



Nature Coast Journal



111 W. Main St., Room 305 ☆ Inverness, FL 34450 ☆ Office & Literature: (352) 344-0290 ☆ Hot Line: (352) 621-0599

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 11

DECEMBER 2008

NATURE COAST INTERGROUP

OFFICE/BOOKSTORE

111 W. MAIN ST. RM 305
INVERNESS, FL 34450
(352)344-0290

OPEN: MON, WED, FRI 10AM-
4PM - SAT 10AM-1PM

BUSINESS MEETING

LAST SUNDAY OF EACH
MONTH 4:30PM AT THE
COMMUNITY CENTER
IN HOLDER.

DISTRICT 28

MONTHLY MEETING TO
FOLLOW INTERGROUP

THERE WILL BE

NO DECEMBER

MEETING FOR NCI OR
DISTRICT

Area Events

Area Assemblies

2009

Jan. 9-11, Apr. 3-5
July 17-19, Oct 8-10

Hotel: (352) 377-4000

There is a 30 day cut-off for
registration at the
hotel. Make reservations early.
Info: (877)992-9229

Events (Continued on page 2)

The following is a Christmas greeting from Bill W. and others in 1944.

TO ALL MEMBERS Greetings On Our 10th Christmas
1944 Yes, it's in the air! The spirit of Christmas once more
warms this poor distraught world.

Over the whole globe millions are looking forward to that one day
when strife can be forgotten, when it will be remembered that all
human beings, even the least are loved by God, when men will hope
for the coming of the Prince of Peace as they never hoped before.
But there is another world which is not poor. Neither is it dis-
traught. It is the world of Alcoholics Anonymous, where thou-
sands dwell happily and secure. Secure because each of us, in his
own way, knows a greater power who is love, who is just, and who
can be trusted.

Nor can men and women of AA ever forget that only through suf-
fering did they find enough humility to enter the portals of that
New World.

How privileged we are to understand so well the divine paradox
that strength rises from weakness, that humiliation goes before
resurrection; that pain is not only the price but the very touch-
stone of spiritual rebirth.

Knowing it's full worth and purpose, we can no longer fear adver-
sity, we have found prosperity where there was poverty, peace
and joy have sprung out of the very midst of chaos.

Great indeed, our blessings!

And so,-- Merry Christmas to you all-- from the Trustees, from
Bobbie and from Lois and me.

Bill Wilson

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.

Events (Continued from page 1)

December 5,6,7 2008

20th AA Central Florida Men's Retreat

FMI contact Don G.
at (352) 489-8752

December 13, 2008

Christmas Gala 2008

Sponsored by Lake /
Sumter Intergroup
5pm—11pm

Leesburg Community
Center \$20 per ticket

FMI: Rhonda H. (352) 504-1953

December 13, 2008

Pot Luck/Music & Meeting

A Newcomers Eat and Greet
Starts at 4 PM - Meeting at 6 PM
United Methodist Church

Hwy. 581 S Inverness

Sponsorship by: Attitude Adjust-
ment Group & Resentment Group

For info call : Willie: 601-5362
Ellen: 726-2074, Janet: 726-9067

December 24, 2008

Nature Coast

Intergroup's

Christmas Alkathon

at the COMMUNITY CENTER
IN HOLDER.

MEETINGS FROM 6PM—1AM

Bring a snack to share

It's free!

December 24, 2008

Crystal River at the Serenity Club at St. Benedict's

Eat at 6p and meetings all
night until—?

Bring a dish to share.

It's free!

December 31, 2008

Ring it in with Recovery

Dancing and all night meetings
Our Lady of Fatima Church
Inverness ~ When—6p—?

December 31, 2008

Crystal River at the Serenity Club at St. Benedict's Church

8P—? **It's free!**

As I Start My Day

Today starts a new beginning. Today is like a blank sheet of paper. As I start my day I can at this very moment decide what the topic of my story is, but I do not yet know what the ending is going to be. I can choose to be happy, joyous and free, or I can just flounder in my own sorry and troubles. Let me try to set the tone of my story today regardless of what goes on around me. At this moment, right now, I choose to compose an optimistic story. My thoughts shall dictate my attitude for the rest of this day regardless of what happened yesterday and what is in store for tomorrow. In this endeavor I call upon my Higher Power to help me and guide me throughout the day. For with God at my side, what do I have to fear? God will guide my footsteps. He will light the way as I trudge along the path of progress. Already I feel confident as I set these words down to paper. *Written and submitted by Ed P.*

Yesterday-Today-Tomorrow

Yesterday I met a stranger... Today this stranger is my friend.

