



# Tri-County Central Office News

## “Strange as it may seem...it works.”

A Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-County Central Office, Inc.  
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March, 2024

### STEP THREE

### Excerpts from The Golden Book of Excuses

*Make a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.*

Most alcoholics are very sincere by nature, and in a frantic endeavor to avoid insincerity in facing human failings, they, more than the average individual, rely on an excuse to justify their actions, to escape from responsibility, to minimize their own guilt, and to salve their consciences. Besides such over-sincerely, alcoholics are goaded on in many actions by an abnormal fear element operating in either their consciousness or subconsciousness. Thus fear leads us to escape, and over-sincerity leads us to self-justification. We (so we think) have to escape; also we (so we think) have to justify our actions. And thus, (so we think) we retain security and our character, but in doing so, we really only retain the shell of both, which ultimately completely deteriorate in alcoholic excesses. And the more we lie, the more we have to lie to justify the lies—and so the cycle goes on and on, until we fail to find another excuse and come face-to-face with reality and truth in the ultimate dilemma of every alcoholic: *insanity or death or total sobriety*. The habit of using excuses—defined as an attempt to find a reason where there is none—comes from a habit of rationalization in order to avoid facing the whole truth.

We felt some relief as a result of completing the first two Steps. We have realized the need for God’s presence in our lives if we hope to stay sober. We now believe that God will help us, just as God has helped millions of other recovering alcoholics before us. Step Three involves our inviting God into our lives through prayer. We will ask God to relieve us from the bondage of self that has created so much suffering in our lives. We will abandon ourselves to God as we understand God. We will commit ourselves to practicing God’s will instead our own selfish ways in the future. God will surely provide us with the opportunities that are necessary for us to meet our financial needs. We can trust that our lives are safe under God’s loving care and guidance. This is the essence of Step Three. The Third Step prayer is on page 63 in the *Alcoholics Anonymous* text. We can use it as a guide. Our sincerity regarding our intent to commit our lives into the Higher Power hands is the most important quality that we will need while completing Step Three. We will continue to have our own self-will. God will not deny us of free-will; this is not the purpose of Step Three. The goal is to align our will with God’s will. It means that God will provide us with strength and guidance we need to remain sober and help other alcoholics obtain sobriety. God will create circumstances in our lives that will allow us to experience true inner fulfillment, resulting in peace, joy, and more love in our lives than we may have ever experienced in the past. God will not make us stay sober or practice God’s will. God’s care does not mean God’s control. We voluntarily stay sober and seek to practice God’s will on a daily basis. God will give us the tools we need to stay sober and grow daily. Almost every recovering alcoholic knows where the nearest liquor store to their home is located. Any A.A. member can go to the liquor store and proceed to become drunk at any given moment on any given day. It will take our own willingness and the use of the A.A. Steps to remain sober. The good news is that we are able to practice our program one day at a time. We can trust our Higher Power to provide us with all the guidance and strength that we need to live sober for today and the future. This is how we find peace. Willingness is the essential quality that we need to have to complete Step Three. Many people have come into A.A. with a genuine desire to stop drinking. However, they were not willing to surrender their will and lives over to the care of a Higher Power. This attitude of unwillingness has caused many of us to relapse and further suffer from the effects of alcoholism, even through we had a sincere desire to avoid further drinking.

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**Everybody else does it.** This is one of the most common excuses used to justify almost any behavior no matter how wrong in itself. The more people we can bring up who do something that we are trying to justify in ourselves, the more is our own guilt minimized—so we think. And in that way of thinking we do salve our own conscience, don’t we? But do we change the basic law we are breaking? Now really, do we? Or rather doesn’t it remain the same even if everybody acts contrary to it? **They all say...** Here we have that old familiar “they” coming to the rescue of the excuser. Did you ever meet “they”? Quite a fiction, right? But when an excuse is needed, “they” are so easily quoted—and saying exactly what we wish them to say—in order to justify ourselves, and it does salve our conscience, doesn’t it? The only difficulty is, “they” did not make the law we are breaking, did they? **I didn’t have the time.** This is perhaps the most widely used excuse there is and also probably the biggest lies frequently told. Listen to the guy or gal just back from vacation: “I would have loved to write you, but I just didn’t have the time”! Listen to the person reneging from helping with a church or AA social affair: “I would love to help, but I just don’t have the time”! And listen to the AA slipping out of a Twelfth Step call: “I would love to make it, but I just can’t find the time right now.”! This excuse really means we don’t want to take the time, but using the verb *have* in place of *take* justifies us while it salves our conscience. **At least I’m not a hypocrite.** This is a wonderful conscience-salver used profusely by alcoholics and even on occasion by many others. “I don’t go to church, but at least I’m not a hypocrite about it—I admit it.” “Sure, I drink—even too much on occasion, but at least I’m not a hypocrite about it. And I could stop anytime I choose.” “Yes, I know I should do something about my faults, but at least I’m not a hypocrite about it—I admit I have them.” So not being a hypocrite excuses us from anything that I suspect we can’t or don’t want to do anything about. And lo and behold, there is peace within my conscience. Is there really, chum?

