



A Newsletter, for AA Members, Published by Nature Coast Intergroup: *Carrying the Message*

Nature Coast Journal



□ Book Store: (352) 344-0290 □ Hot Line: (352) 621-0599

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 5

JUNE 2012



*Stained glass window at Akron Intergroup Council of Alcoholics Anonymous. The stained glass window was inspired from an oil painting by AA member Robert M., entitled *The Man on the Bed*"*

Smith, known as Dr. Bob, and Bill Wilson, a New York stockbroker. Inside the Akron Intergroup Council of Alcoholics Anonymous on North Main Street, the organization that sponsors Founders' Day, is a stained-glass window that is based on the dramatic painting.

The painting originally was called *Came to Believe* and is now known as *Man on the Bed*, said Akron A.A. archivist Gail L. She said the image is a symbolic depiction of what was a real meeting between Smith and Wilson and Bill Dotson, who was the third person to join A.A., that took place in the summer of 1935, just a few weeks after the founding of A.A. After that meeting at Akron City Hospital, Gail L. said, Bill Dotson's life was changed. "He leaves City Hospital on July Fourth a free man and is not to drink again," she said.

The stained-glass window was erected in 2001 with funding from volunteers' donations. William O., 74, of England, in Akron for his 12th Founders' Day, looked at the stained-glass window at the A.A. office, and described what he saw. On the face of the drunk on the bed, said William, sober for 32 years, he saw "total desperation." But on the faces of the two men who are talking to him — Wilson and Smith — William saw something entirely different. "Endless hope," he said.

A man with a troubled look on his face sits on a bed. Two other men on chairs are talking and listening intently. They are there to help the drunk on the bed get sober. It is an image that has become synonymous with Alcoholics Anonymous in the more than half-century since it first appeared in a painting published in an A.A. publication in 1955.

This Founders' Day, Friday through Sunday, that image will be in the hearts of some 12,000 people who converge on Akron to remember the start of Alcoholics Anonymous on June 10, 1935, by Akron physician Dr. Robert

Are you one of these old-timers?

The founders of many groups ultimately divide into two classes known in A.A. slang as "elder statesmen" and "bleeding deacons."

The **Elder Statesman** sees the wisdom of the group's decision to run itself and holds no resentment over his reduced status. His judgment, fortified by considerable experience, is sound; he is willing to sit quietly on the side lines patiently awaiting developments.

The **Bleeding Deacon** is just as surely convinced that the group cannot get along without him. He constantly connives for re-election to office and continues to be consumed with self-pity. Nearly every old-timer in our Society has gone through this process in some degree. Happily, most of them survive and live to become elder statesmen. They become the real and permanent leadership of A.A.

TWELVE AND TWELVE, p. 135

What do they mean, "men with men and women with women"?

Nothing in our program is written in stone as we all know. There are the big traditions which start with a capital T and there are the little traditions which start with a little "t". The idea of 13th stepping is one of the small t's and we have to use common sense when it comes to this one. Newcomers are definitely vulnerable when they first arrive at A.A.'s doors.. Many men, and women, sometime take advantage of these new members and it could cost them their life. It is suggested that women find women sponsors and the same for men. That I believe is an excellent suggestion but I don't see anything wrong with a new person talking with anyone in the meeting room. That should not be the case outside of the meeting. If a person with cancer went to a hospital for help would they only see doctors of the same sex? Of course not but you probably wouldn't meet your doctor for a late lunch to talk over your condition.

I do believe if after a year of going to meetings and having a sponsor, if a person of opposite sex needs a ride, or someone to talk with, there is nothing wrong with that person getting a ride with anyone, providing their motives are right. Our sole purpose is to help one another stay sober and that is all the Big Book says about that. "Help another Alcoholic."

I offered a ride to a young lady last week, who had over a year in AA. I was told by one of our old timer's that "men should only help men and women only help women". I drive by this young ladies house and she didn't have a ride to the meeting anyway. This idea I believe can be carried to far. Most people in the program I find are here for one purpose and that is to stay sober and help others.

