DISTRICT 13 & THE HERNANDO COUNTY INTERGROUP, FLORIDA NOVEMBER 2026

http://www.aahernando.org

COMMUNIQUE

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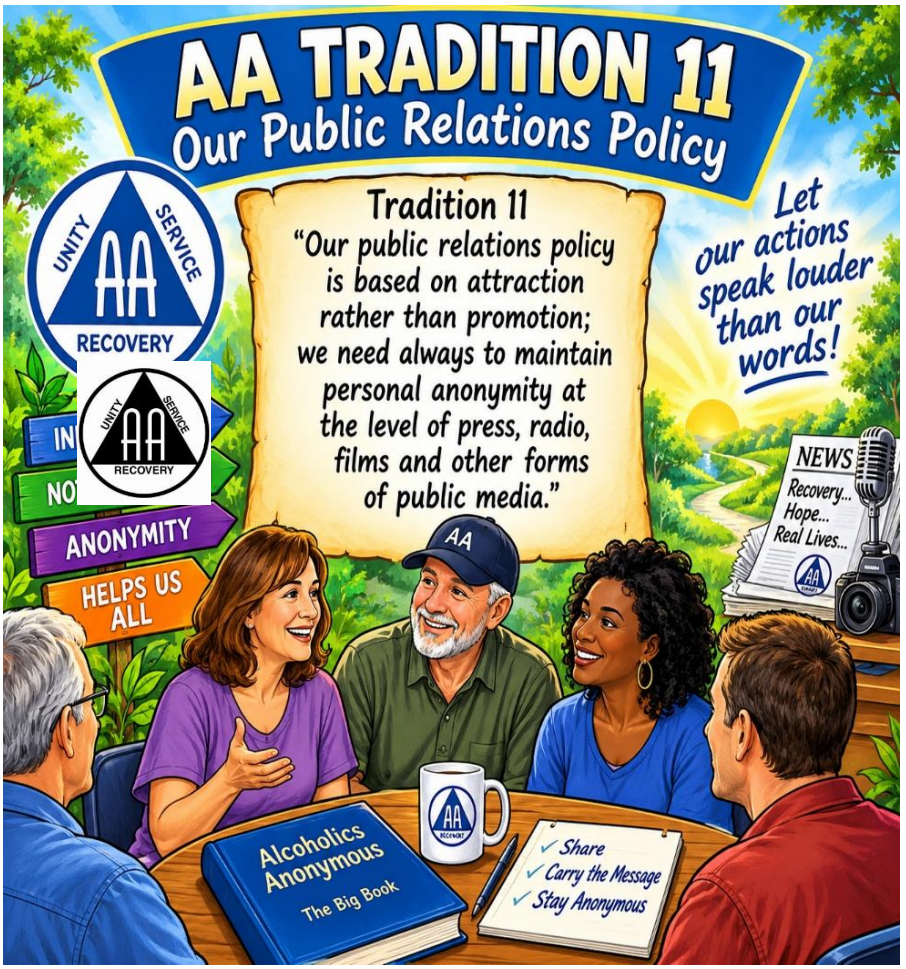
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Responsibility Declaration

"I 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"

11 Month Step 11

🌟 Key Ideas of AA Step 11

1. Conscious Contact Step 11 is about improving *ongoing* awareness of a Higher Power—not dramatic spiritual experiences, but steady daily connection. It shifts recovery from reacting to life to *living intentionally*.

2. Prayer (Reaching Out) Prayer in Step 11 means asking for guidance, clarity, and willingness—not outcomes or control. The Step limits requests to *knowledge of God's will and the power to carry it out*. This protects against slipping back into self-will.

3. Meditation (Listening In) Meditation quiets the mind enough to hear direction, notice patterns, and stay grounded. It doesn't require religious belief—many members practice simple mindfulness or quiet reflection.

4. Daily Practice (Morning & Night) Step 11 is meant to be practiced every day:

- **Morning: Set intention, ask for guidance, begin the day centered rather than anxious.**
- **Evening: Review the day—where you were resentful, selfish, dishonest, or helpful—and reconnect with your Higher Power.**

5. Progress, Not Perfection AA literature emphasizes that Step 11 is a lifelong practice. You don't "complete" it—you grow into it.

