

Nature Coast Journal

Volume 6, Issue 1

Carrying the message

January 2004

NATURE COAST INTERGROUP AND DISTRICT 28

Meetings are held at the Community Center in Holder on the last Sunday of each month.

INTERGROUP... 4:30 PM

DISTRICT... 6 PM

Come get involved!

We could use your support!

**12/28/03
Intergroup
Meeting Info:**



- ❖ **Volunteer needed for the chairman position, Hotline Committee—please attend the Jan. 25th meeting if you are interested in this position-need to have at least one year sobriety.**
- ❖ **Pete M. and Jim K. were nominated for the two Trustees positions-anyone else wishing to stand for these vacancies, please attend the Jan. 25th meeting.**

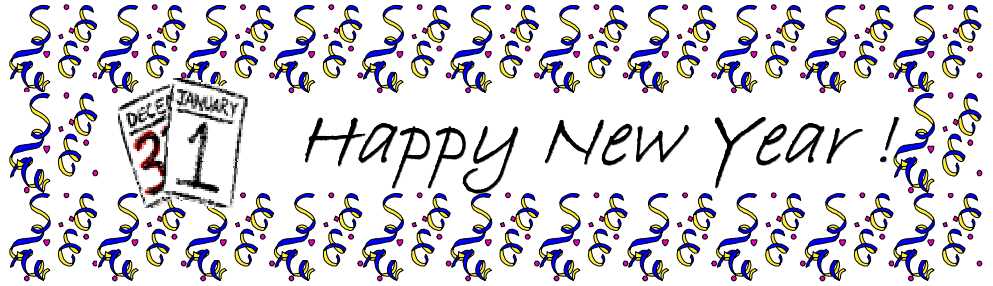
- ❖ **There were 158 calls to the Hotline during December.**

SEE www.ncintergroup.com for complete minutes



Spiritual Nomads Trips

put on hold until further notice



Tradition One: Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity.

1. Am I in my group a healing, mending, integrating person, or am I divisive? What about gossip and taking other members' inventories?
2. Am I a peacemaker? Or do I, with pious preludes such as "just for the sake of discussion," plunge into argument?
3. Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I abrasive?
4. Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting AA in one place with AA in another?
5. Do I put down some AA activities as if I were superior for not participating in this or that aspect of AA?
6. Am I informed about AA as a whole? Do I support, in every way I can, AA as a whole, or just the parts I understand or approve of?
7. Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?
8. Do I sprout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behavior that bristles with hostility?
9. Do I go to enough AA meetings or read enough AA literature to really keep in touch?
10. Do I share with AA all of me, the bad and the good, accepting as well as giving the help of the fellowship?

- From the Traditions Checklist, AA Grapevine

Thank You, Ed. P.

Ed. P. has "resigned" from the editor position with the Nature Coast Journal. The Nature Coast Intergroup would like to thank Ed for an outstanding job.

"New" Journal Editor

The "new" editor of the Nature Coast Journal is **Mary R.**, Women's Friendship Group. Please contact her at news@ncintergroup.com or by phone at 352-465-4381.

Step One

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

"The bottle has me down. My life is a mess."

- from *The Twelve Steps Illustrated*

Local Events

Central Florida Men's Workshop

Feb 13-15, 2004

Life Enrichment Center
Leesburg, FL

Information: (352) 728-2672
or 314-3994 or 259-1724
email: sentry706@aol.com



Regional Events

14th Emerald Coast Jamboree

January 22-25, 2004

Ramada Plaza Beach Resort
Hwy 98 E on Okaloosa Island
1500 Miracle Strip Parkway
Ft. Walton Beach, FL

Reservations: (800) 447-0010
Identify self with *Gulf Coast Roundup*



Largo's Step 'N Ahead with Polly P.

Feb 6-8, 2004

St Jerome's Church Parish
Center

10895 Hamlin Blvd
Largo, FL 33774

Information: (727) 585-6202
email: warrenwir@earthlink.net
Website: Sober Action



Spacecoast Round Up

Feb 12-14, 2004

Holiday Inn Oceanfront Resort
Melbourne, FL

Reservations: (800) HOLIDAY
Mention "Spacecoast Round Up"
Information: (321) 724-2247

or 633-0052

email:

intergroup@

aaspacecoast.org

January Intergroup Elections

The two-year terms of Trustees Barbara A. and Bill B. are about to expire. Pete M. and Jim K. were nominated for the two Trustees positions at the Dec. 28th meeting. Anyone wishing to stand for these vacancies, please attend the Jan. 25th meeting. The final vote for these two Intergroup Trustee positions will take place on January 25th, 2004 at 4:30 pm at the Holder Community Center.



