



# Tri-County Central Office News

"BITS N PIECES OF AA"

A Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-County Central Office, Inc.  
8019 North Himes Avenue Ste. 104, Tampa, Florida 33614-2763

February, 2009

Phone: 813- 933-9123 E-Mail: [aainfo@aatampa-area.org](mailto:aainfo@aatampa-area.org) Web Site: [www.aatampa-area.org](http://www.aatampa-area.org)

## WHY WE CALL IT THE BIG BOOK

A printer in Cornwall, NY, named Edward Blackwell, had been highly recommended to Bill Wilson. Blackwell was the President of Cornwall Press. So Bill and Hank P. (author of the personal story "The Unbeliever" in the first edition of the Big Book) went to Cornwall to see Blackwell. There they were told that the book would probably be only about four hundred pages when printed. That seemed a bit skimpy. They wanted to sell the book for \$3.50 per copy. That was a very large sum in those days; probably the equivalent of about \$50 today, and people might not think they were getting their money's worth. They picked the cheapest, thickest paper the printer had, and requested that each page be printed with unusually large margins surrounding the text. This made for an unusually large book. Thus, the book came to be nicknamed the "Big Book." A reproduction of the first printing can be purchased today and it is much taller and thicker than our current Big Book, although it has fewer pages. Blackwell had an excess of red material for the bindings, so he offered them a special deal. Eager to save costs, Bill and Hank agreed. They also thought, according to some reports, that the color red would make the book more attractive and marketable. The first printing was the only one on which a red binding was used. All the other printings of the first edition, except for the fourth printing, were in various shades of blue. The fourth printing, due to another overstock of binding material and thus, lower cost, was bound in blue as well as in green. Despite all their efforts at proofreading, there was a typographical error in the first printing. On page 234, the second and third line from the bottom was printed twice. This was corrected in subsequent editions. A New York AA member named Ray Campbell, a recognized artist, was asked to design the dust jacket. His story, "An Artist's Concept", appears in the Big Book's first edition. He submitted various designs for consideration including one which was blue and in an Art Deco style. The one which was chosen was red, and yellow, with a little black, and a little white. The words Alcoholics Anonymous were printed across the top in large white script. It became known as the circus jacket because of its loud circus colors. The unused blue jacket is today in the Archives at the Stepping Stones Foundation. Nancy O.

## The 12 Steps as Ego Deflating Devices

### What does Surrender Mean? Dr. Harry M. Tiebout, M.D.

For reasons still obscure, the program and the fellowship of AA could cause a surrender, which in turn would lead to a period of no drinking. It became ever more apparent that in everyone's psyche there existed an unconquerable ego which bitterly opposed any thought of defeat. Until that ego was somehow reduced or rendered ineffective, no likelihood of surrender could be anticipated. AA, still very much in its infancy, was celebrating a third or fourth anniversary of one of the groups. The speaker immediately preceding me told in detail of the efforts of his local group—which consisted of two men—to get him to dry up and become its third member. After several months of vain efforts on their part and repeated nose dives on his, the speaker went on to say: "Finally, I got cut down to size and have been sober ever since," a matter of some two or three years. When my turn came to speak, I used his phrase "cut down to size" as a text around which to weave my remarks. Before long, out of the corner of my eye, I became conscious of a disconcerting stare. It was coming from the previous speaker. It was perfectly clear: He was utterly amazed that he had said anything which made sense to a psychiatrist. The incident showed that two people, one approaching the matter clinically and the other relying on his own intuitive report of what had happened to him, both came up with exactly the same observation: the need for ego reduction. It is common knowledge that a return of the full-fledged ego can happen at any time. Years of sobriety are no insurance against its resurgence. No AA's, regardless of their veteran status, can ever relax their guard against a reviving ego. The function of surrender in AA is now clear. It produces that stopping by causing the individual to say, "I quit. I give up on my headstrong ways. I've learned my lesson." Very often for the first time in that individual's adult career, he has encountered the necessary discipline that halts him in his headlong pace. Actually, he is lucky to have within him the capacity to surrender. It is that which differentiates him from the wild animals. And this happens because we can surrender and truly feel, "Thy will, not mine, be done." Unfortunately, that ego will return unless the individual learns to accept a disciplined way of life, which means the tendency toward ego comeback, is permanently checked. This is not news to AA members. They have learned that a single surrender is not enough. Under the wise leadership of the AA "founding fathers" the need for continued endeavor to maintain that miracle has been steadily stressed. The Twelve Steps urge repeated inventories, not just one, and the Twelfth Step is in itself a routine reminder that one must work at preserving sobriety. Moreover, it is referred to as Twelfth Step work—which is exactly what it is. By that time, the miracle is for the other person.