Had I not taken the time to say hello, or return a smile, or shake a hand, or listen, I would not have known this person.

Yesterday would have turned into today and our chance meeting would be gone.

Yesterday I hugged someone very dear to me. Today they are gone... and tomorrow will not bring them back.

Wouldn't it be nice if we all knew tomorrow would be here? But this is not to be, so take the time TODAY to give a hug, a smile, or an "I love you."

JUST FOR TODAY... smile at a stranger, listen to someone's heart, drop a coin where a child can find it ...learn something new, then teach it to someone ...tell someone you're thinking of them, hug a loved one, don't hold a grudge.

Look a child in the eye and tell them how great they are.

Don't kill that spider in your house. He's just lost, so show him the way out.

Look beyond the face of a person into their heart, make a promise, and keep it.

Call someone, for no other reason than to just say "hi" ...show kindness to an animal, stand up for what you believe in, smell the rain, feel the breeze, listen to the wind, use all your senses to their fullest, cherish all your TODAYS. ~ Anonymous

STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS

"HOW THE FELLOWSHIP HAS CHANGED MY LIFE"

I wrote this on my 6 mo. anniversary of sobriety.

Written and submitted by Marilyn J. B. of Crystal River

"I once was weak, but now I'm strong"... do we ever stop to think what these words really mean? There is great strength in some very important things, to those of us that are in the A.A. program, that most people in this world of ours today consider weakness'.

I have learned so many important things during my participation in the A.A. group learning process, and a whole new outlook at many aspects of life, in my first six months of sobriety! Faith, patience and humility have become the three virtues that have become the most important to me on my journey towards finding my true serenity.

Faith is definitely not helplessness! There is great strength in faith...knowing that God will give you the power to handle anything that may happen to you, and will never burden you with more than you can bear.

Patience is a virtue that if learned, will bring you serenity in the midst of any troubles that you may have...they will diminish in their enormity, as patience will help you bear your trials calmly.

Quiet humility gives us the power to overcome our difficulties. When you ask God's help, you must also accept it. The serenity comes from the acceptance of God's will for us...not following our own will. The testing of your strength will build your character.

If I can hold on to the concept of these three virtues,

I know that I will persevere over my alcohol addiction.

We must maintain our effort and keep steadily persisting towards a lasting attitude towards sobriety that these important virtues give us!

Step 12

"Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics (others who suffer), and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

Tradition 12

(Long form)

And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of Anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.

Promise TWELVE

We will suddenly realize that God/Our Higher Power is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

Concept XII

(Short form)

The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

12th STEP Prayer

Ask Him in your morning meditation what you can do each day for the man who is still sick. The answers will come IF your own house is in order.

Alcoholics Anonymous p. 164. Reprinted with permission.. Your job now is to be at the place where you may be of maximum helpfulness to others,, so never hesitate to go anywhere if you can be helpful. You should not hesitate to visit the most sordid spot on earth on such an errand. Keep on the firing line of life with these motives and God will keep you unharmed.

Alcoholics Anonymous p. 102. Reprinted with permission..

Principle 12: Service

For those in recovery, practicing Step 12 is simply "how it works."

We are renewed with the spirit of sobriety in the light of recovery.

We are amazed at how far we've come.

More will be revealed as we continue walking these steps each day" One Day At A Time".

Step 12 allows us to carry the message of healing to others who suffer, sometimes just by being who we have become.

We practice the principles of the steps in every area of our lives on a daily basis. We share our Experience, Strength, and Hope.

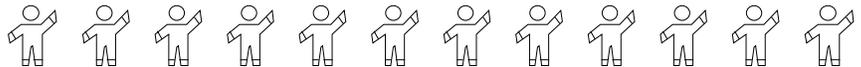
*Article taken from the Hazelden Website at www.hazelden.org. Used by permission.

Anniversaries

December 2008

To post your group's anniversaries ask your Group Secretary to contact Paula D at 201-0353 or send email to news @ncintergroup.com prior to the first of each month.