When you old timer's express your opinions, please take into consideration the situation and not what you may think it is. I had to do a lot of praying for that individual as I will continue to offer my help where ever I see it is needed.

Thank you, my brothers and sisters in my AA family.

Ernie P, Attitude Adjustment Group

Suppose we fall short of the chosen ideal and stumble? Does this mean we are going to get drunk? Some people tell us so. But this is only a half-truth. It depends on us and on our motives. If we are sorry for what we have done, and have the honest desire to let God take us to better things, we believe we will be forgiven and will have learned our lesson. If we are not sorry, and our conduct continues to harm others we are quite sure to drink. We are not theorizing. These are facts out of our experience.

Page 70 Alcoholics Anonymous

Many in the program offer helpful support based on their experience. There are also those who give advice. Sometimes this advice is well-meaning and useful; other times it may seem suspect. Listen to the support, guidance, and advice you are given. But never let such information have a negative impact on your recovery.

I will listen to the advice I am given, but will make decisions that are right for me.

A time to change or a time to pray:

The changes I make in my life should come from a mindset of acceptance or surrender and not resistance. The energy which resistance creates is much different than that of surrender and the solutions to my problems will be much different as well. When turmoil comes into my life, I first try to accept where I am or surrender to the idea that I can not effectively change things with this state of mind. When acceptance creeps in, it is time to listen to my inner voice. "Be still and know that I am God". The true answers to my condition will be revealed if only I get quiet and listen. If nothing comes, it is time to pray.

John L—Editor

Obituaries:

Paul M. DiGiovanni, 59, Inverness, passed away May 10, 2012, under the loving care of his family and HPH Hospice. Paul can be remembered from his attendance at the Monday Fatima Meeting in Inverness. Although Paul was in constant pain with his legs he still attended meetings as often as possible. Paul will be missed by all that knew him.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Crystal River Group for their hard work and dedication in painting the inside and outside of our meeting place at St. Benedict's Church. They have spent numerous hours in making necessary repairs and upgrades to make the building so much more comfortable to meet in. Their dedication and hard work is very much appreciated.

Thank you-Aimee & John U.

NEW AA MEETINGS AT CLUB RECOVERY

SUNDAY: Women's 11th Step Meeting 8:00 pm
 SUNDAY & THURSDAY & FRIDAY: Search for Serenity 12 Step Study 6:00 pm
 MONDAY & TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY: Resentment Group, 6:00 pm
 TUESDAY: AA Meeting 9:00 am
 WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY: Mom & Dads w/Kids 12:00, Children welcome
 THURSDAY: Resentment Group, 8:00 pm
 FRIDAY: Resentment Group, 10:00 pm Candle Light Meeting
 SATURDAY: Saturday Night Live, 8:00 pm

Area Events

Details on our web site

Area Assemblies 2012
 July 13-15

Renaissance Resort at the World Golf Village
 St. Augustine, FL
 Hotel: 904-940-8000
DETAILS ON WEBSITE

25th Annual Men's International Conference
 Orleans Hotel & Casino • Las Vegas, NV • April 19-22, 2012

The Woodstock of AA
 Cocoa Beach
22nd Spring Conference
 May 4-6, 2012

Founder's Day Akron
 June 8, 9 & 10, 2012

Founder's Day Workshop
 June 9th—District 14
 Orange City, FL

Founders Day Dinner
 June 16th
 Brooksville, FL

Saturday, July 21st—12-4
Delegate's Report—District 13
 Methodist Church
 Brooksville, FL
 (watch for flyer)

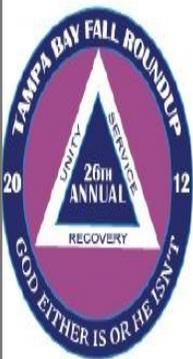
August 1-5, 2012
56th Florida State Convention
 Innisbrook Golf, Palm Harbor
 www.56.flstateconvention.com

26th Annual Tampa Bay Fall Roundup
 August 31 - September 3, 2012, Labor Day Weekend
Embassy Suites Tampa - USF
 3705 Spectrum Blvd., Tampa, Florida 33612

WANTED HOT-LINE HELPERS

Dave the new hotline chair is updating information. Please send him an email if your able to **carry the phone** for a period of time or give rides. The current information is outdated. Everyone's help is needed on this.