### From the Central Office SERVICE DESK

A total of 661 phone calls were made to the Central Office in DECEMBER  
290 for info on AA,  
2 for info on Al-Anon,  
8 messages for other inquiries,  
6 requesting a Twelfth Step call, 355 after Office Hours calls. There were 220 walk-ins visits as well.

A number of years ago the Central Office was having difficult problems finding volunteers to help on the after hours and weekend hotline so we decided to pay some volunteers so we could insure that the phones would be manned almost 24 hours a day. These two guys get paid so very very little for what they do and I just wanted to thank Martin and Bert for all the hard work they have done for us through-out the years.

Thanks Guys!!! tws☺👋

**TBAIC - District 2 - Hillsborough & East Pasco Counties  
 (877) AATAMPA or (877) 228-2672!**

Hello everybody! I am an alcoholic and my name is Annie L.

At our November meeting, we had quite a few volunteers attend. This is a great way to get feedback about what is going on at our meetings in various institutions and to find out if there is anything we can do to help out. Anyone is welcome at our committee meetings. It's a great way to get involved if you are not already, and to discover new opportunities for service in our current facilities where meetings are brought. If you are unable to take a meeting into our facilities, there are opportunities to write letters to inmates. Currently, we have a man that is on death row who could really use some pen pals. To get his information and write him, please contact Mike K. at 813-785-8027.

Cathleen C., East Pasco Women's Jail Coordinator, put together some informational packets for us to take to meetings that we attend. This packet gives the information necessary on what steps to take to get involved in taking meetings to jail. If anyone is interested, they could use help on Thursday's and Saturday's in East Pasco Women's Jails. Please contact Cathleen C. to get involved. As for Hillsborough Women's jails, all meetings are covered, but the women always like to see new faces, so please call if you would like to come out to Orient or Falkenburg. Jill J. is taking a meeting to our women's prison every Wednesday and it's going very well, and she will also be cleared to take meetings into one of our juvenile treatment centers next week. Buddy H. reported that Falkenburg men's meetings are doing well, but that they could use some help on Thursdays. Contact Dick if you can help out that night. Paul D. needs volunteers for Monday night at Orient. If you can help, please give him a call. Rob T. has stepped in as our new Detox coordinator. Detox is a great way to carry the message to the sick and suffering alcoholic, especially if you are new in sobriety, as there are no sobriety requirements for taking meetings in to our detox facilities. Contact Rob T for more info. Dick has all juvenile facilities covered.

As a reminder, to get clearance to take meetings into Hillsborough County jails, you must attend orientation. The next orientation is on January 10<sup>th</sup> at Orient Road Jail at 8:30 a.m. If you have a temporary PV # it will expire unless you attend the orientation. If you would like to attend contact Buddy to make reservations.

Thanks again to all of our volunteers!

Love & Service – Annie L.

**Treasurers Report - November 29<sup>th</sup> 2008**

Pink Can Donations YTD 2008	\$17,054.37
Less Prudent Reserve	- \$300.00
Less YTD Literature	- \$10,696.03
Less YTD Expenses	- \$1,212.28
Pink Can Current Balance	\$4846.06

**Next Committee Meetings**

January 31<sup>st</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM at the Tri-County Central Office (near Himes & Waters). If you need more specific directions please call Tim @ 813-933-9123. The meeting usually lasts about an hour and it is the best way to get involved with service work in Detox/Treatment/Jail/Prison facilities.