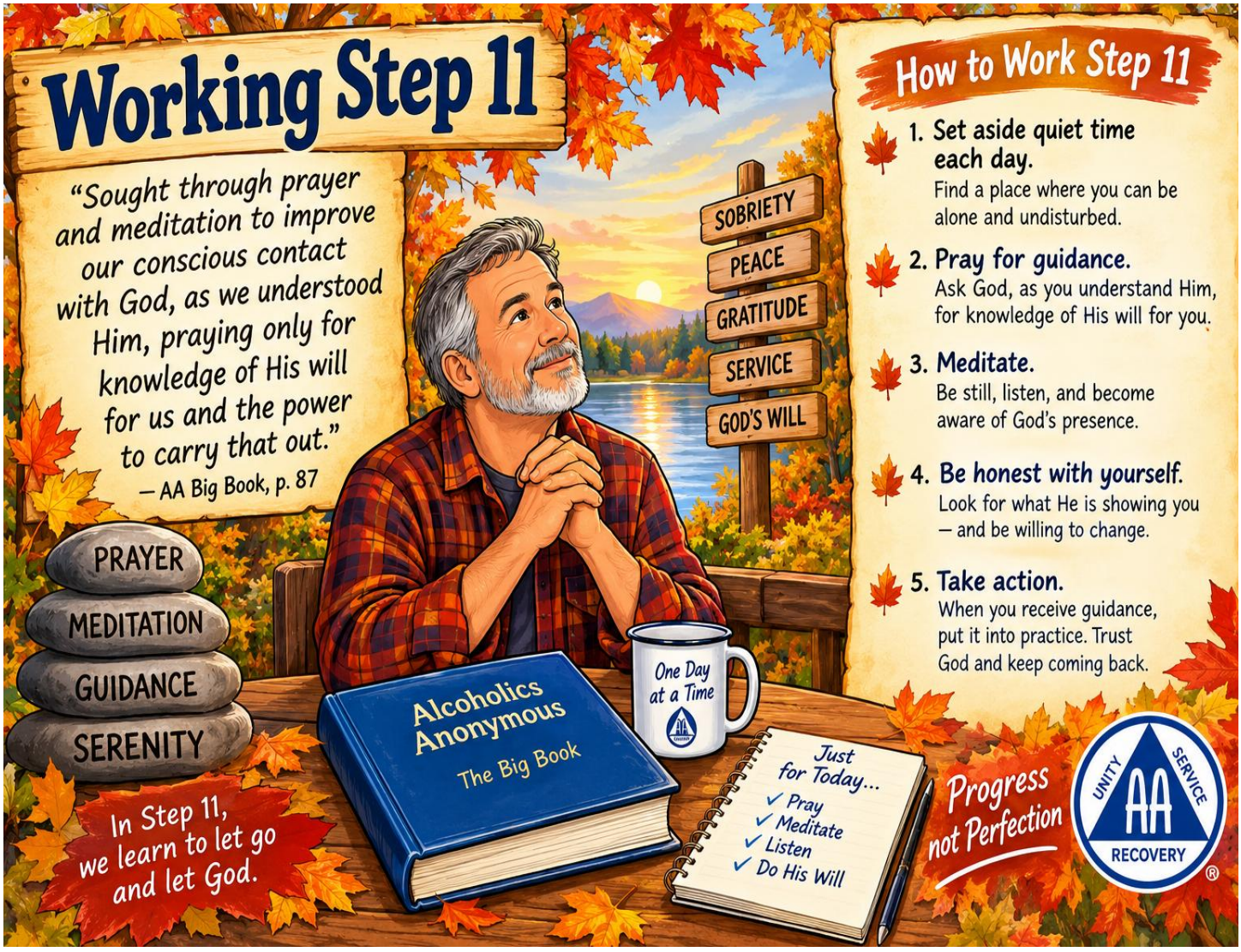
6. Flexible Spirituality "God as we understood Him" means Step 11 is open to all beliefs. Members are encouraged not to get hung up on the word "God" but to connect with whatever Higher Power works for them.

🧭 What Step 11 Helps You Achieve

- **Emotional balance**
- **Reduced impulsiveness**
- **Clarity before acting**
- **A pause between thought and reaction**
- **A sense of purpose and usefulness**
- **Strength to follow spiritual direction rather than self-will**

🔧 **How You Work Step 11 (Practical Newcomer Guidance)**

- **Set aside quiet time daily** (even 3–5 minutes).
- **Ask for guidance**: "What would You have me do today?"
- **Ask for strength**: "Help me carry it out."
- **Listen**—through meditation, reading, or silence.
- **Review your day at night**: honesty, kindness, resentments, usefulness.
- **Adjust tomorrow's intention** based on what you learn.



A "Spiritual Thirst"

In 1965, the Rolling Stones rock 'n' roll band amplified the revolutionary moral disturbance of the age with (I Can't Get No) "Satisfaction." It was a rock anthem whose lyrics echoed *a restless, irritable, and discontented sentiment*. The song also serves as a metaphor for man's perpetual dilemma since Adam met Eve.

History records the desire for *satisfaction*, *for knowing, understanding, and meaning* beyond mere earthly existence, as early as 30,000 BCE in Paleolithic burials. The desire appears in the Egyptian Book of the Dead (c. 2400 BCE) and the Tibetan book of the Dead (8th and 14th centuries CE). In addition, the Old Testament, Psalm 42, intones the soul's spiritual *thirst* (c. 1000 BCE).

The spiritual thirst or the search for meaning beyond material satisfaction is a common human refrain, but for the alcoholic it is a unique chorus. In a 1961 letter to Bill Wilson, Dr. C. G. Jung speaks to an alcoholic's spiritual malady as the "spiritual thirst of our being for wholeness, expressed in the medieval language: the union with God." Additionally, Bill Wilson reflects this spiritual thirst when he writes, "Deep down in every man, woman, and child is the fundamental idea of God."[1] Bill Wilson also captures the need for *satisfaction* when he describes the alcoholic's "bedevilments." [2]

The spiritual thirst is the motivating condition, which is often channeled through our basic human instincts for security, power, prestige, and, as Mick Jagger sings, "tryin' to make some girl." For the alcoholic, booze is the escape beyond material, emotional, or intellectual dis-satisfaction. For the chronic alcoholic, in the end, the booze solution, that was intended to satisfy or quench a spiritual thirst, in fact, destroys all material wealth, health, and well-being.