Email: web@ncintergroup.com



26th ANNUAL TAMPA BAY FALL ROUNDUP

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2012 - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2012

"GOD EITHER IS OR HE ISN'T" BBpg.53

EMBASSY SUITES - USF

3705 Spectrum Blvd. Tampa, FL. 33612

813-977-7066

\$109 (1-2 guests) \$119 (3-4 guests)

Each spacious two room suite includes a private living room w/sleeper sofa, microwave, refrigerator, coffee maker, hair dryer & iron. Includes complimentary fully cooked breakfast buffet & manager's evening reception daily. Call 1-800-EMBASSY for reservations (must mention Tampa Bay Fall Roundup) or register online with at www.EmbassySuitesUSF.com with group code TBF.

SPECIAL ROOM RATE CUTOFF 8/24/2012

AA & AL-ANON MEETINGS HELD THROUGHOUT THE DAY WORKSHOPS

SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday

10pm Dance - DJ-LARRY
 Celebration Productions

Saturday

7am 5K Walk/Run* - Includes T-shirt
 8am Golf * - Includes lunch
 6:30pm Banquet *
 10pm Dance - DJ-LARRY
 Celebration Productions

Sunday

4:30pm Karaoke
 5:00pm Dinner Buffet *
 10 pm Play "Win It In A Minute"

AA Speakers

- Brian P., Austin, TX.
- Joy H., Kansas City, KS.
- Robbie W., Cape May, N.J.
- Mari G., Toronto, Canada
- John A., Dallas, TX.
- Adam T., Los Angeles, CA.

AFG Speaker

Palmer G., Miami, FL.

Alateen Speakers

- Amanda B., Orlando, FL.
- Charlie M., Orlando, FL.

Founders Day Workshop
 District 19
 June 9, 2012 9 am - 3 pm

- How it all started
 Area 14 Archivist -- Stephen R.
- We are not a glum lot
 Area 14 Registrar -- Vivian F.
- Why AA still works today
 Area 14 Past Delegate -- Dan E.

Come join us for a day of fun & fellowship
 Finger foods - - - - - Bring your own lunch
 First Congregational Church
 201 W. University Avenue, Orange City, Florida

First United Methodist Church
 109 S. Broad Street
 Brooksville

FOUNDERS' DAY DINNER

Doors open at 3:00 pm.
 Dinner served at 4:00 pm
MENU — Pasta & Sauce, Garlic Bread — **MENU** and Salad

Tickets - \$3.00 June 16, 2012
 We are asking everyone to please bring a dessert to share. Come out and enjoy Fun, Food, and Fellowship!

The meeting will start at 6 pm with countdown, readings, and introductions. Followed by presentations from May T. The Hernando County and District 13 Archivist as well as from Steve R. Area 14 Archivist. All followed by the speaker Roger Hitower.

Thank You, Founders' Day Committee

District 13 presents....

DATE: SATURDAY, 7/21/12
 TIME: 1-3 PM

Stop by for Donuts with the Delegate as she reports on her travels to General Service Conference in New York and the results of the agenda items.

1st United Methodist Church
 109 S. Broad Street
 Brooksville, FL

Delegate's Report

ANNIVERSARIES:

Deadline for submissions is the Thursday following Intergroup meeting

Dunnellen Group
Keith 5

Floral City Men's Group
Van30
Bill B14

Last Chance Group
Jim H40
Marlene H31
Sue Ann A22
Katie M21

High Noon Group
Shana D30
Terry K 8
Luther 2

Holder Way of Life Group
Butch C30
Brice M27
Tom S25
Jim T 1

Rainbow Group
Hans N24
Mike G 6
Julie N 6
Sherri E 1

Resentment Group
Steve M26
Al L23
Gail N12
Mike C 4

Share At Noon
Kathleen28
Don P22
Gail N12

Sober Sandgnats
Kel E22

Woman's Friendship Group
Eleanor W43
Brenda R17
Mary I 1

New address for donations to Intergroup

Nature Coast Intergroup
3290 East Millwood Lane
Hernando, FL 34442

Please let your group treasurer know there is a new address when mailing in donations.