**Pink Can Drive**

Our committee is 100% self supporting and receives no funds from the traditional pie charts or District 2 in accordance with our group conscious. If your home group has not made a pink can donation recently or if you are able to send an additional donation this year ... We will put it to great use!

TBAIC, PO Box 26242, Tampa FL 33623

Thank you to those groups who have sent in a donation this Month: Back to Basics, Noon Big Book @ 3333, Expect a Miracle, Midday Matinee, Mustard Seed, Noontime Celebration, Old School Group, Riverside Group, Ruskin Fellowship (Sunday), Sisters in Sobriety, Sober @ 7- Apollo Beach, Sober on Saturday, Sunshine Group, Thursday Night There is a Solution Group 3333, Wellspring Recovery Group, Yana 5:45 Happy Hour.

**Current Service Opportunities**

Men's Pasco (LOL) Jail Coordinator...*Call Jack M.*  
 Juvenile Coordinator.....*Call Dick D.*

<b>TBAIC Committee Members</b>	
Eric V. - Alt Chair	813-277-4833
Mark L. – Treasurer Tom F. – Alternate	813-477-6855
Annie L. – Secretary	305-766-3297
Dick D. - Hills Jails - <i>Emeritus</i>	813-254-4423
Paul D – Mens Orient Rd	727-385-5529
Buddy H – Mens Falkenburg	813-871-2514
Annie L. – Hills Womens Jails	305-766-3297
Michael K. - Detox	813-785-8027
Jill J. – HCI Women's Prison	813-349-7048
Open - E Pasco Jail - Mens	
Cathleen C - E Pasco Jail - Women's	813-727-1415
Jim H. - E Pasco Prison	813-862-3539
Mark A - Treatment	813-407-2705
Lindsay T - Bridge The Gap	813-326-5408
Joe L - Pre-Release	813-918-3489
Open - Juvenile	

**WHO SAID THERE WAS**

**NOTHING TO DO IN AA!!!**

**VAUDEVILLE CIRCUIT 2**

**Dinner & Show**

**Saturday, April 4th, 2009**

**6:00 pm - 10:00 pm**

**Hosted by the Tampa Bay Young People's Group**

**Where: Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church**

**3501 San Jose**

**Tampa, Fl. 33629**

**Vaudeville Circuit is a Speaker meeting followed by  
Dinner,**

**Stand-Up Comedy & Improv!**

**Speaker: Rodger H. (Monday Night Speakers Group)  
7-8**

**Stand-Up: "Georgia" Jim H.**

**\$5.00 Donation in advance, \$7.00 @ the Door.**

**Dinner will be provided. All proceeds go to benefit  
Tampa YPG 8th year**

**anniversary in December.**

**More info: Anne L. (305) 766-3297**

**Lloyd O. (813) 748-9116**

**South Florida Area 15  
General Service Quarterly  
Assembly**

**April 3-5, 2009**

**Sarasota, Florida**

**Complete Details: <http://www.area15aa.org/>**

**COCOA BEACH**

**19th Spring Conference**

**April 30-May 3, 2009**

**Holiday Inn Oceanfront**

**1300 North Atlantic Avenue**

**Cocoa Beach, Florida 32931**

**(321) 783-2271**

**For Details Call: 877-902-5975 or**

**Email: [leestapes@viafamily.com](mailto:leestapes@viafamily.com)**

**51st ICYPAA**

**The 51st International Conference  
of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous  
May 21st-24th, 2009**

**Atlanta Marriott Marquis**

**265 Peachtree Center Avenue**

**Atlanta, GA. 30303**

**For more info: <http://www.icypaahost.org/>**

**SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE:**  
Carry the message to an A.A. member with  
Special Needs.

Our committee needs your participation we meet on the  
first Sat. of the month at 3333 Club on  
3333 W. Columbus Drive, 12:30 p.m.  
Any questions call Jackie at 813-671-0997.