In The Varieties of Religious Experience, Dr. William James suggests that the human temperament is either "healthy minded" or the "sick Soul"; he notes that neither extreme is favored. The healthy-minded can be overly optimistic; the sick soul can be loaded with self-pity, resentment, and fear.

For the healthy-minded, "once born" character, life's encumbrances are manageable. Historically, Dr. James saw Ralph Waldo Emerson and Walt Whitman as having this temperament. Yet, even when all is well, there is still a moment when the question may arise, as the 1969 song by Peggy Lee asks, "Is That All There Is?"

Despair, in the sick soul, perceiving that "all is vanity" (vapor or mist; Ecclesiastes 1:2), is the motivation for "let's break out the booze and have a ball, if that's all there is." On the other hand, hitting bottom can compel seeking spiritual answers, what Dr. James called the "twice-born" experience, what Dr. Jung called a spiritual thirst. In Alcoholics Anonymous, the "Doctor's Opinion," Dr. Silkworth prescribes the necessity of a "psychic change," or "spiritual awakening"; these we can read about in the pages of AA's "Personal Stories."

(Continued on page 5)

(A Spiritual Thirst, continued from page 4)

Therefore, seeking spiritual satisfaction is not only the pathway to physical, emotional, and intellectual fulfillment but also the resolution to Dr. Jung's transcendent human longing for "wholeness ... in the medieval language, the union with God." However, even that assessment, from a psychologist of Dr. Jung's reputation, smacks of religion. About one-third of the U.S. population expresses dissatisfaction with religion as "spiritual but not religious" (SBNR).3 Another 14%-20% express themselves as "none" (nothing in particular), not atheist or agnostic, when asked about religious views.[4]

Varieties of Religious Experience, by Dr. James, defines religion as "*the feelings, acts, and experiences of individual men in their solitude, so far as they apprehend themselves to stand in relation to whatever they may consider the divine."* [5] The term *"divine"* strictly denotes concepts related to God or a deity; however, Dr. James adds an "unseen order," a "supreme good". The spiritual but non-religious population views the divine or sacred as a Universal Power, a Power within, or Nature. Many agnostic and atheistic concepts include awe and a reverence for nature, human consciousness, and/or the vastness of the universe.[6]

When reading "Bill's Story," in Alcoholics Anonymous, there is a passage describing his childhood friend and former drinking buddy suggesting, "Why don't you choose your own conception of God?" For me, and others who cross AA's threshold, that is an open door of opportunity. We willingly enter into a new spiritual consciousness by laying aside the perception of coercive theocracies, weaponized dogma, and clerical hypocrisy. We choose what AA suggests as a "God of our understanding."

Many of us have opened our minds and hearts to what Dr. James called the divine, a personal, pragmatic experience with the "fruits" of a religious experience, not the "roots";[7] what Alcoholics Anonymous describes as a "spiritual awakening"[8] ; we can now do, feel, and believe that which we could not do before by our unaided strength and resources.[9]

Michel W. Member of Hernando County Alcoholics Anonymous

[1] Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th Ed., p. 55.

[2] Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th Ed., p. 52.

[3] https://news.gallup.com/poll/511133/identify-religious-spiritual.aspx

[4] https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2024/01/24/religious-nones-in-america-who-they-are-and-what-they-believe/

[5] Varieties of Religious Experience, A Study in Human Nature, (Varieties), Centenary Edition, Longmans, Green and Co., New York, 2002, pp. 29-30.

[6] Varieties, p. 46, [7] Varieties, p. xxxii, "borrowing from The Sermon on the Mount"

[8] Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th Ed., Appendix II. [9] Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, pp. 106-7

DISTRICT 13 MEETINGS

District 13 meets monthly at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 1214 Broad St., Masaryktown, FL at 6:15 PM

2026

Monday, 02 November, 6:15 PM - 7:30 PM

Monday, 07 December, 6:15 PM - 7:30 PM

2027

Monday, 04 January, 6:15 PM - 7:30 PM

NFAC ASSEMBY INFORMATION - Panel 75

Orlando Marriot Lake Mary

(407) 995-1100 or (800) 228-9290 (toll free)

1501 International Parkway

Lake Mary, FL 32746

Future Assembly Dates: 2027

January 22-24 April 9-11

HERNANDO COUNTY INTERGROUP

Hernando County Intergroup meets monthly typically the first Thursday

at Forest Oaks Lutheran Church

8555 Forest Oaks Blvd, Spring Hill, FL

at 6:30 PM

Thursday, 5 November, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Thursday, 3 December, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Thursday, 7 January, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

2027 AREA 14 ASSEMBLY

Area Assembly location:

Orlando Marriott Lake Mary

1501 International Parkway, Lake Mary, FL

407-995-1100, 800-228-9290 (toll free)

Check in at 4:00 PM, check out at 12:00 PM

See Area Assembly website for information

Aanorthflorida.org/assembly_agenda.asp

The AA Declaration of Unity

"This we owe to A.A.'s future: To place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come."