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**TO ALL** members who have been sending Contributions to Central Office through PayPal. **THANK YOU! BUT**—If you don’t put down the name of your Group—it will be listed as **ANONYMOUS**, so don’t have a hissy fit if you don’t see contributions from your Group on our Contributions page.

**District 2 - Tampa Bay Area Institutions Committee covering Hillsborough & East Pasco Counties**

**CONTACT---(877) AATAMPA or (877) 228-2672**

TBAIC SECRETARY REPORT 24/02/10 Chair Report - The meeting started at 9:35 AM with the Declaration of Unity. In attendance were John T., Audry S., Joe R., Jennnifer M., Bianca H., Jonathan C., and Tom F. Jonathan started with his report by saying he was unable to go to the district meeting due to illness. John T. reported that rent for the meeting has increased for the district meeting. The meeting will continue as high-bred (both live and zoom) meeting. There was nothing to report affecting our committee. Secretary Report - Tom F then read the secretary report and it was accepted as read without any changes to it. Treasurer Report - John T. presented the treasurers' report. Our current balance is \$2,771.64. Monthly expenses were \$50.00 for Central Office storage, \$61.25 for Sun Biz Annual Corporate Name Registration and \$4,557.80 on literature. Our committee received \$787.21 in contributions from the following groups: On the Way Home Group, Came to Believe Group, Great Way to Start the Day Group, Living in the Solution Group, Turning Point Zephyrhills Group and XYZ-32 Group. John submitted the 990N to the IRS to keep our good standing as a 501(c)3. The report was accepted as read. Treatment – All meetings at ACTS Detox are being covered except for the Friday noon meeting needs some help as the person currently covering cannot do it every week. All meetings at ACTS Amethyst except Sunday 1 PM and Wednesday 1 PM need coverage. Meetings at Cove Housing (women) are not currently being covered John called to ask about starting again but has not been able to connect with them. The men’s meetings at Cove Behavioral Heath are going well according to Joe R.. Tom F. was asked about coverage with Wellspring for Town and Country Hospital and could not give a response since he had not attended a meeting there for the past month. Sandra Prince is going well but can use some support for the Wednesday 7PM meeting. True Core Juvenile may be opening for the boys. The girl's side is going well according to Jenn M., she relayed a heartwarming story about a young lady she had been working with. Both meetings are open and support from other AA members is appreciated. Corrections – Bianca reported the meetings are covered but she was hoping that some of the volunteers did not always want to pair up. She also said they did a potluck with the volunteers to help with coordination and comradery. John T. said that Susie reports that the meetings on Wednesday are going well. Hillsborough Men’s Jail no report, Pasco Women’s Jail no report. Zephyrhills CI is going well we had over 55 men attempt to attend the meeting, but we could only seat 55 men in the room we had. Tom F. also reported that he has 3 outside sponsors for the men who requested help. Bridge The Gap – Bridge the Gap we had four calls two were handled by Tom F., one was for a man in Port Richey so district15 was contacted to complete the bridge. The other was from the Hillsborough Sheriff’s department to find out what BTG was. Tracy S. had two calls from detox meetings handled one and John T. handled one that was a direct call from a sober living house who needed a ride got one from someone living at the same house. Man on the Bed – There were two calls for MOB both were for female patients. One call had contact with the patient. The other call, a connection to the person requesting help, was unable to be made. Old Business – New beginnings has been in an up and down cycle with attendance a discussion occurred on whether to support the site or not. Discussion was tabled.

New Business – Audrey S. from wanted to invite TBAIC to a service workshop. Some ideas were batted around to allow this to happen. Audrey will keep the committee posted on when this may occur. The meeting ended at 11:05.

**Our Next Committee Meeting**  
**March 9th, 2024 9:30 am on ZOOM.** Contact us at [www.tbaic.org](http://www.tbaic.org) for more information. 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. If you would like to join our committee **PLEASE COME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

<a href="http://www.tbaic.org">www.tbaic.org</a>	
Position	Name
Chair	Jonathan C.
Chair (Alt.)	Mike B.
Treasurer	John T.
Secretary	Tom F.
Hillsborough County Jail	Buddy H. (Men’s)
Hillsborough Women’s Jails	Sara R. (Women’s)
Pasco Jail-Women’s	Brittani B.
Treatment Coordinator	John T.
Bridging the Gap	Tracy S.
Man on the Bed	Tom F.
Zephyrhills CI	Tom F.