**"AA'S BACK TO THE 40'S "**

**2 Day Workshop**

**When: Sunday, 2/1/09 and 2/8/09**

**Where: 3333 W Columbus Dr.**

**Tampa, FL 33607 Time: 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm  
(February 1 st and 8 th)**

**This workshop is designed  
to take members of Alcoholics Anonymous  
through the steps precisely how AA's members  
did it when our fellowship began.**

**Contact: Maria M at 813-412-0793 or  
Earl W at 813-787-0103**

**Valentine Day's Spaghetti Dinner & Meeting**

**Plus a Dance after the Meeting**

**Saturday, February 14, 2009**

**Sobrenity Group**

**1412 West Waters Avenue  
Ste. 102**

**(Between Rome & North Blvd.)**

**Tampa, Florida**

**7:30 pm - 12 Midnight**

**Food-Desserts-Music- 50/50 Raffle**

**\$5.00 per Person (Donation)**

**Steps to Sobriety**

**February 13, 14, 15, 2009**

**Calvary Episcopal Church**

**1615 1st Street**

**Indian Rocks Beach, Florida 33785**

**For Info: <http://www.stepstosobriety.com>**

**Back to Basics Workshop**

**March 28, 2009**

**Presented personally by**

**Wally P. from Tucson, AZ**

**Leesburg Community Center**

**Venetian Gardens**

**109 Dixie Avenue**

**Leesburg, Florida 34748**

**More Details: [basicsworkshop@comcast.net](mailto:basicsworkshop@comcast.net)**

**Registration is Limited to the first  
300 people**

**NOTES FROM INSIDE THE CENTRAL OFFICE**

December 9th, 2008 the Board of Directors for Central Office met:  
**BOARD MEMBERS REPRESENTING GROUP**

AL B.	CHAIRPERSON	DRUID HILLS GROUP
PAUL G.	VICE-CHAIR	SOBER @ 7 GROUP
JOYCE Q.	TREASURER	KEYSTONE GROUP
JIM VK	BOARD MEMBER	CARROLLWOOD NS GROUP
MARILYN	BOARD MEMBER	NEW WAY GROUP
KEVIN G.	BOARD MEMBER	NORTH TAMPA YOUNG & RESTLESS GROUP
RICK D.	BOARD MEMBER	EARLY RISERS GROUP
DIANA H.	BOARD MEMBER	RIVERSIDE GROUP
JANIE M.	BOARD MEMBER	CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP
OPEN		

Before the meeting Al was presented with a Birthday cake celebrating his 60th Birthday. Alcohol must of really pickled him because he doesn't show his age ☺ Diana H. was welcomed to the Board replacing Stacy W. Al then thanked everyone who had shown up to help with the annual physical inventory. Marilyn read the Secretary Report, a motion was made to accept the report and all were in favor. Joyce gave the Treasurer's report along with the Budget for 2009. There was a lot of discussion, with some questions about different line items. The report concerning the Anniversary Dinner was moved to be discussed at the Council meeting. Next followed discussion concerning the Year-End Review for the Office Manager. Tim answered several questions and was then asked to leave the room while the Board decided what they wanted to do. When Tim was asked back into the meeting he was informed that he had gotten an increase in his wages. ☺👏 This a good thing!!! Al then discussed a little about the Inventory and what took place. Tim asked about getting an off-site back system set up. A motion was made and it was approved. Tim gave a brief report from the District 2 meeting he had attended. It was announced that Al would be giving a Board/Council orientation after the Meetings. The Council Meeting was a lot like the Board meeting. The Secretary Report, the Treasurers Report—etc. Things picked up some-what when we got to the Anniversary Dinner. Paul G. took over running down the list of Committees and the commitments their were to be responsible for, making sure everything was in place for the February Anniversary Dinner. We didn't want a repeat of last year when we ran out of food too early. Kristen asked if a Group could contribute money to the event in lieu of not being able to commit to one of the Committees. Oh Yes! Just earmark your check or if in cash make sure you let Tim know it's to help out with the food or other supplies for the Dinner. It was also announced that the Safe Haven Group and Attitude of Gratitude Group were going to host an All Groups meeting January 24th. Cindy announced that the Fund-Raising Committee was gearing up to try and get the Softball Tournament off the ground and a meeting would take place at the All Groups meeting. Dick D. gave the TBAIC report filling in in the absence of Buddy H. Everything is going well.