A Plea for PEOPLE

TO WORK AT THE AA INTERGROUP OFFICE ONE DAY A WEEK

YOU CAN MAKE A Difference!

The Intergroup Office is the lifeline of AA in our community. By giving just one day a week, you help carry the message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic.



YOUR TIME CAN:

- ✓ Answer phones
- ✓ Greet visitors
- ✓ Help with information
- ✓ Share fellowship
- ✓ Support our Groups
- ✓ Keep AA alive and growing

We need you!

BE OF SERVICE. BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

CONTACT **GEORGE L.**

361-522-2391

WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT

1. Sobriety gave me a new lease on life. Unfortunately, I'm still making the same monthly payments!
2. I asked God for patience. He gave me an AA business meeting!
3. My favorite Step is Step Twelve. It's the only one where I get to tell somebody else what to do!
4. I don't have all the answers, but I know where the coffee is!
5. AA taught me that I can't control people, places, or things. I still have trouble with people who park in my spot!
6. I used to blame my problems on alcohol. Now I have to find more creative excuses!
7. My serenity is directly proportional to how far away I sit from certain people at the meeting!
8. The Promises say we will know a new freedom and a new happiness. They didn't promise we'd like everybody in our home group!
9. I'm working on being less judgmental. Some people are making it a very difficult assignment!
10. They say laughter is the best medicine. In AA, it's a close second to coffee and a good sponsor!
11. My spiritual condition is improving. My ability to keep my opinions to myself is still under construction!
12. I've been sober long enough to know better, but not always long enough to do better!
13. I finally learned to live and let live. I'm still working on the "let live" part!





2026

November 7 – Gratitude Dinner

December 12 – Christmas Party

2027

January 9 –

February 13 –

March 13 –

April 10 -

May 8 –

June 12 -

July 10 –

August 14 –

September 11 –

October 9 –

November ? – Gratitude Dinner

December 11 – Christmas Party

Unity Meetings, doors open at 6:00 PM

Nativity Lutheran Church,

6363 Commercial Way (US-19), Weeki Wachee, FL

A huge Thank You! To the above groups for stepping up.

We ask our other groups to please consider taking a date in 2027

Chair Ann M annm@aahernando.org **Co-Chair – Amy R** amyr@aahernando.org

DISTRICT 13 OFFICERS

DCM

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ALTERNATE DCM

<VACANT>

SECRETARY

<VACANT>

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Chair - Larry H. 352-238-3806

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Chair - John K. 352-650-2324

johnk@aahernando.org

TREATMENT

Chair – Mikey G. 410-726-1099

mikeyg@aahernando.org

Group Donation Addresses

Attention all Group Treasurers Please send donations to the following.

District 13 Treasurer

120 Dawson Ave.

Spring Hill, FL 34606

(Checks payable to District 13)

Hernando Intergroup Office

Pat B. – Treasurer

4126 Lamson Ave

Spring Hill, FL 34608

(Checks payable to Hernando Intergroup)

NFAC Area 14 Panel 74 Treasurer

P.O. Box 840066

St Augustine, FL 32080

aanorthflorida.org

(Checks payable to NFAC)

General Service Board

P.O. Box 2407

James A Farley Station

New York, NY 10116=2407

(Checks payable to GSB)

INTERGROUP OFFICERS

CHAIRPERSON

Bruce P. 203-917-7632

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ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON

<VACANT>

SECRETARY

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COMMITTEES

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<VACANT>

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COMMITTEES (continued)

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Chair – Ann M.

annm@aahernando.org

Co-Chair – Amy R.