**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**

**Contributions: January 13th-February 10th, 2024**  
**Came to Believe Group: \$25.00, Great Way to Start the Day Group: \$229.00, Living in the Solution Group: \$100.00, On the Way Home Group: \$32.00, Turning Point Group: \$340.21, XYZ-32 Group: \$61.00**

YTD Contributions to TBAIC	\$1,542.95
Pink Can Balance 12/2023	\$7,110.46
YTD Money Spent on Literature	\$4,828.23
YTD Operational Expenses	\$1,053.54
Pink Can Current Balance	\$2,771.64

**The Corrections Committee needs all types of volunteers. They need people to attend meetings in the facilities, people to help spread the word about this type of service work. It is okay if you have never been to jail yourself! You can still help. You can still carry A.A.’s message of hope to an alcoholic who is incarcerated.**

**STEP THREE...continued from Page One**

We would like the newer A.A member to know that many of us had difficulty surrendering our wills and lives over to the care of a Higher Power, too. We also realized that if we did not identify and surrender our lives to a Power greater than ourselves, the likely outcome was frustration and eventual relapse. Peace immediately began to set in after we surrendered. It has been said that to the extent we are able to surrender our wills and lives over to God's care, is the same extent that our recovery will be able to grow in a positive direction in the future. We care immediately proceed to Step Four if we have completed Step Three.  
**(From: The Little Purple Pamphlet)**

**Golden Book of Excuses...continued from Page One**

**But, you see, I'm different.** Different from what? It matters very little, just so we are different from others—and who isn't, pray tell? We think, "but to my mind if I am different (no matter how little or hazy that difference may be) I must then have different obligations, and since everybody else accepts most basic human obligations, I must, since I am different, be freed from them—especially those obligations I do not want to live up to." And so our conscience is salved, and we are justified in our misdeeds—well, at least in our own mind. Peace—it's wonderful! **I'm an alcoholic.** Lo, the number one excuse in AA. And with this trump card up our sleeve, almost any aberration can easily be excused, and our conscience will feel peaceful, and our responsibility is practically nullified. For what can we expect? "I'm an alcoholic!" We get angry—but what can we expect? We're alcoholics! We are lazy—but what can we expect? We're alcoholics! We are dishonest—we lie—but what can we expect? We're alcoholics! We chisel and cheat, we nurse every fault we ever had—but what can we expect? We're alcoholics! And on and on—but you know what? It won't be long until we will have to add to our admission: "We're alcoholics, and we're drinking again!" But after all what did we expect? Really, let's face it, aside from the compulsion to drink, there isn't any difference between the alcoholic and the rest of people. Remember the saying: "If you can't smell'em, you can't tell'em." Excerpts from **The Golden Book of Excuses-Father John Doe**

\*"We believe, and so suggested a few years ago, that the action of alcohol on these chronic alcoholics is a manifestation of an allergy; that the phenomenon of craving is limited to this class and never occurs in the average temperate drinker. These allergic types can never safely use alcohol in any form at all; and once having formed the habit and found they cannot break it, once having lost their self-confidence, their reliance upon things human, their problems pile up on them and become astonishingly difficult to solve."  
**Dr. William D. Silkworth, Doctor at Towns Hospital.**

\*"Is sobriety all that we are to expect of a spiritual awakening? No, sobriety is only a bare beginning; it is only the first gift of the first awakening. If more gifts are to be received, our awakening has to go on. As it does go on, we find that bit by bit we can discard the old life - the one that did not work - for a new life that can and does work under any conditions whatever." — **Bill W, AA Co-Founder.**

\* Dr. Bob was familiar with the tenets of the Oxford Group and upon hearing Bill W's experience, began to pursue the spiritual remedy for his malady with a willingness that he had never before.

\*Bill W and Dr. Bob wanted to develop a system that was designed to specifically help those who suffered from alcoholism.

**Tradition Three February 1948**

The Third Tradition is a sweeping statement indeed; it takes in a lot of territory. Some people might think it too idealistic to be practical. It tells every alcoholic in the world that he may become, and remain, a member of Alcoholics Anonymous so long as he says so. In short, Alcoholics Anonymous has no membership rule. Why is this so? Our answer is simple and practical. Even in self-protection, we do not wish to erect the slightest barrier between ourselves and the fellow alcoholic who still suffers. We know that society has been demanding that he conform to its laws and conventions. But the essence of his alcoholic malady is the fact that he has been unable or unwilling to conform either to the laws of man or God. If he is anything, the sick alcoholic is a rebellious nonconformist. How well we understand that; every member of Alcoholics Anonymous was once a rebel himself. Hence we cannot offer to meet him at any halfway mark. We must enter the dark cave where he is and show him that we understand. We realize that he is altogether too weak and confused to jump hurdles. If we raise obstacles, he might stay away and perish. He might be denied his priceless opportunity. So when he asks, "Are there any conditions?" we joyfully reply, "No, not a one." When skeptically he comes back saying, "But certainly there must be things that I have to do and believe," we quickly answer, "In Alcoholics Anonymous there are no musts." Cynically, perhaps, he then inquires, "What is this all going to cost me?" We are able to laugh and say, "Nothing at all, there are no fees and dues." Thus, in a brief hour, is our friend disarmed of his suspicion and rebellion. His eyes begin to open on a new world of friendship and understanding. Bankrupt idealist that he has been, his ideal is no longer a dream. After years of lonely search it now stands revealed. The reality of Alcoholics Anonymous bursts upon him. For Alcoholics Anonymous is saying, "We have something priceless to give, if only you will receive." That is all. But to our new friend, it is everything. Without more ado, he becomes one of us. Our membership Tradition does contain, however, one vitally important qualification. That qualification relates to the use of our name, Alcoholics Anonymous. We believe that any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation. Here our purpose is clear and unequivocal. For obvious reasons we wish the name Alcoholics Anonymous to be used only in connection with straight AA activities. One can think of no AA member who would like, for example, to see the formation of "dry" AA groups, "wet" AA groups, Republican AA groups, communist AA groups. Few, if any, would wish our groups to be designated by religious denominations. We cannot lend the AA name, even indirectly, to other activities, however worthy. If we do so we shall become hopelessly compromised and divided. We think that AA should offer its experience to the whole world for whatever use can be made of it. But not its name. Nothing could be more certain. Let us of AA therefore resolve that we shall always be inclusive and never exclusive, offering all we have to all, save our title. May all barriers be thus leveled, may our unity thus be preserved. And may God grant us a long life—and a useful one!