December 9th, 2008 the Central Office Representatives met:  
**COUNCIL MEMBERS REPRESENTING GROUP**

KRISTIN G.	SAFE HAVEN GROUP
KRISTIN R.	MONDAY NIGHT MADNESS GROUP
JOHN F.	LIFE ENRICHMENT GROUP
AL F.	SOBER @ 7 GROUP
JIM O'B.	TAMPA YOUNG PEOPLES GROUP
STUART S.	EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP
TONY J.	MORNING MIRACLES GROUP
DICK D.	RIVERSIDE GROUP
FRANK B.	MIDDAY MATINEE GROUP
STEVE J.	ODESSA GROUP
MARY VDB.	BRANDON BEGINNERS STEP GROUP
CINDY H.	HELPING HANDS GROUP
DICK D.	TBAIC
JOHN G.	TAMPA PALMS BIG BOOK GROUP
CARLOS M.	5:45 NEW BEGINNINGS GROUP
SANDY S.	CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP
JUNE T.	SOBRENITY GROUP
JOHN D'P.	AS BILL SEES IT MEN'S GROUP
CHRIS P.	IN THE MIDDLE GROUP

The Central Office is still looking for 10 used but not abused metal folding chairs. We need them for our Board and Council Meetings. If you have some laying around and you don't need them. Give Tim a call at the Central Office.....933-9123. Thanks!!



**Newsletter Subscription**

The news source of AA in Hillsborough & East Pasco County. Send \$5.00 to: Central Office, 8019 N. Himes Ave. Ste. 104, Tampa, Florida 33614 and you will receive a one-year subscription to our Newsletter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Group \_\_\_\_\_



**ANNIVERSARY TIME**

GROUP	Honors To	Date	Years	A BIRTHDAY PLAN SUPPORTER TO CENTRAL OFFICE		
				Honors To	Date	Years
ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE	MARLENE	01/01/07	2 YRS			
ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE	HEIDI		2 YRS	SUE Z.	01/16/89	20 YRS
ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE	CAROL		2 YRS	GENE S.	01/25/88	21 YRS
ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE	STEPHANIE		2 YRS	RICK L.	02/16/89	20 YRS
ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE	BRUCE H.		2 YRS	MIKE S.	02/04/89	20 YRS
IN THE WIND GROUP	SEAN	01/12/08	1 YR	<p>Next District Meeting: February 08th, 2009 Meeting changed this month cause of Superbowl event. Bayshore Baptist Church 3111 W. Morrison Ave. (Morrison &amp; MacDill) GSR Sharing 3:30 pm</p>		
IN THE WIND GROUP	GRUMBLES	01/19/02	7 YRS			
SAFE HAVEN GROUP	STAN H.		1 YR			
SAFE HAVEN GROUP	SUE Z.	01/16/89	20 YRS			
SAFE HAVEN GROUP	DAN M.	01/17/84	25 YRS			
SAFE HAVEN GROUP	JOHN G.		40 YRS			
KEYSTONE GROUP	JOYCE Q.	02/03/03	6 YRS			
KEYSTONE GROUP	WENDY M.	02/08/99	10 YRS			
KEYSTONE GROUP	CHRIS W.	02/12/95	14 YRS			
KEYSTONE GROUP	RICK L.	02/16/89	20 YRS			
THE DOVER GROUP	TOM N.	02/16/86	23 YRS	  <p>Spiritual Retreat for A.A. &amp; Al-Anon</p>  <p>LAKE YALE BAPTIST CONFERENCE CENTER, FL MARCH 6-8, 2009</p> <p>Contact: Tom B. 813-254-7094</p>		
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	CATHY F.	02/27/07	2 YRS			
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	BARBARA R.	02/07/07	2 YRS			
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	LARENE S.	02/14/04	5 YRS			
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	HALA L.	02/04/02	7 YRS			
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	PAUL A.	02/24/08	1 YR			
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	ED L.	02/17/07	2 YRS			
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	JOHN T.	02/28/06	3 YRS			
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	STEVE F.	02/13/05	4 YRS			
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	MARIA G.	02/12/95	14 YRS			
INTO ACTION GROUP	VAN F.	02/20/02	7 YRS	<p>Unity • Service • Recovery</p>		
INTO ACTION GROUP	PAULA B.	02/03/81	28 YRS			
RIVERSIDE GROUP	PATTI L.	02/08/77	32 YRS			
EXPECT A MIRACLE GROUP	TERRANCE D.	02/17/89	20 YRS			