352-238-9697

amyr@aahernando.org

Intergroup Meeting

First Thursday

Forest Oaks Lutheran Church

8555 Forest Oaks Blvd

INTERGROUP OFFICE

4126 Lamson Avenue

Spring Hill

Mon-Fri 9 am to 1 pm

Checks Payable to Hernando Intergroup

Hotline available 24/7

352-683-4597

24 Hour HOTLINE

7 DAYS a 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.

NOVEMBER 2026 ANNIVERSARIES

Fun & Frolic

Mike T. – 30

Tracy H. – 10

Dawn P. – 13

Jim S. - 6

Heavy Hitters

Tom B. – 8

Richard L. – 10

Richard C. – 9

Brian W. – 9

Bonnie A. – 18

James S. – 6

Todd L. – 38

Adam V. – 2

Ken P. – 12

Dawn P. - 13

Heavy Hitters Early Birds

Hope - 1

Hernando Beach

VI L. – 48

Nancy – 38

Ladies Big Book Study

Tracey H - 10

Ridge Manor Big Book

Donna R. - 1

Rough Road

Liz K. - 43

Singleness of Purpose

Amy R. - 9

Spring Hill Monday Night

John F. - 47

Sunset

Levi B. – 5

Daniel K. – 2

Blake T. - 2

Step Sisters

Nancy E. – 38

Darla F. – 34

Tracey H. - 10

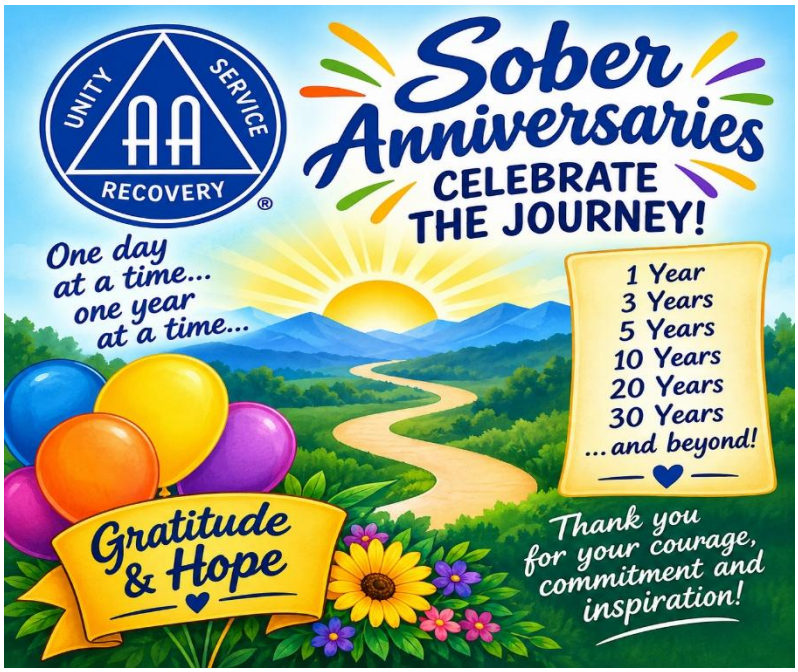
Tranquility

Mark S. - 10

W.I.S.E. Women

Sherri - 2





Hernando County Intergroup Treasurer's report
Sep-26

Checking

Beginning Balance	$ 3,511.95
Total Withdrawls	$ 1,386.85
Total Deposits	$ 1,593.49
Ending Balance	**$ 3,718.59**

Savings

Beginning Balance	$ 6,000.48
Total Withdrawls	$ -
Total Deposits	$ 0.05
Ending Balance	**$ 6,000.53**

Expenses

Amazon	$ 104.51
AAWS	$ 189.50
Electric	$ 61.37
Lamson Rent	$ 775.00
Recovery Accents	$ 61.55
Spectrum	$ 190.93
Square Proc. Fee	$ 3.99
Total	**$ 1,386.85**

Donations

Anonymous	$ 100.00
Fun & Frolic	$ 100.00
Nature Coast Wom	$ 100.00
Oldies But Goodies	$ 100.00
Principles/Person	$ 115.65
Sunset Group	$ 50.00
Women into Action Don. for Gratitude	$ 15.00
Serenity Sisters	$ 25.00
Anonymous	$ 70.00
Total	**$ 675.65**

Other income

Archives Rent	$ 50.00
Sales, cash cks	$ 181.70
Sales, credit Card	$ 120.89
Unity	$ 285.25
Ticket Sales	$ 280.00
Total	**$ 917.84**

Grand Total	**$ 1,593.49**

Outstanding checks
#1048 - $61.00
#1050 - $365.00

Income for Gratitude to date
Ticket Sales - $820.00
Donations - $195.00

Corrected copy

District 13 September 2026 Treasurer's Report

District	
Beginning Balance	$6,067.31
Total Expenses	$352.44
Total Deposits	$62.75
Ending Balance	**$5,777.62**

District Expenses		YTD
Archives Rent to IG Grp	$50.00	$450.00
Archives Comt Expense	$100.00	$100.00
DCM Run Area Assembly	$0.00	$943.16
GSR Run Area Assembly	$471.88	$471.88
Bank Surcharge	$5.00	$445.47
Founders' Day Seed S	$0.00	$400.00
Pre/Post Conference	$0.00	$170.00
GSR GSS Refund	$26.04	$26.04
PC/CPC Com Expense	$0.00	$274.40
Grapevine Com Expense	$0.00	$71.00
Treatment Com Expense	$171.40	$171.40
Treasurer Expense	$0.00	$21.01
DCM Percepts	$0.00	$31.22
Church Rent yearly	$0.00	$300.00
Total	**$352.44**	**$3,415.06**

District Contributions		YTD
All Good	$0.00	$100.00
Angleska Step	$0.00	$50.00
Aripka, BB	$0.00	$78.00
Brooksville Grp	$0.00	$300.00
Founder's Day	$0.00	$751.70
Fun and Frolic	$0.00	$100.00
Hernando Beach	$0.00	$150.00
Heavy Hitters	$0.00	$720.00
Hope Grp	$0.00	$203.00
Hope & Light	$0.00	$160.00
Let-Get Serious	$0.00	$25.00
Lunch Bunch	$0.00	$100.00
More Serenity Sisters	$0.00	$50.00
PBAP	$22.75	$175.23
Rough Roads	$0.00	$267.41
Ridge Manor BB	$0.00	$240.00
SAYS	$0.00	$10.00
Serenity Sisters	$25.00	$75.00
Spring Hill Monday Ni	$0.00	$30.00
Step Sisters	$0.00	$25.00
Sunset	$0.00	$109.00
The Steps we took	$0.00	$50.00
Tranquility	$0.00	$25.00
There is a Solution	$0.00	$50.00
Young Men's Group	$0.00	$100.00
Welcome	$0.00	$62.50
WISE Woman	$0.00	$90.00
Women Into Action	$15.00	$45.00
Total	**$62.75**	**$3,665.84**