Excerpts: "**The Language of the Heart**"  
Reprint Permission/ AA Grapevine

**NOTES FROM INSIDE THE CENTRAL OFFICE**

**February 13th, 2024** the Board of Directors for Central Office  
**BOARD MEMBERS** **REPRESENTING GROUP**

AL B.	CHAIRPERSON	THURSDAY NIGHT BIG BOOK
BRAD W.	ALT.CHAIR	TAMPA NIGHTLY NEWCOMERS GROUP
CHRIS S.	TREASURER	RUSKIN FELLOWSHIP GROUP
DEBBIE S.	SECRETARY	TO IMPROVE OUR CONSCIOUS CONTACT
LINDA B.	BOARD MEMBER	JUST WHAT I WANTED GROUP
DODY H.	BOARD MEMBER	CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP
CARL L.	UNEXCUSED	KEEP IT SIMPLE MEN'S GROUP
OPEN	BOARD MEMBER	
OPEN	BOARD MEMBER	
OPEN	BOARD MEMBER	

((Because of time restraints the Board & Council meeting has been combined. ) Board Members present: Al B., Brad W., Chris S.; Debbie S., Linda B., and Dody H. Al opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. He asked if there were any new Board or Council members. The groups with new Council members represented were: Jim from the Tampa Nightly Newcomers Group, and Robin from the Sisters in Sobriety Group. Al reminded everyone that he rotates out in March and we need to elect a new Chairperson. We can do that tonight if you want to. Everyone was in agreement to elect tonight. Al stepped out while the Board decided what to do. Brad made a motion to have Al has the Chair, everyone was in agreement. The motion carried. Al will be the Chair for the next two years. Secretary Report: Debbie read the January Secretary report. Al asked if there were any questions for Debbie. There were none. A Motion to approve was made & seconded & accepted. Treasurers Report: Chris presented the January Treasurer's Report. Contributions in January totaled \$8,393.47. This accounts for what 48 Groups or Individuals in our area have contributed in January, also included is, \$1,174.08 from 14 Groups or Individuals who made contributions through PayPal. 1 member contributed \$35.00 from the Birthday Club. Our literature sales for January was \$6,147.86. This includes sales from A.A. material and non-A,A, material (medallions—etc.) Our total income for January was \$14,541.33. Our Total Cost of Goods Sold was \$4,617.75. Subtracting the Total Cost of Goods Sold from our January income left us with a Gross Profit of \$9,923.58. Our Total Expenses for January were \$9,814.61. Subtracting our Expenses from our Gross Profit gave us a Net Income of plus+\$108.97 for the month of January. A Motion to approve was made & seconded & accepted. Old Business: None New Business: Chris was curious when his time was up as a Board member. Tim will get back with him. Debbie asked Tim if he had received the evaluation letter she sent, Tim replied yes. Announcements: Tim reminded everyone to remember to enter your name, Home Group and email in the chat so he can send the minutes to you. He also noted that he had re-started sending the Newsletter out by mail. If anyone would like to receive it, please email me your name, Home Group, address and email so that can get on the mailing list. John noted the Carry the Message Day and Debbie noted Soberstock. All of these and more are on the website. Al reminded everyone of the 20% discount and thanked everyone for allowing him to serve. A motion to close was made, seconded and approved. Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer. The next Board & Council Meeting will be March 12th, 2024 at 7:00 pm on ZOOM Timothy S. Office Manager

**Please remember: when you attend the meeting—please leave your name—Home Group & email in the chat. That way, we can list you as attending the meeting and you can receive the minutes and your group can take advantage of the 20% discount on the literature you purchase (one time only) during that month.**