“Tri-County Central Office News” is a monthly newsletter of AA in Hillsborough and East Pasco County and the Tri-County Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is about, by and for members of the AA Fellowship. **Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to AA as a whole, nor does publication of any article imply any endorsement by either AA or the Tri-County Central Office.** Quotations or excerpted material from AA books or pamphlets are reprinted with permission of AA World Services, Inc. Preamble, AA cartoons and excerpted matter reprinted with permission of AA Grapevine, Inc. We welcome articles of opinions or descriptions of personal experiences (NO poetry, please) which should be sent to: **Editor, Tri-County Central Office, 8019 N. Himes Avenue Ste. 104 Tampa, FL 33614-2763**

**MORE NEWS AROUND TOWN**

**CENTRAL OFFICE 34<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER**  
**Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Christ the King Church  
(In the Parrish Center)  
821 Dale Mabry Hwy S. Tampa

Italian Night – Lasagna Dinner Provided  
&  
Covered Dishes Greatly Appreciated!!!

Tickets: \$5.00  
Doors Open: 5 P.M.  
Dinner Served: 6 P.M.  
Speakers: 7 P. M.

**2 Speakers:**  
***Lindsay T.***  
***Tampa, Florida***  
***Kevin W.***  
***Brandon, Florida***

*Enjoy a fabulous evening and support Central Office at the same time. Tickets on sale at Central Office or at the door.*

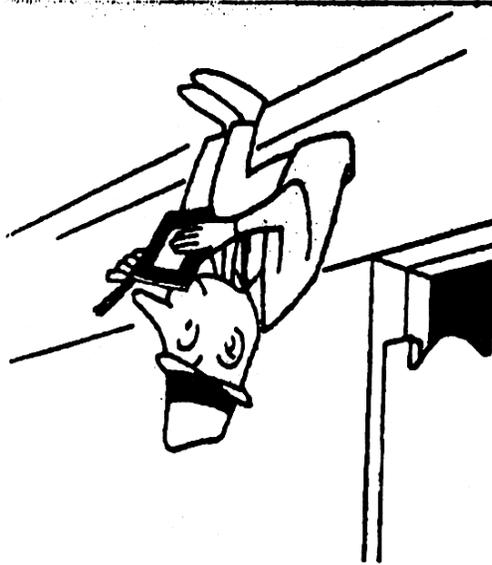
***Dinner \* Fellowship \* Speaker \* Sobriety Countdown \* Raffle***

***Tickets are now available at Central Office and  
thru Board & Council Members***

*Central Office provides a number of services acting as a clearing house for the convenience of members and groups, provides phone service for twelfth step calls and other inquires, helps with the coordination of group activities and keeps track of meeting times and changes and the printing of the schedules. We also edit and print our monthly newsletter. In addition we sell all Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Conference Approved Literature and some other materials requested by our AA members.*



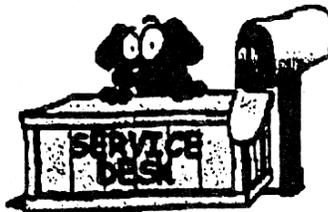
**PLEASE SHARE ME WITH A FRIEND**



**TRI-COUNTY CENTRAL OFFICE, INC  
8019 NORTH HIMES AVENUE  
SUITE 506  
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33614-2763**

**NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 4006  
TAMPA, FL 33614**

**—ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED—**



**IN THIS ISSUE...**News from Groups and District...stories, thoughts and humor.....please share me :)