Corrections	
Beginning Balance	$1,537.31
Total Expenses	$0.00
Total Deposits	$0.00
Ending Balance	**$1,537.31**

Corrections Expenses		YTD
General Expenses	$0.00	$228.65

Corrections Contributions		
Hope Group	$0.00	$39.00
Intergr (frm 2022) Pink can	$0.00	$15.20

Combination Dist+Corrections	
Beginning Balance	$1,604.62
Total Expenses	$352.44
Total Deposits	$62.75
Ending Balance	**$1,314.93**

Reserve Fund-Money Market	
Beginning Balance	$1,120.04
Interest	$0.01
Total	**$1,120.05**





Serendipity Sisters

Same Great Meeting... Just a New Place!

Friday Night Meeting at 7PM

at Nativity Lutheran Church

will be moving to

St Andrew's Church on Deltona Blvd

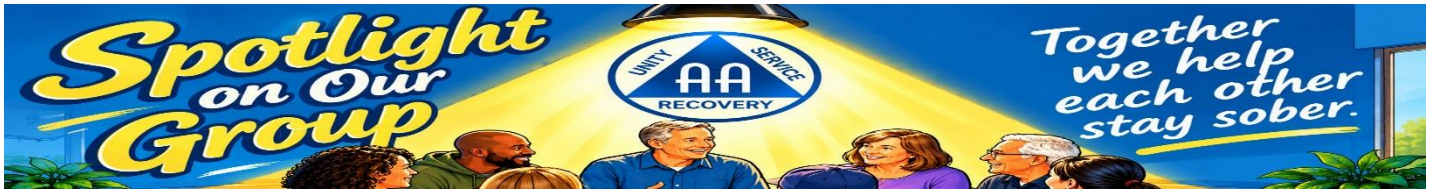
Friday, 11/6/2026 at 7PM

Same Friends

New Location

We look forward to seeing you there!

Recovery Works... Together We Grow!



Sunset Group BBQ & SPEAKER

Saturday, January 2nd, 2027

First Presbyterian Church
250 Bell Ave
Brooksville, FL

EAT @ 4:30 PM

SPEAKING @ 5:30 PM

Janice P.
From Tampa, FL

$6 Suggested Donation

Side Dishes & Desserts Appreciated

No alcoholic turned away.

Any questions contact Ed S. 352-428-8438

RANDOM THOUGHTS

One day at a time turns impossible mountains into manageable steps.

Sobriety is not about never falling; it's about always getting back up.

Gratitude grows where self-pity once lived.

Progress, not perfection, is the path to serenity.

Recovery begins when honesty replaces excuses.

Every sober sunrise is a second chance.

The smallest act of willingness can open the biggest door to change.

Let go of what you can't control and hold on to what you can.

Peace comes when expectations surrender to acceptance.

Your story may be the hope someone else needs today.

THE 11th CONCEPT

"The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern."

What Does the 11th Concept Mean?

The 11th Concept emphasizes the importance of having **qualified, capable, and dedicated people serving Alcoholics Anonymous at the world-service level.** Key ideas include:

- **Qualified Leadership:** Choose people with the experience, skills, and dedication needed to serve effectively.
- **Careful Selection:** Give serious consideration to the qualifications of people selected for service positions.
- **Clear Responsibilities:** Make sure everyone understands their duties, authority, and responsibilities.
- **Effective Service:** Build a strong service structure that supports the primary purpose of carrying the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
- **Continuity and Stability:** Develop a dependable team that can provide effective service over time.

Hernando County Intergroup

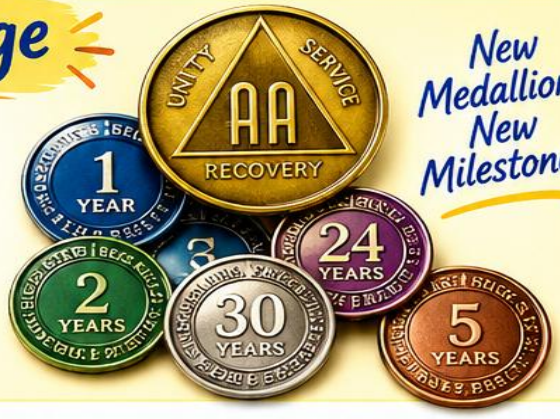
AA Central Office News

Together We Can Make a Difference!