You might have a drinking problem if:

- ❖ Your doctor finds traces of blood in your alcohol stream
- ❖ Mosquito bites are fatal—to the mosquito
- ❖ Your job is interfering with your drinking
- ❖ You think of cutting down as only one six-pack before dinner
- ❖ You focus better with one eye closed
- ❖ The back of your head keeps getting hit by the toilet seat
- ❖ You go to donate blood and they ask what proof
- ❖ You fall off the floor
- ❖ You think Listerine is a liqueur
- ❖ The closing time of every liquor store within 25 miles is posted on your refrigerator.



ATTN. Group Secretaries:

Please call or email your list for next month's anniversaries to:
Mary R. – ph.# 352-465-4381
or email address:
news@ncintergroup.com
by the 15th of each month.



As Bill Sees It Group

Michael R.	1/5	6 yrs
Kathy	1/1	1 yr

Floral City Group

(celebrates the last Tuesday)

Miriam S.	1/18	16 yrs
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Holder Way of Life Group

Dave D.		18 yrs
Del B.		11 yrs
Bob R.		10 yrs
Vince M.		5 yrs
Steve E.		1 yr

Last Chance Group

(celebrates the last Sunday)

Ron B.	1/17	28 yrs
Maureen E.	1/26	26 yrs
Toni M.	1/6	24 yrs
John T.	1/3	20 yrs
Frank F.	1/5	18 yrs
Lorraine F.	1/5	18 yrs
Joan C.	1/4	13 yrs
Shelly V.	1/20	7 yrs

What's the Book Say Group

(celebrates the Wednesday following the date)

Bill B.	1/1	31 yrs
Brownie	1/17	28 yrs

Women's Friendship Group

(celebrates the Monday following the date)

Lilo W.	1/21	25 yrs
Toni M.	1/6	24 yrs
Johanna N.	1/1	23 yrs
Gayle W.	1/14	21 yrs
Helen D.	1/16	20 yrs
Sally Q.	1/1	16 yrs
Mary R.	1/12	15 yrs
Nancy C.	1/7	6 yrs
Pam B.	1/16	5 yrs
Janet L.G.	1/1	4 yrs

Guest Editorial:**DO WE MAKE TOO MUCH OF ANNIVERSARIES?**

May 1949

Celebrating anniversaries is an old American custom and no one should be surprised that it is being perpetuated in AA.

Unfortunately, however, anniversaries in AA, or particularly the emphasis put on them, can boomerang - and often do - into something far more serious than the harmless birthday fetes held elsewhere. There's dynamite in AA anniversaries. To begin with, the celebration of anniversaries runs contrary to several of the fundamentals of AA philosophy. One of these is the idea embodied in "the 24 hour plan" that we should try to look ahead of the present in measuring our sobriety. We do not set out to stay sober one year, three or a lifetime. Our goal is just 24 hours - just the present - and if necessary we break the 24 hours into even smaller units of time.

Celebration of the personal anniversary inevitably turns thoughts not only backwards but ahead to the next anniversary, again setting up the psychological yardstick which the founders of AA found they did best without.

Another bit of AA philosophy which the personal anniversary contradicts is expressed in the wise observation that it's not the length but the "quality of your sobriety that counts." How often that has been proved! Over and over, again and again, events have demonstrated, sometimes tragically, or sometimes happily, that the test of security in sobriety is not how long in AA but how well founded in AA. Everyone knows of those unfortunate cases of the "oldtimer" who has been in several years and then has a slip. He knows, too, on the other hand, of "newcomers" who in a shorter span of time have progressed much farther along the road of personal recovery.

Celebration of anniversaries also tends to build up an "aristocracy of oldtimers," a kind of class system by which one is supposed to move up from the ranks of the herd into a more select group whose prestige depends on the number of years they have been around. That certainly is inconsistent with the democracy of AA. Likewise, the implication that through this "aging" process one is graduated from pupil to master does not jibe with the premise that one does not arrest alcoholism by himself. The whole curative fundamental of AA is that he must get help. So how can he become master, ever? It doesn't make sense.