**February 13th, 2024** the Central Office Representatives met:  
**COUNCIL MEMBERS** **REPRESENTING GROUP**

**If you attended the Meeting but not listed below, we didn't catch your info in the chat—follow up with an email to [aainfo@aatampa-area.org](mailto:aainfo@aatampa-area.org)**

KARA H.	LANGUAGE OF THE HEART
JOHN T.	LIVING SOBER/AS BILL SEES IT GROUP
ROBERT M.	NIGHTLY NEWCOMERS GROUP
SAMANTHA A.	FISHHAWK GROUP
NANCY G.	HIDE-A-WAY GROUP
BRIAN L.	BARRACKS BRIGADE GROUP
NORM B.	SOBER @7 GROUP
MIKE M.	SERENITY GROUP (ZOOM)
NANCY H.	FOURTH DIMENSION GROUP
CATHY H.	SIMPLY SOBRIETY WOMEN'S GROUP
ANNIE L.	KEEP IT SIMPLE GROUP
BRIEN S.	164 GROUP
SCOTT B.	TAMPA SATURDAY NIGHT SPEAKERS
JEREMY B.	TAMPA NIGHTLY NEWCOMERS GROUP
KAITLYN H.	SPEAK EASY GROUP
LYNNE J.	SISTERS IN SOBRIETY WOMEN'S GROUP
ROBIN E.	SISTERS IN SOBRIETY WOMEN'S GROUP
FRANK L.	SOBRENITY GROUP
ROBERT M.	NEW TAMPA MONDAY NIGHT MEN'S

**DRIVERS NEEDED**

**GOT A CAR? WANT TO HELP YOUR SOBRIETY? HELP SOMEBODY GET TO A MEETING BY GIVING THEM A RIDE. \*AN ADDED BENEFIT IS THAT YOU MAY ACTUALLY HELP YOUR HOME GROUP BY POSSIBLY BRINGING IN A POTENTIAL NEW HOME GROUP MEMBER**

**CALL CENTRAL OFFICE.**  
**813-933-9123 or Email**  
**[aainfo@aatampa-area.org](mailto:aainfo@aatampa-area.org)**

**The Birthday Club:** Contributions to the Central Office help support the local services to members and groups throughout Hillsborough and East Pasco Counties and help ensure that the A.A. message is carried around our area. Members customarily contribute \$1, \$2 or even \$5 a year for each year of sobriety—others may give a penny or a nickel a day for each day of their sobriety. Ask your Treasurer if they have any Birthday envelopes available. We usually send one out when a group sends in their contribution to Central Office or call or email your Central Office. **813-933-9123 or [aainfo@aatampa-area.org](mailto:aainfo@aatampa-area.org)**

**ANNIVERSARY TIME**

**It Works-It Really Does—Ask them how they did it!!!**

**SELF-SUPPORT-February, 2024**

GROUP	Honors To	Date	Years
ON THE WAY HOME	JESSICA S.	03/28/04	20 YRS
HIGH-NOONERS PLANT CITY	CLARK M.	03/03/18	6 YRS
HIGH-NOONERS PLANT CITY	LARRY G.	03/09/17	7 YRS
HIGH-NOONERS PLANT CITY	ELLIOT F.	03/13/89	35 YRS
HIDE-A-WAY GROUP	MARY C.	03/21/01	23 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMEN'S	RHONDA C.	03/26/09	15 YRS
FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP WOMEN'S	SUE T.	03/19/90	34 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	JOANIE	03/12/84	40 YRS
CAME TO BELIEVE GROUP	JOE M.	03/01/71	53 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	LAURA	03/08/19	5 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	PAUL K.	03/08/19	5 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	BOB S.	03/28/95	29 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	BOB O.	03/03/95	29 YRS
SOBER @ 7 GROUP	GREG O.	03/21/93	31 YRS
SIMPLY SOBRIETY GROUP	MONICA B.	03/31/19	5 YRS
SIMPLY SOBRIETY GROUP	KIMBERLY M.	03/30/19	5 YRS
SIMPLY SOBRIETY GROUP	TRACY C.	03/01/09	15 YRS
SIMPLY SOBRIETY GROUP	LORETTA M.	03/15/91	33 YRS
SIMPLY SOBRIETY GROUP	DIANE R.	03/25/85	39 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY	PHIL C.	03/10/01	23 YRS
RUSH HOUR SERENITY	MARY S.	03/12/87	37 YRS
JUST WHAT I WANTED	DONNA	03/09/20	4 YRS
JUST WHAT I WANTED	MICHELLE S.	03/04/18	6 YRS
JUST WHAT I WANTED	DEBI S.	03/16/09	15 YRS
JUST WHAT I WANTED	TRICIA S.	03/18/08	16 YRS
KEYSTONE DISCUSSION	BOB W.	03/28/92	32 YRS
KEYSTONE DISCUSSION	MARY L.	03/09/73	51 YRS
RIVERSIDE GROUP	MELISSA W.	03/27/15	9 YRS
RIVERSIDE GROUP	BILL	03/14/13	11 YRS
RIVERSIDE GROUP	JOE D.	03/03/09	15 YRS