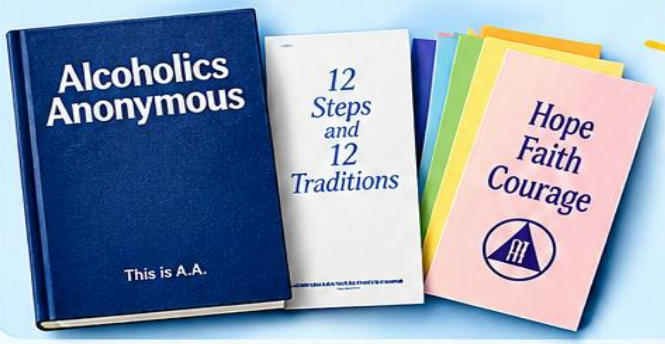
AA Medallion Exchange

Office Manager George L. says they are starting an AA Medallion exchange.

You bring in a medallion and you can exchange it for a different medallion.



New Medallion... New Milestone...



Books, Pamphlets Free Lending Library

In addition to having AA books and pamphlets for sale our Central Office has an excellent ***free lending library*** for your use.



Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are always needed to help man the office. For additional details contact **George L.** by either visiting the **Central Office** or call him at **361-522-2391.**

Service Work is Recovery Work!



4126 Lamson Ave,
Lamson Woods Plaza,
Spring Hill, FL 34608

Hope • Recovery • Service

What Is AA Service Work?

AA service work is any action that helps carry the message of recovery to another alcoholic or supports the functioning of AA as a whole. Service takes many forms. It may be greeting newcomers at the door, making coffee, serving as a secretary, sponsorship, answering a hotline, participating in committees, or serving at the district, area, or General Service level.

The common thread is simple: service helps AA fulfill its primary purpose, "to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

Why Is Service Important?

For many members, service is where the principles of the program move from understanding to action. Recovery begins by receiving help, but it grows when we begin helping others.

Service offers several benefits:

- It gets us out of self-centered thinking.
- It strengthens our connection to the Fellowship.
- It helps us practice humility, patience, and responsibility.
- It provides opportunities to give back what was freely given to us.
- It helps ensure that meetings and resources are available for future newcomers.

Many members discover that when they are actively involved in service, they feel more connected, useful, and grateful. Service reminds us that sobriety is not just about avoiding a drink. It is about living a new way of life.

