



NATURE COAST JOURNAL



APRIL/ MAY 2017



Nature Coast Intergroup Presents:

Spring Fling

Saturday, May 13th, 2017

1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Floral Park

Pavilion #1 (Off Main Parking lot)

9530 South Parkside Avenue

Floral City, FL 34436

Games, 50/50 raffle, Food, Fun

Fellowship...Speaker

Hotdogs, hamburgers, rolls, drinks, chips, soda, coffee
and cookies provided.

Covered dishes and desserts are welcome

Suggested donation is \$6.00 per person

For tickets, more information or to volunteer please contact
events@ncintergroup.com

RESPONSIBILITY

STATEMENT

I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

AN AA SERVICE

OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!!

The AA Hot line needs volunteers to man the phones. This is a great opportunity to serve. If you have gone through the 12 steps with your sponsor and understand the AA concept of working with others, are willing to be on the Contact List to speak with alcoholics who call the Hot Line, please give your name, sobriety date, town and phone number to the Hot Line. You would do that by calling the hot line number at 352-621-0599 and leaving this information with the person answering the phone.

352-621-0599

Hell's Angel Looks Homeward

From the worst to the best--the hope of service to those who need him

MY FIRST contact with alcohol was at about the age of sixteen, in November 1956, when my younger brother was killed. From that day on, I needed a drink to go on living. I blamed myself for his death. The hurt was deep.

In December 1957, I went into the Army. I soon discovered that beer was sold at the PX, and I started going there every night, not leaving until they closed. Needless to say, I was drunk during most of my basic-training period. My company commander called me into his office and told me, "You are a hard-nosed alcoholic." I laughed at this. (I was only seventeen.) I asked if that was all, and he said "Yes," but then he told me that if I should ever be called before him again, he would put me in the guardhouse. I thought it was just a big joke.

About a month later, when I had KP duty, an incident took place that should have warned me. After checking in, early in the morning, I went back to the dorm, took a bottle out of my locker, and proceeded to get smashed. When I did not report back to duty, a sergeant came looking for me. He saw the condition I was in, let me sleep it off, and got someone else to fill in for me.

Later on, I was caught drinking on guard duty and taken to court. Being a good talker, I talked my way out of a thirty-day stretch in the guardhouse. After many such incidents, I finally finished my tour of duty and was discharged. I went back to my old job, but decided I had had more fun in the service, with less responsibility. So I signed up for another three years.

This time, I knew my way around--I thought. I repeated the same mistakes that I had made during the previous hitch. I was in and out of court, and finally, at my last hearing, I asked them to kick me out, because I just could not make the grade. After a total of four years and eleven months in the Army, I was released with a general discharge.

Again I was on my own and in the so-called free world. I thought I would give San Francisco a treat by my presence. I met various groups of people there. One of them was the bike-riders (motorcycles), and that was the one I wanted to identify with and be a part of. After six months of riding, drinking, fighting, and "showing class," I became a member of the Hell's Angels club. For the following two and a half years, I was a hard-core, rough Hell's Angel. This was my whole life.

In 1963, I met a girl, one that I really cared for. She thought she could make me stop drinking, so temporarily I gave up the Angels and drinking, but it did not last. I would not or could not give up the drinking and the life that I had been accustomed to. So, as the saying goes, "If you can't lick 'em, join 'em"--she became my seat partner. She got the fever and wanted to learn to ride and fly her own "colors" (the club jacket).

In 1964, I was sent to prison for various reasons. I was bitter, mean, and tough. This attitude lasted until I met a person I liked and respected. We kicked around the no-drinking idea, but it really did not appeal to me. Finally, I weakened and attended my first AA meeting. In my frame of mind, I felt out of place with those squares. One evening, my friend came over to my unit and asked if I would go with him later that week. I told him, "Man, those people in AA don't dig me."

At this, he asked, "Who do you care about? Who do you want to help? Do you yourself want to get out of this prison?"

Well, after thinking over what he had said that night, I never missed another meeting while there.

Two years later, I got a parole. I was dry for five months and felt pretty proud of myself. Then one of Those Days happened. I had to contact a friend, and while looking for him I had occasion to go into a bar where he was known. I had my first drink, then another and another, until I was well on my way to oblivion. When I got home, my sister told me that her husband had broken her arm during an argument. In my drunken state, I reverted to my old self and went out looking for a gun and my brother-in-law. An hour later, I was in the custody of the police. The charge was possession of a firearm by an ex-felon. Back to prison I went.