© Today in February, 2024 still COVID has changed the way many groups contribute to the Central Office. Some groups have remained steady in their contributions, some groups have gone to ZOOM, A few ZOOM groups have made some contributions and some groups are Hybrid (in-person & ZOOM), other groups have folded for a lack of a space to have their meeting and some new groups are starting up, and now many groups are getting back to normal pre-pandemic live meetings. Things are looking up and getting better. It's certainly a time to renew our efforts and practice the meaning of the Serenity Prayer a little bit more. We currently have 191 Groups in the Hillsborough-East Pasco area with around 502 meetings weekly. Also we have 128 Zoom meetings weekly Contributions in February totaled \$8,409.35. This accounts for what 40 Groups or Individuals in our area have contributed in February, also included is, \$1,489.06 from 9 Groups or Individuals who made contributions through PayPal. 2 members contributed \$41.00 from the Birthday Club and we also received \$729.10 from the Soberilla 12 Step Workshop. Our literature sales for February was \$9,249.94. This includes sales from A.A. material and non-A.A. material (medallions—etc.) and 1 newsletter subscription. Our total income for February was \$17,659.29. Our Total Cost of Goods Sold was \$7,292.17. Subtracting the Total Cost of Goods Sold from our February income left us with a Gross Profit of \$10,367.12. Our Total Expenses for February were \$9,896.30. Subtracting our Expenses from our Gross Profit gave us a Net Income of plus+\$470.82 for the month of February. We still have a good Prudent Reserve, all our bills keep getting paid, the lights are on, we have a decent amount of literature available, the phones are working Thank you for your support . Thank You!!!

*These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971. (The 12 Traditions were created to help each A.A. group maintain unity and relate better to the world about us. Below is a snapshot inventory you can take to see how well you are honoring the spiritual principle found in this Tradition.)* **Tradition Three:** The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking. **1.** In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as those who likely will not make it? **2.** Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately or publicly do not want in my AA group? **3.** Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or not? **4.** Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, sexual identity or other such things interfere with my carrying the message? **5.** Am I overimpressed by a celebrity, a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us? **6.** When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what they do for a living? Where they live? What their domestic arrangements are? Whether they have been to AA before? What their other problems are?

**A BIRTHDAY CLUB SUPPORTER TO  
CENTRAL OFFICE  
ONE DOLLAR OR MORE FOR EACH YEAR OF  
SOBRIETY**

Home Group	Honors To	Date	Years
	MAUREEN D.	04/21/88	36 YRS

**It's a Good Day to be Sober!!!**

*Continue to watch for selfishness, dishonesty, resentment, and fear. When these crop up, we ask God at once to remove them. We discuss them with someone immediately and make amends quickly if we have harmed anyone. Then we resolutely turn our thoughts to someone we can help. Love and tolerance of others is our code. Big Book page 84*

**MORE NEWS AROUND THE TOWN & THE AREA**  
Download Flyers from Events Page

**18th Annual SOBERSTOCK 2024**



**SOBERSTOCK**  
**2024**  
UNITY • RECOVERY • MUSIC  
MARCH 15-17, 2024 BROOKSVILLE, FL



**Soberstock is a 3-day weekend AA/Al-Anon/Alateen event featuring speakers, meetings, bands, food & fellowship.**

**Soberstock is open to all members of AA/Al-Anon and their families. Proceeds of this function will purchase Big Books and other AA literature for District 2 Jails & Institutions. The remaining profits go to the area pie chart.**

Speaker Meetings!      Campfire Meetings!      Live Bands!  
Outdoor Meetings!      ALL Food & Drinks provided!      Tent Camping!

When: Friday, March 15th, 2024 - Gates open at Noon on Friday! Event ends on Sunday at noon.  
Where: "Sand Hill Scout Reservation" - 11210 Cortez Blvd, Brooksville, FL 34613  
What to bring: Tents, blankets, coolers, chairs, lanterns, bug spray, snacks, NO PETS (except service animals) NO RV's  
What we provide: Fri. dinner, Sat. breakfast, lunch and dinner, & Sunday breakfast.

**www.soberstock.com**

All SoberStock orders are on a "Will Call" basis, which means we do not mail any products or tickets. After orders are received, we simply have you on our list and you will pick up all of your items at the gate. Online orders are safe & secure and we take most major credit cards via PayPal.



