first of every month. You can opt out anytime by sending an email with your request to the same address with the subject line "Opt Out."



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

Your email address will not be shared for any other purpose.

## More About Concept 12 (Part II)

The column featured in the December 2023 issue of the *Communique* titled "About Concept 12" was, due to length, done in two parts. Part I consisted of the first three of the six Warranties. This second part carries the next three Warranties (4-6.)

In review of 1-3:

**Warranty One:** "The Conference shall never become the seat of perilous wealth or power."

**Warranty Two:** "Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample Reserve should be its prudent financial principle."

**Warranty Three:** "None of the conference members shall be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any others."

**Warranty Four:** That all important decisions should be reached by discussion, vote, and wherever possible, by substantial unanimity." This Warranty is, on the one hand, "a safeguard against any hasty or overbearing authority of simple majority; and on the other hand, it takes notice of the rights and the frequent wisdom of minorities, however small. This principle guarantees that all matters of importance, time permitting, will be extensively debated, and that such debates will continue until a really heavy majority can support every critical decision."

**Warranty Five:** "That no Conference action shall ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy." Although practically all other societies and governments find it necessary to punish individual members for violations of their beliefs, principles or law, Alcoholics Anonymous finds this practice unnecessary.

When we fail to follow sound spiritual principles, alcohol cuts us down. No humanly administered system of penalties is needed. This unique condition is an enormous advantage to us all, one on which we should never abandon by resorting to personal attack and punishment. Of all societies, ours can least afford to risk the resentments and conflicts which would result, were we ever to yield, to temptation to punish in anger.

For much the same reason, we cannot and should not enter into public controversy, even in self-defense. Our experience has shown that, providentially, A.A. has been made exempt from the need to quarrel with anyone, no matter what the provocation. Nothing could be more damaging to our unity and to the worldwide goodwill which A.A. enjoys, than public contention, no matter how promising the immediate dividends might appear.

Some situations which may require Conference consideration are:

A.A. may come under "sharp public attack or heavy ridicule" -- perhaps "With little or no justification in fact. Our best defense in these situations would be no defense whatever namely, complete silence at the public level. If the criticism of A.A. is partly or wholly justified, it may be well to acknowledge this privately to the critics -- with our thanks." →

## Step 1

We admitted that we were powerless over alcohol – that our lives had become unmanageable.

### Tradition 1 (Short Form)

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.

### Tradition 1 (Long Form)

Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.



Public violations of A.A. Traditions.

Our own members may try to use the A.A. name for their private purpose. "Aggressive and punitive action, even in this area, must be omitted. Privately we can inform Tradition-violators that they are out of order. When they persist, we can use other resources of persuasion as we have. In the long run though, we shall have to rely mainly on the pressures of A.A. opinion and public opinion."

"Another kind of problem is the severe internal disagreement that comes to unwelcome public attention." As G.S.O. "is not a police operation," we can only offer A.A.'s experience as a matter of information.

**Warranty Six:** "That though the Conference may act for service of Alcoholic Anonymous, it shall never perform any act of government; and that, like the society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action."

The A.A. Traditions accord the individual member and the A.A. group extraordinary liberties. In fact, we A.A. 's probably enjoy more and greater freedoms than any Fellowship in the world. We claim this as no virtue. We know we have to choose conformity to A.A.'s Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions or else face dissolution and death.

"Because we set such a high value on our great liberties and cannot conceive that they will need to be limited, we here specially enjoin our General Service Conference to abstain completely from any and all acts of authoritative government which could in anyway curtail A.A.'s freedom under God. We expect our conference always to try to act in the spirit of mutual respect and love--one member to another.

"Freedom under God to grow in His likeness and May our General Service Conference be always seen as a chief symbol of this cherished liberty."

INTERGROUP TREASURER'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2023

The Intergroup bank statements weren't available in time for the December 2023 Intergroup meeting, so the Intergroup treasurer's report couldn't be generated (and then approved by the body.) There should be two intergroup treasurer's reports provided in the Communique next month.

**My Experience with Step One**

Growing up, my family was very involved in church. I attended Sunday school and church service almost every week. Vacation bible school every year, and many church youth group functions. The God I was taught about was a loving, forgiving God who wanted us to be kind to one another and live by the golden rule. I never knew of a punishing or condemning God.

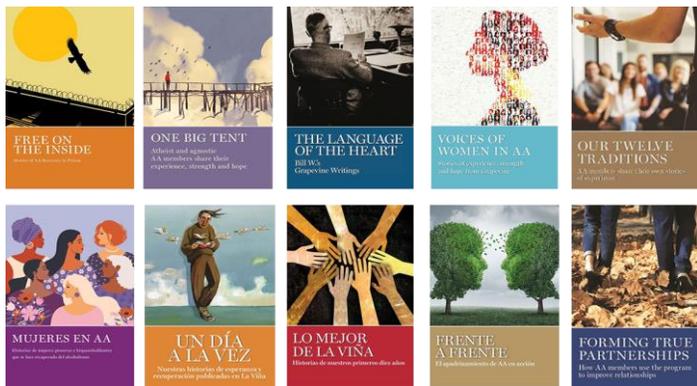
During my early teens, while away at a church youth retreat, I was troubled about how I had been living. I had been stealing money from my sister's purse, my dad's dresser, a few dollars here and there. I was frequently lying about things. I knew I wasn't living the way I should and it was weighing on me.