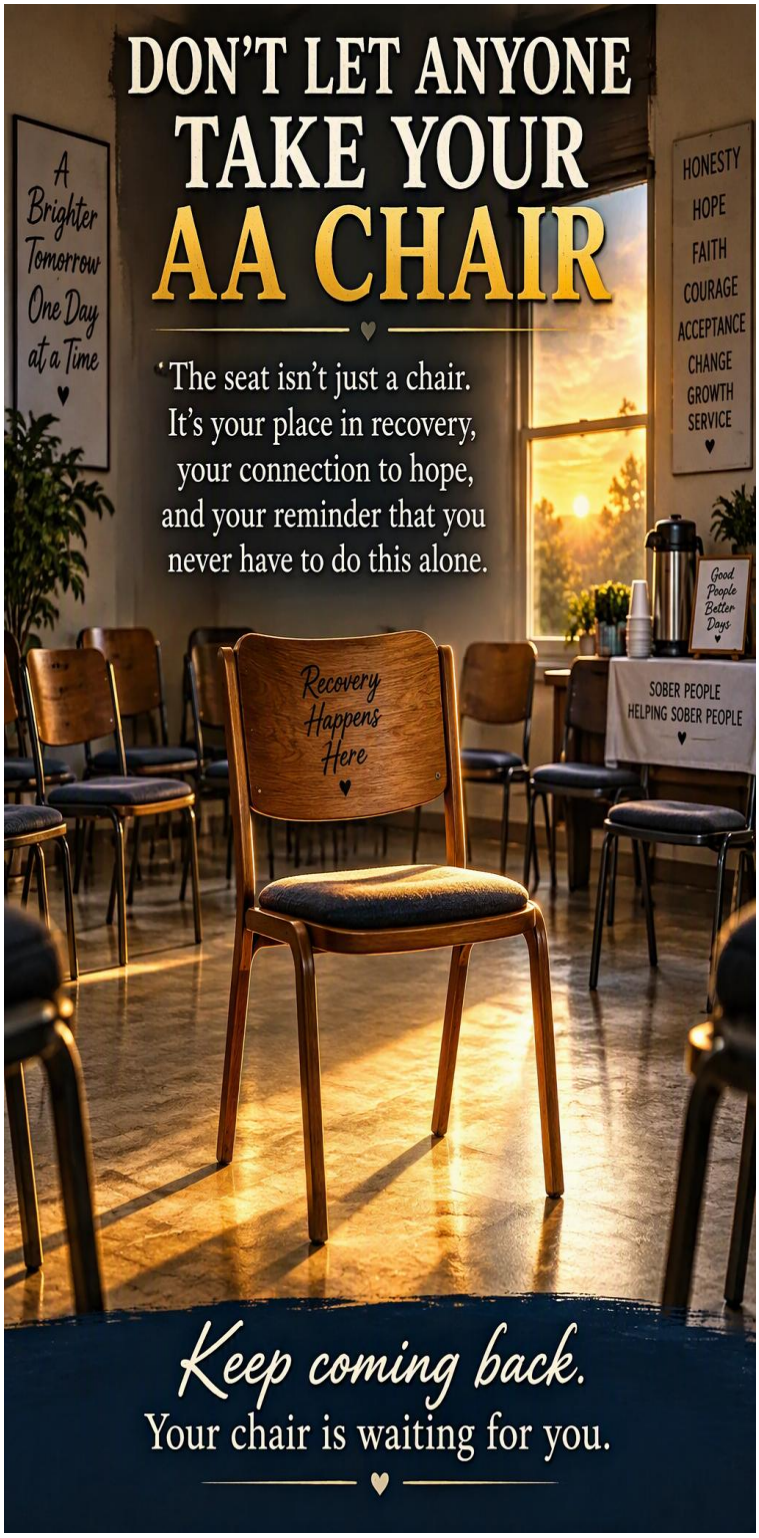
Key Ideas About Service

Service is not about status. Positions in AA are opportunities to serve, not opportunities to govern or gain recognition.

Every service job matters. The member setting up chairs is just as important as the trusted servant serving at the area or General Service level. AA works because many people contribute in different ways.

Service is an expression of gratitude. Many members see service as a natural response to the gift of sobriety. We freely give what was freely given to us.

Service helps preserve AA's future. Meetings do not happen by themselves. Literature does not distribute itself. Hotlines do not answer themselves. Service keeps AA available for those who need it.



Poem:

It goes, whatever It is.
It will go on without me.
It is life, the quiz.
It is never free.

It is the good question.
It is the dubious answer.
It is the impression.
It is the brain power.

if I caught It
what would I do with It
life is such a nebulous It
living is to enjoy It

It comes.
It goes.
is It a plan from a Higher Source
It is whatever you want It to be

tag - - - your It

ME and the Boss


Thanksgiving
Alcathon
Thursday, November 26 –
Friday, November 27, 2026
Noon to Noon (24 hours)
250 Bell Ave.
Brooksville, FL 34601
Meetings every 2 hours
Food, Fun, and Fellowship
Bring a snack, appetizer, or
dessert to share!
Contact: Liz S 352 942 2591

What Is AA Group Conscience?



In Alcoholics Anonymous, the group conscience is the collective decision-making process through which AA members seek to determine what is best for their group and how best to carry the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

It is more than simply taking a vote. A group conscience involves listening to one another, sharing experience and opinions, considering different viewpoints, and seeking a decision that serves the group as a whole rather than any one individual.

The Principles of an AA Group Conscience

1. **Unity Before Personal Opinions**
   Members may disagree, but everyone has an opportunity to be heard. The goal is not to win an argument but to find a solution that best serves the group and AA as a whole.
2. **Everyone Has a Voice**
   Every member should have the opportunity to express their thoughts and concerns. Minority opinions deserve respectful consideration, even when most members initially disagree.
3. **Substantial Unanimity**
   AA encourages substantial unanimity whenever possible, rather than making decisions based solely on a simple majority. This means taking the time to understand concerns and seek broad agreement.
4. **Principles Before Personalities**
   Decisions should be guided by AA's Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Concepts for World Service, and the group's primary purpose—not by personalities, personal ambitions, or individual conflicts.
5. **Trusted Servants, Not Rulers**
   Group officers and committee members serve the group. They are trusted servants who help carry out the group's conscience, not individuals who govern the group.

How Does a Group Conscience Work?

An AA group might need to decide whether to change its meeting format, purchase literature, elect a new secretary, or contribute money to the local Intergroup.

A healthy group conscience might follow these steps:

1. **Present the issue.**
   Explain the question or problem clearly.
2. **Allow discussion.**
   Give members an opportunity to share their experience and opinions.
3. **Consider the minority view.**
   Listen carefully to concerns that may have been overlooked.
4. **Seek substantial unanimity.**
   Look for a decision that most members can support after thoughtful discussion.
5. **Take a vote if necessary.**
   Follow the group's established voting procedures.
6. **Respect the outcome.**
   Once a decision is reached, members work together to carry it out, while remaining open to reconsideration when appropriate.

What Does the AA Big Book Say?

The group conscience is closely connected to AA's spiritual principles of humility, unselfishness, and putting the welfare of others ahead of personal desires.

The Twelve Traditions express this principle in Tradition Two:

"For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience."

This reminds us that no individual member, regardless of experience, personality, or position, has the final authority over an AA group.

An Important Distinction

A group conscience is not simply whatever the majority wants.

A majority vote can be necessary, but a decision reached without listening to the minority may fail to reflect a well-informed group conscience.

The goal is to make an informed decision after considering the facts, hearing different viewpoints, and allowing time for thoughtful discussion.

AA's Second Tradition also does not mean that every decision requires unanimous agreement. Rather, it encourages members to seek a spiritual solution that serves the common good.

A Thought to Remember

"The purpose of a group conscience is not to get everyone to think alike. It is to allow everyone to be heard so that the group can make a decision guided by spiritual principles rather than personal preferences."



Discussion question for an AA meeting:

When our group makes a decision, are we truly seeking a group conscience—or are we simply counting votes until we get our way?