**FREE MUG**  
for the first 50 admissions  
sold before Jan 1, 2024!

**ONLINE PRICING GOOD UNTIL MARCH 1ST, 2024**

**ONLINE PRICING vs GATE PRICING:**

1 DayPass - \$40.00 per person/\$50 Gate  
Weekend - \$75.00 per person/\$90 Gate  
Child under 12-1 DayPass - \$5.00/\$10 Gate  
(CHILDREN ALLOWED ONLY IF ACCOMP. BY PARENT/GUARDIAN)  
Child under 12-Weekend - \$10.00/\$15 Gate  
Tent Pitching: \$15 Per Tent (We don't supply tents)  
T-Shirts: \$20/ea (Sizes: S, M, L, XL, 2XL)

Bike Run: \$20 (FREE if you buy a day or weekend pass)

**NOTE: WE ONLY TAKE CASH OR CHECKS AT THE GATE  
NO CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS AT THE GATE!**

*All sales are final, and non-refundable.*

*This is a Rain Or Shine Event. When ordering online, we don't ship items to you. We will have all items for you (INCLUDING TICKETS!) at the front gate day of the event on a Will Call basis. Thank you so much for your cooperation!*

**NEW! Bike Run!**

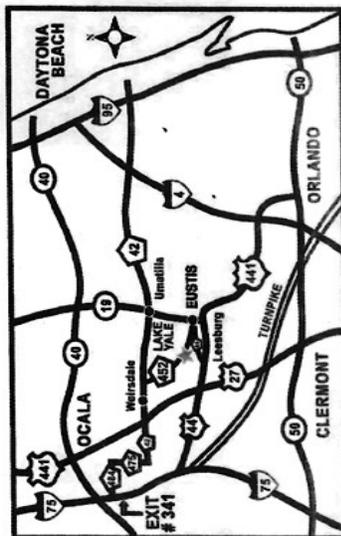
We're having our first bike run (motorcycles) at Soberstock this year. Please visit our website for more details!

Scan me for ALL the info!



**Lake Yale Baptist  
Conference Center**  
39034 County Road 452  
Leesburg, FL 34788

Phone: 352-483-9800  
Web Site: <http://www.lybcc.org>



**SUGGESTED WEB DRIVING DIRECTIONS:**

<http://www.lybcc.org/about-us/directions/>

**31ST  
ANNUAL  
HOUSECLEANING**



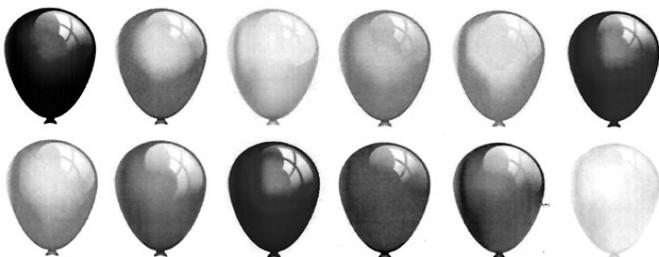
**Spiritual Retreat  
for A.A. & Al-Anon**



**LAKE YALE  
CONFERENCE CENTER, FL**  
**MARCH 8-10, 2024**

Online Registration Available:  
[www.retreatforaa-alanon.com](http://www.retreatforaa-alanon.com)

**In person retreat for those  
who are vaccinated**



**STEP SISTERS IN SOBRIETY**  
**18th Group Anniversary**

**Ladies & Gentlemen, Please Help Us Celebrate Our 18th**

**Anniversary with a Special Dinner & Speaker**

**Where? First Presbyterian Church**

**121 Carver Avenue, Brandon, FL 33511**

**When? Friday, March 22, 2024**

**Pot Luck Dinner at 6:00 p.m.**

**Speaker at 7:00 p.m.**

**Speaker: Darby C.**

**Tampa, FL**

Friday &  
Saturday  
Dinner

Fishing  
Kayaking

Saturday  
Breakfast

Price includes camping for the weekend or day, Friday and Saturday dinner, continental breakfast Saturday, welcome packet, and other fun activities!



Bring desert to  
share on  
Saturday

Fun  
50/50

Meetings  
Speakers



Please fill out, detach, and send in with payment.

Please make checks payable to "Unity Under the Stars Campout"

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Overnight Registration fee: \$40.00 per adult- \$10 kids over 10 - children under 10 free  
How many overnight: Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children (over 10) \_\_\_\_\_ Children (under 10) \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Day pass fee: \$15.00 per adult- children free (include children in registration)  
How many day: Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirts \$15 must be ordered by 3/1/23. There will not be any for sale at event.  
How many: Small \_\_\_\_\_ Med \_\_\_\_\_ LG \_\_\_\_\_ XLG \_\_\_\_\_ 2XLG (\$17) \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Scholarship Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Register on line at <https://forms.gle/TZix1eJzxN3ftyVo9>, or scan the QR code above.

Reservation will not be held until payment is received.

Payments can be sent to: Unity Under the Stars, 1689 Barrow St., Deltona, FL 32725  
Contact the UUTS committee at [d19unityunderthestars@gmail.com](mailto:d19unityunderthestars@gmail.com).