While in a guidance center, I began attending AA meetings again. When I was transferred to a conservation center about two months later, I went to the meetings of the Cascade-Sierra Mountain Group. I was honestly interested in AA, and after three months I was placed on the steering committee of this group. At the next election I was elected sergeant-at-arms. As time went by, I was elected secretary and began holding AA "meetings by mail." I planned the sixth annual conference, which came off beautifully, and there I met all of the people I had been writing to--a real honor for me.

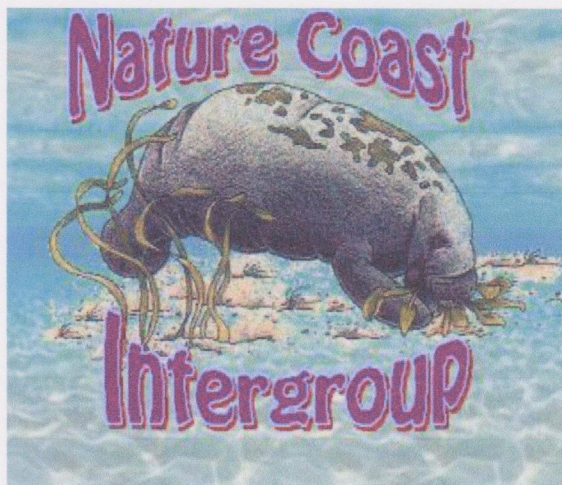
I will be thirty years old when I get out of prison this time, and I have only AA to thank for my forthcoming release and for my new frame of mind. Now I will have a chance to make something of myself. I know that my real friends and my real happiness are going to come from my association with AA groups. So long as I accept the fact that I cannot handle alcohol, I will not go back to prison.

I want to say "Thank you" to all the AA groups for the help and insight I have received from their teachings. I hope some day I can become part of an institutions committee, so that I can help further our work in the hospitals and prisons of this country. I have been there, and I know how much assistance is needed.

-- R. L.

Susanville, California

July 1970



What is Intergroup

Intergroup is an AA service entity that involves partnership among groups in the community- just as AA groups themselves are partnerships of individuals. A central office is established to carry out certain functions common to all the groups- functions which are best handled by a centralized office- and it is usually maintained, supervised and supported by these groups in their central interests. It exists to aid the groups in their common purpose of carrying the AA message to the alcoholics who still suffer.

Contributions

District 28

Make Checks Payable to **District 28** and send to:
District 28
P.O. Box 640914
Beverly Hills, FL 34464

Nature Coast Intergroup

PO Box 2634
Crystal River FL 34423

North Florida Area Conference:

(Please write your District (28) and group number on the check)

Make checks payable to **NFAC** and send to:
NFAC P.O. Box 360831 Melbourne, FL 32936-0831

G.S.O.

- Contributions payments may be made by check or credits card, using the contribution envelope. Make checks payable to the **General Service Board** and send to:

General Service Office
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

(Please write your District (28) and group number on the check)

- Online contribution may be made by visiting AA website at www.aa.org. Credit card or E-Check accepted.

Business meetings

May 7, 2017

4:30 NCI Business Meeting

5:45 District 28 Business Meeting

June 4, 2017

4:30 NCI Business Meeting

5:45 District 28 Business Meeting

All at Holder Community Building

Make sure to put June 10 on your calendar.!!

The Founders Day Breakfast will be held at 9:00 AM at the First Baptist Church in Crystal River, Florida, 700 N. Citrus Avenue. The event is sponsored by Nature Coast Intergroup and District 28.

Please plan to attend. Flyer is forthcoming.

ANNIVERSARIES

Rainbow Group

APRIL

Ted L 12

Kate J 9

MAY

Tammy P 35

Lynn G 34

Terrie K 12

Please email your anniversary lists for June and July to news@ncintergroup.com

EVENTS!!!

Nature Coast Intergroup is creating an events committee. They will be responsible to discuss, vote and implement an events calendar for the entire year. Please email

events@ncintergroup.com if interested. Everyone is welcome.

Another opportunity to serve!