I began praying about it and asked God to forgive me for my sins and to help me be a better person. I had at that moment what I believe to be the same spiritual experience that I would later hear about in the rooms of A.A. I felt His presence and knew things would be okay. And they were. I worked with my pastor and others in the church to expand my understanding of how my Creator wanted me to live. →

Fast forwarding about 35 years, I was sitting in a hotel room a few miles from my home. I had checked in just to have a place to be alone and drink. Thoughts of suicide had been overwhelming me for quite a while. Alcohol had become my master and taken over my life. Everything felt so hopeless. I began to cry, and I began to pray. With no knowledge of A.A. or step one, I admitted to God that my life was hopeless, and I couldn't go on living this way. I asked Him to help me. And in that moment, I experienced what I did so many years prior. It was an overwhelming spiritual experience of peace and knowing that God was there with me. And everything would be okay.

I fell asleep and woke the next morning. I checked out and returned home. The thought occurred to me to look for an A.A. meeting. There would be one that evening one mile from my house, and I made it there. That was December 2, 2018. Thanks to my Higher Power, the 12 steps, and the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, I have not had a drink since.

John K.  
Ridge Manor Big Book



The AA Grapevine is the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. Written, edited, illustrated, and read by AA members and others interested in the AA program of recovery from alcoholism, the Grapevine is a lifeline linking one alcoholic to another.

Often referred to as our "meeting in print," the AA Grapevine communicates the experience, strength, and hope of its contributors and reflects a broad geographic spectrum of current AA experience with recovery, unity, and service. Founded in 1944, the Grapevine does not receive group contributions, but is supported entirely through magazine subscription sales and additional income derived from the sale of Grapevine items.

Go to: [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org)

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



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**Grapevine for iOS**

Download the app for free from the Apple App Store for iPhone. Scan this QR code with your phone camera.





## What is “Accessibilities?”

The purpose of an Accessibilities Committee is to define and 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 to carry the A.A. message to anyone who needs it. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Diane B. or Laura L. at [accessibilities@aahernando.org](mailto:accessibilities@aahernando.org).

Scheduled Accessibilities Committee Meetings 2024:

Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:00 AM

Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:00 AM

If interested, please join us at our upcoming committee meeting(s) via Zoom:

Zoom Meeting ID: 827 8314 8424

Passcode: 995 008

### 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 Dianne B. or Laura L. at [accessibilities@aahernando.org](mailto:accessibilities@aahernando.org)

### Meeting In A Bag

Now available through the Accessibilities Committee is 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 the 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 card, readings, and our commemorative chips.

Contact Dianne B. or Laura L. at [accessibilities@aahernando.org](mailto:accessibilities@aahernando.org)

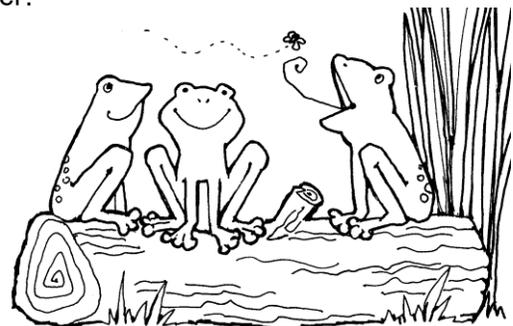
## Service Positions Available

Thinking about a service position? District 13 is looking to fill the position of secretary. No experience necessary, but some sobriety is required.

Also available is the position of Archivist. An archivist for Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) collects, organizes, and preserves historical records. They are responsible for the physical and intellectual integrity of the collection. No experience is necessary, but some sobriety is required.

Intergroup needs a new treasurer as well. No experience is necessary, but some sobriety is required. The previous treasurer, Suzanne M., is filling in only until a replacement can be found.

If you are interested in any of these positions or have questions about them, please contact any of the district officers listed on the third page of this newsletter.



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES



Send us anniversary information for your group at [aahernando.org](http://aahernando.org). Look for the "Submit Anniversaries" link at the top of the home page, or email them to [anniversaries@aahernando.org](mailto:anniversaries@aahernando.org). Please submit by the 25th of the month for the following month.

**Group Anniversaries**

(Date registered with GSO)

(None)

**Algood**

- Lou W. .... 14
- Tom G. .... 44
- Heather C. .... 24
- Norm A. .... 39

**Aripeka Open Speaker**

- Lou W. .... 14
- John C. .... 44

**Brooksville**

- Angel N. .... 3

**Happy Hour**

- Bonnie T. .... 34

- Bud S. .... 45
- Carol R. .... 18
- Cheryl B. .... 7
- Joey H. .... 14
- Scott P. .... 10

**Heavy Hitters**

- Jack D. .... 6
- Joey H. .... 4
- Sandy S. .... 32
- Mike T. .... 9
- Robert R. .... 3
- Bud ..... 47
- Kevin W. .... 6
- Tony A. .... 11
- Alisa ..... 6
- Scott N. .... 5
- Tim H. .... 3
- Schelene D. .... 3
- Marian H. .... 4
- Mariam H. .... 4
- Julie W. .... 22
- Brittany ..... 5
- Jim H. .... 44
- Fran ..... 6

**Hernando Beach**

- Deborah-Anne C. .... 16
- Jack J. .... 50
- Audrey R. .... 21

**Ladies Big Book**

- Andi S. .... 12
- Nettie..... 63

**There Is A Solution**

- Cheryl B. .... 7
- Judy D. .... 54
- Robbie S. .... 4

**Thursday Night Welcome**

- Renee D. .... 6
- Jack B. .... 49

**Tranquility**

- Samantha N. .... 4

**Women's Serenity**

- Deborah Ann ..... 16
- Wendy S. .... 31
- Karen A. .... 29



**24 Hour  
HOTLINE**

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

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**  
**[aahernando.org](http://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](mailto: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.**