Group	FEB	Y T D	Group	FEB	Y T D	Group	FEB	Y T D
7:15 Young Peoples Group	55.75	55.75	Keeping it Real Group		105.00	Sober @ 7 Group	116.60	116.60
AA 101 Group			Keystone Group			Sober @ 7 Anniversary		
Alpha Group	100.00	200.00	Language of the Heart			SoberSticks Event	200.00	200.00
Annual Housecleaning			Life Enrichment Group			SoberStock Event		
Anonymous Donations	266.27	432.76	Live and Let Live Group			Sobrenity Group		10.00
As Bill Sees It Mens Odessa			Living in the Solution	150.00	150.00	Sobrietea Women's Group		
Attitude of Gratitude Group			LivingSober/As Bill Sees It			Soberilla	729.10	729.10
Barracks Brigade Group		40.00	Little Harbor Grapevine Beach Mtg		300.00	Sobriety at Sunrise Group	470.60	470.60
BeginnersFirst Group		390.00	Lunch Bunch Group			Sobriety at Sunset Group		230.10
BeginnersStep Group		76.00	Mid Day Madness			Solutions Group		
Big Book Bunch Group			Mid Day Matinee Group			Southshore Men's Group		300.06
Bill D's Group		125.00	Morning Express Group		96.20	Southside Men's Group # 1		
Birthday Club	41.00	76.00	Morning Express (YANA)			Southside Men's Group # 2		
Brandon Saturday Night Group			Morning Mindset Group	22.32	22.32	Southside Men's Group #3		300.00
By The Book Men's Group			New Beginnings-(5:45)Joe's			Southside Men's Group #4		
BYO 12 & 12 Group			New Beginnings Brandon			Spiritual Development		
Came To Believe Group		317.00	New Beginning Group-(Our Club)			Spiritual Growth Group		
Candlelight Group	1.72	1.72	Newcomers Group	326.48	326.48	Stay the Course Group		
Cardinal Group - Odessa	650.00	650.00	New Tampa Monday Men's		322.00	Staying Alive @ 5:45 Zoom		100.00
Carrollwood Group			New Way Women's Group			Step Sisters in Sobriety		95.32
Clean Air Group		8.12	Nightly Newcomers Group			Stepping Stones Group (w)		91.20
Close to Home Group			Nooners Group--Riverview			Sun City Center Group	56.80	56.80
Come As You Are Group	7.10	7.10	Nooners Group--Tampa		134.38	Sun City Center Men's		60.00
Druid Hills Big Book	34.50	34.50	Noontime Celebration Gp.			Sunday Afternoon Step Mtg		105.00
Early Risers Group - Joe's	360.00	360.00	Odessa Group			Sunset Group		
Expect a Miracle Group			Old School Group			Tampa Bay Institutions	50.00	100.00
Fireside Group	20.65	80.65	Old Timers Group			Tampa Bay Young Peoples	1,656.05	1,656.05
Fourth Dimension Group	211.90	211.90	On the Way Home Tpa 5:30		306.80	Tampa Bay Speakers Gp.		
Freedom in Sobriety Group			Palma Ceia Big Book Group			Tampa Sat Night Speakers		
Friday @ 4 Group		211.25	Pathfinders Group		100.00	T & C Sisters in Sobriety		
Friday Night Lights Group			Pavillion Peeps			TGIS Group		
Friday Morning Women's Friend-ship	300.00	300.00	Pilgrim Group -St Leo's		52.00	Thank God it's Friday		252.00
Friday Under the Lights	112.00	112.00	Plank Owners Group	500.00	500.00	The 164 Group	5.87	5.87
Friends of Bill Women's Group	200.00	200.00	Primary Purpose Group			The Meeting Place Group		
Full Moon River Womens	546.10	546.10	Promises Meeting Group			Tues. Big Book of Brandon		79.00
Good Start Group	330.00	330.00	Red Chip Day			Turning Point Group -Z-H.		130.00
Grapevine Gals Group			Reflections Group-Lake Mag	655.77	655.77	UpTown/ Downtown Group		83.33
Great Way To Start The Day		169.50	Riverside Group			WAWA Group		
Happy Hour Group			Ruskin Fellowship Group		146.25	We Are Not Saints Group		
Hi Nooners Group Plant City			Safe, Sane & Sober Group		401.21	Wed Night Step Workshop		
Hide-A-Way Group			Saturday Night Fever Group			Wed Keep it Simple Group		
Host of Friends Group			Serenity Group--ZOOM		200.81	Wellspring Group		195.00
It's in the Book Men's Group	3.01	426.77	Simply Sobriety Women's Group			Wesley Chapel Group		
In Loving Memory			Sisters 12 n 12 Group (Zoom)		281.83	With Room to Grow Group		750.00
Just What I Wanted Big Book			Sisters Celebrating Sobriety			Women's Friendship Group		375
Keep it Simple Men's Group		75.00	Sisters in Sobriety Group		151.20			
Keep It Simple/Pass It On						Total	3,168.42	
Keep it Simply Spiritual		316.00				YTD Total		6,597.03
Keep it Simple Group Dade City	195.00	195.00	Total	1,654.57		Monthly Total	8,327.99	
Total	3,505.00		YTD Total		4,253.25			
YTD Total		6,018.12						
						Grand Total	16,868.40	