

Nature Coast Journal

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 2015 ♪ CRYSTAL RIVER, FL 34423-2015 ♪ INTERGROUP HOTLINE: (352) 621-0599

Volume 6, Issue 5

Carrying the message

May 2004

NATURE COAST INTERGROUP AND DISTRICT 28

meetings are held at the
Community Center in Holder
on **Sunday, May 23rd.**

INTERGROUP... 4:30 PM

DISTRICT... 6 PM

Come get involved!

*This is **YOUR** Intergroup!*

INTERGROUP OFFICERS

Chairperson

Ron B. — 489-7216
rbee44@hotmail.com

Vice-Chairperson

John T. — 726-3942

Secretary

Kevin B. — 628-7944
Kbacon1@tampabay.rr.com

Alt. Secretary

Rosario R.

Treasurer

Beverly H. — 344-5939
behunter@naturecoast.net

INTERGROUP TRUSTEES

Frank S.
Janet B.
Jim K.
Pete M.

DISTRICT 28 OFFICERS

DCM

Joe C. — 563-5430

Alternate DCM

Marilyn B. — 637-9643

Secretary

Brian W. — 344-1119

Treasurer

Barbara C. — 563-5430

Step Five Step Five

**Admitted to God, to ourselves
and to another human being the
exact nature of our wrongs.**

"I admit all I did wrong."

- from The Twelve Steps Illustrated

**Tradition Five: Each group has but one primary purpose — to
carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.**

1. Do I ever cop out by saying, "I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me?"
2. Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the *limitations* of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
3. Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
4. Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?
5. Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose?
6. Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

- From the Traditions Checklist, AA Grapevine

"Rationalization is giving a socially acceptable reason for socially unacceptable behavior; and socially unacceptable behavior is a form of insanity..." *Big Book, p. 551, 3rd edition.*

The disease of alcoholism knows no boundaries. Neither age, intelligence, willpower, or self-control prevents it. We of Alcoholics Anonymous have discovered a way to live a life of sobriety, free from our drinking problem. Let us share this gift with you.

Please call the Intergroup Hotline: (352) 621-0599 if you need help.

**THE INTERGROUP AND DISTRICT 28 BUSINESS
MEETINGS WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, MAY 23RD
INSTEAD OF THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH BE-
CAUSE OF THE MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY.**



If you turn it over and don't let go, you'll go upside down!

DISCLAIMER

The Nature Coast Journal is a monthly publication of the Nature Coast Intergroup. It is about, by and for members of A.A. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous. Publication of an article does not imply endorsement by either A.A. or Nature Coast Journal, except where indicated.

INTERGROUP TREASURER'S REPORT		April 2004
Beginning Balance		\$2264.84
	Apr	YTD (2004)
Income		
Support - Individuals	\$17.00	\$54.52
Support - Groups	125.00	1094.10
Book Sales	383.25	1161.30
Medallion Sales	87.82	155.97
Other Sales	38.70	154.09
Sales Tax Collected	30.60	88.40
Events	0.00	71.30
Misc. Income	0.00	0.00
Total Income	\$682.37	\$2779.68
Expenses		
Rent	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sprint	38.66	155.92
Alltel	53.20	247.66
Books & Medallions	352.13	1579.95
Recovery Items	17.75	66.95
Sales Tax Paid	56.35	138.10
Journal	53.00	212.00
Website	0.00	0.00
Secretary Expenses	0.00	37.00
Bank Fees	14.55	14.55
Events	0.00	0.00
Misc. Expenses	0.00	61.25
Total Expenses	\$585.64	\$2513.38
Ending Checking Bal.	\$2361.57	
Reserved for Events	-1275.73	
Available Funds	1085.84	
Inventory Value	1091.53	
Accounts Receivable	99.64	
Office Reserve Acct	2511.81	
Total Assets	\$6064.55	

Group Support 2004		
	April	YTD (2004)
CATS Group	0.00	70.00
Crystal River Group	0.00	300.00
High Noon Group	0.00	29.10
Holder Way of Life Group	0.00	75.00
Inverness Monday Night Group	0.00	175.00
Last Chance Group	0.00	60.00
Red Eye Group	0.00	200.00
Wahoo Group	100.00	100.00
Wednesday Inverness Step Group	\$25.00	25.00
Women's Friendship Group	0.00	60.00
Total	\$125.00	\$1094.10

WHOOOPS!!!!!! The YTD amount for the *Women's Friendship Group* in the March Nature Coast Journal is correct. The \$60 in the monthly column was incorrect. Sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Nature Coast Intergroup Meeting Highlights — April 26, 2004

Intergroup needs support from the groups' representatives. If your group does not have a representative, please elect one so that your group has a voice at the Intergroup Meetings.