Celebration of personal anniversaries puts an emphasis on time that is not justified by AA experience. Rare is the new one in AA who does not start counting years for himself when he attends a meeting at which some member's fourth, fifth or X anniversary is being celebrated by the group with figurative trumpets, orchids and fanfare. Rare, too, is the old one in AA, who, when he finds himself deferred to and looked up to as an "oldtimer," does not begin to get at least a suspicion that maybe he does know more, maybe he is a little apart from the herd. From that point it's not a long step to a recurrence of ego-itis, the same old disease that had a grip on all of us.

What good purpose is served by celebrating personal anniversaries? Does any member who is really participating in the opportunities of AA and enjoying the blessings of sobriety need to have others bring him bouquets for a thing from which he himself benefits, first, and which he undertook for himself, first? We think not - not if there is anything to AA's "unselfish selfishness."

The observation that it's not the years but the "quality of your sobriety" that counts is solidly founded on the record of experience. - T. D.Y.

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National Events**2nd Annual A.A. History Conference**

Feb 20-22, 2004
Phoenix, Arizona
Early AA, The Spiritual
Connection
Information:
History Conference

**57th Annual SC State Convention**

Mar 18-21, 2004
The Embassy Suites
Greenville, SC
Reservations: (864) 676-9090
email:

sc2004convention@ yahoo.com

Website:

<http://www.area62.org>
Click on Conventions &
Events

**Young At Heart Roundup**

April 30, May 1-2, 2004
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Tampa
Westshore
700 N. Westshore Blvd
Tampa, FL 33609

Reservations: (813) 289-8200
use "young at heart" code
online reservations:
www.crowneplazatampa.com
group booking code "AAY"
email: jkaput@newsouth.com

or

jhoffma6@tampabay.rr.com

Website: Young At Heart
Roundup

**Announcing****Some Exciting
Recovery Cruises**

[http://
www.meetingsenroute.com](http://www.meetingsenroute.com)

and

**Sober Celebrations
with Snow and Carol**

[http://
www.sobercelebrations.com](http://www.sobercelebrations.com)

TREASURER'S REPORT Dec 2003

2003	Dec	YTD
Beginning Balance	\$2341.89	
Income		
Support - Individuals	13.00	278.39
Support - Groups	100.00	2401.00
Book Sales	224.81	3944.70
Medallion Sales	32.23	419.14
Other Sales	29.66	1006.13
Sales Tax Collected	17.22	322.41
Events	29.86	1578.77
Misc. Income	0.00	7.00
Total Income	446.78	9510.76
Expenses		
Rent		60.00
Sprint	39.37	533.04
Alltel	89.00	1230.59
Books & Medallions	327.50	3837.44
Recovery Items	104.53	647.00
Sales Tax Paid	0.00	276.58
Journal	53.00	636.00
Website	0.00	157.55
Secretary Expenses	0.00	168.00
Bank Fees	0.00	0.00
Events	80.00	1296.54
Misc. Expenses	0.00	109.25
Total Expenses	693.40	8952.89
Ending Checking Bal.	2095.27	
Inventory Value	974.50	
Accounts Receivable	77.65	
Building Fund	2510.57	
Total Assets	5657.99	
GROUP SUPPORT		
Crystal River Group	100.00	
Total	100.00	

**For Your Information**

The Intergroup Telephone Hotline had over 158 service calls in December.

The Nature Coast Intergroup Website www.ncintergroup.com had 292 hits last month 3848 from inception).

Please note: Website now features printable meetings schedule, and Nature Coast Intergroup Meeting Minutes, and District 28's Meeting Minutes.



In addition to the A.A. conference-approved literature, Nature Coast Intergroup also carries a supply of some **Hazelden books:**

24-Hour Book – hard cover \$12.00
24-Hour Book – soft cover \$10.00
24-Hour Book – Large Print \$16.00
Language of Letting Go \$18.00
More Language of Letting Go \$17.00
Touchstones \$13.00

We also have **Grapevine Literature:**

Language of the Heart –hard cover \$10.00
Language of the Heart – soft cover \$9.00
Best of Bill – soft cover \$5.00
AA Around the World \$5.00
The Home Group \$3.25
Thank You For Sharing \$8.00

Call Beverly H. to order: 344-5939

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DISCLAIMER

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☺ *Don't believe everything you think!* ☺