	<u>Years</u>
Attitude Adjustment Group	
Judy M	23
Roger G	1
Rainbow Group	
Don C	43
Dawn C	25
Bob T	23
Sue R	11
Dawn H	3
Paula P	2
Bill M	1
Share at Noon Group	
Shirley J	24
Women's Friendship Group	
Dee	24
Tommy B	22
March	21
Deckie	38



THANK YOU

On behalf of Panel 57, I would like to thank District 28 for the privilege of allowing us to serve.

Yours in Service,
Jim K. DCM, District 28



Nature Coast Intergroup would like to thank everyone who attended the Gratitude Dinner.

A Special thank you goes to our speaker, Brenda J. who shared her Experience, Strength and Hope with us and to Cecilia R. our Area 14 Archivist, who gave a history of the Gratitude Dinner.

The combined efforts of all those who volunteered and assisted with the activities, truly made it a successful event.



2008-Treasurer's Rpt	November	YTD
Beg Checking Balance	1925.08	
Income		
Support - Groups	487.00	4391.35
Book Sales	349.80	6814.19
Other Sales	297.57	2875.55
Sales Tax Collected	39.03	542.10
Events	1801.78	158.00
Misc Income	31.00	1084.15
Total Income	3006.18	15865.34
Expenses		
Rent (Holder CC)		60.00
Office Exp	341.71	4371.95
Alltel	57.59	621.03
Books		6273.77
Recovery Items	120.70	1901.28
Sales Tax Paid		592.98
Journal	60.00	643.14
Website	38.50	0.00
Events	1754.78	60.00
Misc Expenses		269.37
Total Expenses	2373.28	14793.52
End Checking Balance	2557.98	
Money Market Account	3534.50	
Office Change Fund	40.00	
Balance Cash Accounts	6132.48	
Amounts as noted:		
Inventory Value	2736.42	
Accounts Receivable	0.00	
Office Sales Profit	205.33	

Group Support 2008	YTD	November
ABC Group	60.00	
Attitude Adjustment Group	225.00	
Bright Spot	0.00	
Citrus Springs Group	190.00	
Crystal River Big Book Group	75.00	
Crystal River Group	350.00	
Floral City Group	95.00	70.00
Floral City Men's Group	0.00	
Hernando Men's Group	40.00	
High Noon Group	100.00	
Holder Way of Life Group	300.00	100.00
Inverness Friday Night Group	320.00	80.00
Inverness Monday Night Group	275.00	150.00
Inverness Wednesday Night Step	212.00	32.00
It's in the Book Group	50.00	
Keep in Step Group	80.00	
Last Chance Group	165.00	30.00
Lecanto Group	0.00	
Monday Night Men's Group	320.00	
Never Too Early Group	0.00	
New Beginnings-Dunnellon	0.00	
Night Cap	0.00	
No Name Group	30.00	
Quail Run Group	0.00	
Rainbow Group	175.00	
Recovery by the Fire	75.00	
Red Eye Group	0.00	
Resentment Group	240.00	
Share at Noon Group	200.00	
Sober Sand Gnats	0.00	
Wahoo Group	0.00	
What's the Book Say Group	45.00	
Women to Women Group	0.00	
Women's Friendship Group	270.00	
Women's New Beginnings Group	200.00	
WonRebos Group	63.50	
YANA Group	0.00	
Total	4155.50	462.00

Bookstore at the Office

Special for December...Just mention this ad to receive **10% Off** all non-conference approved items until 12/31/08

Thank you for allowing us to serve, it has been a true privilege. ~ NCI Bookstore

February 11-14, 2010
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
"The Sunshine State"



The Language of the Heart Will Be Spoken Here

For Your Information

Intergroup Hotline Chair, Curt's December Hotline Report: Total Calls Incoming were : 83 for AA information/meetings, 4 for Alanon, and 3 NA.

Correction from the editor.

OMITTED FROM THE NOVEMBER ISSUE:
ELECTION RESULTS FOR
NATURE COAST INTERGROUP
ALTERNATE SECRETARY IS LORI C.

THE *NATURE COAST JOURNAL* IS AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP AND DISTRIBUTION FOR ALL GROUPS EARLY EACH MONTH AT:

EAST COUNTY

1ST LUTHERAN CHURCH,
INVERNESS (FRIDAY BEGINNER'S
MEETING 6:30 PM)

WEST COUNTY

SERENITY CLUB, ST. BENEDICT'S,
CRYSTAL RIVER

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& IT IS POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE AT
www.ncintergroup.com

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