- ❖ Chairman: Ron B. reported Web hits for the month of April 2004 were 225. There have been 4800 total hits since inception.
- ❖ Newsletter committee: Mary R. would like to see more articles from AA members.
- ❖ Hotline report: Skip suggested that Hotline volunteers may share term or just handled the Hotline for 2-week periods. Bill reported that the Hotline had 98 calls in April.
- ❖ Archive Committee: will put info in the May newsletter.
- ❖ Inventory and Sales: Beverly reported inventory and sales were doing good. *Big Book Dictionary* is \$3.50. Large print *Big Books* are available.
- ❖ The *1st Annual Resentment Group Attitude Dinner* was a success.
- ❖ *Gratitude Dinner Committee* needs volunteers and a chairperson. Date is set for Saturday, November 13th at Presbyterian Church, Inverness.

Visit www.ncintergroup.com for complete minutes

District 28 is opening an Archives. We need any old AA material.

Please contact: Cheryl P. - 634-2217 cherpier4@aol.com or

Mary D. - 352-274-0914 mdally2002@hotmail.com



**Help
Wanted**

INTERGROUP is in urgent need of volunteers to coordinate the annual Gratitude Dinner scheduled for November. Volunteers need to attend the May Intergroup Monthly Meeting on May 23rd at 4:30 pm at the Holder Community Center building or contact Ron B. at 352-489-7216.

Thank God for what you have — Trust God for what you need.

WHO'S SITTING NEXT TO YOU?

Submitted by Ron B.

I know who you are. You are "X" who attends the ABC Meeting at the XYZ Club where AAs meet in Anywhere, U.S.A.

I saw you there the other night at the eight o'clock meeting. I don't know how long you've been sober, but I know you've been coming around for a while because you spoke to a lot of people who knew you.

I wasn't one of them.

You don't know who I am. I wandered into your meeting place alone the other night, a stranger in a strange town. I got a cup of coffee, paid for it, and sat down by myself. You didn't speak to me.

Oh, you saw me. You glanced my way, but you didn't recognize me, so you quickly averted your eyes and sought out a familiar face.

I sat there through the meeting.

It was okay, a slightly different format but basically the same kind of meeting as the one I go to at home. The topic was gratitude. You and your friends spoke about how much AA means to you. You talked about the camaraderie in your meeting place. You said how much the people there had helped you when you first came through the door - how they extended the hand of friendship to make you feel welcome, and asked you to come back.

And I wondered where they had gone, those nice people who made your entrance so welcoming and so comfortable.

You talked about how the newcomer is the life blood of AA. I agree, but I didn't say so. In fact, I didn't share in your meeting. I signed my name in the book that was passed around, but the chairperson didn't refer to it. He only called on those people in the room whom he knew.

So who am I? You don't know, because you didn't bother to find out. Although yours was a closed meeting, you didn't even ask if I belonged there. It might have been my first meeting. I could have been full of fear and distrust, knowing AA wouldn't work any better than anything else I'd tried, and I would have left convinced that I was right.

I might have been suicidal, grasping at one last straw, hoping someone would reach out and pull me from the pit of loathing and self-pity from which, by myself, I could find no escape.

I might have been a student with a tape recorder in my pocket, assigned to write a paper on how AA works - someone who shouldn't have been permitted to sit there at all but could have been directed to an open meeting to learn what I needed to know. Or I could have been sent by the courts, wanting to know more, but afraid to ask. It happens that I was none of the above.

I was just an ordinary drunk with a few years of sober living in AA who was traveling and was in need of a meeting.

My only problem that night was that I'd been alone with my own mind too long. I just needed to touch base with my AA family.

I know from past experience that I could have walked into your meeting place smiling, stuck out my hand to the first person I saw and said, "Hi. My name is - . I'm an alcoholic from - ."

If I'd felt like doing that, I probably would have been warmly welcomed. You would have asked me if I knew Old So-and-So from my state, or you might have shared a part of your *drunkalog* that occurred in my part of the country.

Why didn't I? I was hungry, lonely, and tired. The only thing missing was angry, but three out of four isn't a good place for me to be.

So I sat silently through your meeting, and when it was over I watched enviously as all of you gathered in small groups, talking to one another the same way we do in my home town.

You and some of your friends were planning a meeting after the meeting at a nearby coffee shop. By this time I had been silent too long to reach out to you. I stopped by the bulletin board to read the notices there, kind of hanging around without being too obvious, hoping you might ask if I wanted to join you, but you didn't. As I walked slowly across the parking lot to my car with the out-of-state license plates you looked my way again. Our eyes met briefly and I mustered a smile. Again, you looked away.

I buckled my seat belt, started the car, and drove to the motel where I was staying. As I lay in my bed waiting for sleep to come, I made a gratitude list. You were on it, along with your friends at the meeting place. I knew that you were there for me, and that I needed you far more than you needed me. I knew that if I had needed help, and had asked for it, you would have gladly given it. But I wondered . . . what if I hadn't been able to ask?