Intergroup Hotline Report

Hotline Report: No Report

If you would like to be a volunteer for the 12 Step List just call the Hotline number and give them your information. Groups can download a signup sheet from the web site and pass it around at meetings.

Contributions

2012	YTD	May	Apr	Mar
ABC Group	\$0.00			
Attitude Adjustment Gp	\$50.00	\$50.00		
Big Book 164	\$105.00		\$30.00	
Bright Spot	\$10.00			
Crystal River BB	\$0.00			
Crystal River Group	\$50.00			\$50.00
Primary Purpose CR	\$17.00			
Dunnellen Group	\$35.00		\$35.00	
New Beginnings-Dunn	\$45.00		\$20.00	\$25.00
Floral City Group	\$0.00			
Floral City Men's Group	\$0.00			
High Noon Group	\$100.00			
Holder Way of Life Gp	\$50.00		\$50.00	
Inverness Friday Night	\$80.00			
Inverness Monday Night	\$150.00			\$150.00
Inverness Wed Night	\$80.00	\$40.00		
It's In The Book	\$20.00			
Keep In Step	\$0.00			
Last Chance Gp	\$0.00			
Lecanto Group	\$0.00			
Monday Night Men's	\$0.00			
Never To Early Group	\$0.00			
Night Cap Group	\$0.00			
Quail Run Closed Step	\$0.00			
No Name Group	\$0.00			
Red Eye Group	\$0.00			
Rainbow Group	\$40.00		\$40.00	
Resentment Group	\$0.00			
Share At Noon	\$100.00			
Sober Sandgnats	\$0.00			
Wahoo Group	\$0.00			
What The Book Says	\$0.00			
Women's Friendship Gp	\$30.00			
Women to Women	\$20.00			
Women's N-Beginnings	\$0.00			
Won Rebos	\$133.25		\$36.50	
Yana	\$0.00			
Personal	\$50.00			
Monthly Totals 2012	\$1,115.25	\$90.00	\$211.50	\$225.00
2011	\$1,839.61	\$130.00	\$206.63	\$426.00
2010	\$1,603.09	\$205.00	\$561.63	\$390.00
2009	\$2,080.00	\$286.00	\$915.00	\$285.00

BUSINESS MEETING

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

DISTRICT 28

MONTHLY MEETING TO FOLLOW INTERGROUP

INTERGROUP OFFICERS

CHAIR—AL L

586-0800

VICE CHAIR—RICK T

344-5939

SECT—DENIS S

TREAS—JOHN L

INTERGROUP TRUSTEES

DARRAL M—PAUL B

STEVE N—DEBRA S

HOTLINE

DAVID D

621-0599

WEBSITE

DAVID D

web@ncintergroup.com

JOURNAL

EDITOR—JOHN L

ASSIST—STEVE N

news@ncintergroup.com

DISTRICT 28 OFFICERS

DCM—PAT H

ALT DCM—PAULA D

SECT—STEVE N

TREAS—CHAR S

JOURNALS FOR GROUPS

CAN BE PICKED UP AT:

EAST COUNTY

FRIDAY BEGINNER'S

MEETING 6:30 PM

WEST COUNTY

SERENITY CLUB

CRYSTAL RIVER

Many of us state that we "trust" God but how many of us really do?

Founder's Day Celebration
JUNE 10th—SUNDAY
1:00pm
Club Recovery.
2322 Anvil, Hernando
Presentation by Jay B
Followed by Hamburgers and Hotdogs
Please bring a covered dish or dessert
See website for flyer and directions

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