I know who you are...Do you remember me?

May 2004 Anniversaries



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 25th of each month.

Crystal River Group

Ted S 10 yrs
Linda G 5 years
Bill B..... 2 yrs

Friday Night 8 pm Inverness Group

Robie M..... 31 yrs

Holder Way of Life

Eddie H 33 yrs
Paul T 26 yrs
Ken P 4 yrs
Janifer C..... 2 yrs
Martha G 2 yrs

Last Chance Group

Jim Y 18 yrs

New Beginnings Women's Group

Frani B 22 yrs

Thursday Share at Noon

Jack M..... 32 yrs
Mary Ann B 11 yrs

Women's Friendship Group

Robie M..... 31 yrs
Laura 25 yrs
Marilyn N..... 23 yrs
Frani B 22 yrs
Shirley W..... 17 yrs
Nancy B 14 yrs

Correction to April Anniversaries:

Women's Friendship Group

Gloria D—30 yrs

Pat O'B—22

ATTENTION: A Recovery Church in Inverness, 2242 Hwy 44 (across from the Outback Steakhouse) has invited AA to open new meetings on Tuesday or Thursday. If you are interested in starting a new meeting, please contact:

Michelle at 726-2800 or 341-2791.

Local Events

AA Long-Timers Meeting

May 1, 2004

1:00 - 5:00 PM

St Marks (Ocala Group)
1839 NE 8th Ave, Ocala, FL
Sponsored by Intergroup #17



Regional Events

Young At Heart Roundup

April 30, May 1-2, 2004

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Tampa
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 Web-
site: Young At Heart Roundup



5th Annual Women's Conference

May 14-16, 2004

Holiday Inn

455 US 41 By-Pass, Venice, FL
Reservations: (941) 485-5411 use
"SIS" code

Info: Roni S. (941) 408-9688
Conference limited to 250



The 12 Traditions May 22, 2004

11:00 AM

The University Lutheran Church
1826 W. University Ave
Gainesville, FL
Presented by District 14 &
Intergroup



Back to Basics Workshop May 22, 2004

9:30 AM - 6 PM

Loch Haven Park, Orlando, FL
Special Guest James H.
98 years old/69 years sober
phone: Central Florida Intergroup
(407) 260-5822

**This meeting needs your
support!**

WOMEN'S MEETING

Wed. 6 pm/St Benedict's

Crystal River

Hope to see you there!

Other Meetings

Monday at 7:00 PM—

YANA Group — Open Discussion —
147 NW 7th St., Crystal River
(yellow house behind Crystal River
Police Station)



Wed at Noon

**Moves from 1st Presbyterian
Church to Unity House —**
1515 Whitelake Dr
Inverness



Thursday at 5:00PM

Open Step Study

United Methodist Church
Hwy 581 South, Inverness Thursday at
7:30PM



Hernando Men's Group

8 pm — Closed Discussion
Citrus Family Worship Center
2577 N. Florida Ave (Hwy 41N)
Hernando — between Bank of Inver-
ness and ACE Hardware



Holder Way of Life Group—8 pm

2nd Sat — Open Speakers (OS)

3rd Saturday — (Anniversaries)

Last Saturday — Grapevine Discussion
All other meetings — OD

From the desk of the Journal Editor

*AA articles and/or thoughts that
you would like featured in the news-
letter are welcome to be submitted
to **Mary R.**, editor, **Nature Coast
Journal**. Please contact Mary at
news@ncintergroup.com or by ph:*

Regional Events cont.

Naples Spring "Into Action" Roundup

May 21-23, 2004

Hilton Naples & Towers
5111 Tamiami Trail N
Naples, FL

Reservations: (800)HILTONS
use "Spring into Action" code

Email: springintoac-
tion2004@yahoo.com

or ph: Chris H. (850)445-3882



Lake Yale Spring Meeting

Fri, June 4—Sun, June 6, 2004

Lake Yale—7903 Colley Rd—
Odessa, FL

(Lake Yale is 7 miles north of Eustis-map
provided with registration)

813-920-9100

WEBSITE: www.lakeyaleretreat.com



48th Florida State Convention

August 4-8, 2004

The Adams Mark Hotel
225 Coast Line Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Reservations: (800) 444-2326
Information: (340) 473-7764 (340)
776-1335

Register online:

[Florida State Convention](http://www.floridastateconvention.com)



National Events

23rd Annual Azalea City Jamobree

June 11-13, 2004

The Holiday Inn
Tillman's Corner
Mobile, AL

Reservations: (251)666-5600



Announcing: Exciting Recovery Cruises

<http://www.meetingsenroute.com>



**Sober Celebrations
with Snow and Carol**
<http://www.sobercelebrations.com>