



Communiqué

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The Communiqué is a monthly publication of District 13 and Hernando County 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 A.A. or District 13 or Intergroup, except where indicated.

To submit an article, please email it to:

communiqué0910@gmail.com

Articles need to be submitted by the 21st of the month for publication in the following month's edition. However, articles will be placed in the publication as space and time allow.

MY PATHWAY INTO SERVICE AND WHAT IT HAS BROUGHT

My journey in service began as a "suggestion" from my sponsor. I already had a home group and was eyeing the GSR position or maybe the Treasurer. Being totally full of myself I thought I was exactly what the group needed, to lead them in our quest for dignity and spiritual awareness (forgive me God, because I really didn't

My Pathway

know how sick I was!). When I got Bob as a sponsor, shortly after joining the Falmouth Speakers Group, I let him know of my intentions. He burst out laughing, told me I might want to let the group decide, and reminded me where to put the cotton. I really wasn't fond of the guy by this time. Then he told me he was very much afraid of me spreading the disease, so please keep my jaws from flapping and don't let anyone know he was my sponsor. Well God had different plans than I did. I was unanimously voted in as the resident Hospitality Director (coffee, cookie and clean-up person).

Being somewhat humiliated, I related this to Bob at our weekly Whine and Dine (his term for breakfast with me) and with all of the tenderness a good sponsor can muster, he told me I was a 41 year old cry baby, and where to find sympathy in the dictionary. Oh well. That was the first lesson in Humility, and there were many more to follow. Thank you God for all of the wise and caring sponsors in the world.

Shortly after this, Bob reminded me that my social calendar wasn't so full (as I was unemployed) that I couldn't give several hours a week at our Central Service Office. I asked Bob what they did there and he told me about the hot line. Yipee! Real 12 step work, helping all of the poor sots with my wealth of wisdom & experience, I did have a couple of months under my belt, and was just oozing with spiritu-

al awareness. OOPS!!! "Steve, this is GOD calling, listen butt head sweep the floors and put on some coffee, and stuff these envelopes after you straighten out and restock the shelves, yada, yada, yada!!! Another exercise in humility. The hotline wouldn't come for a year.

Bob told me there were 2 kinds of people in AA, the ones who do and the ones who never do. He then read the St Francis prayer to me. And emphasized "for it is in giving that we receive" and I believe truer words have never been spoken. And that has been my goal since then, to work at being a giver, rather than a taker, to give my best at any given time. I do this far from perfect, but through God's grace I remain willing to try.

Around 90 days into this adventure Bob introduced me to Richie A. who later became my sponsor. Richie was the Corrections District Chair. He dragged me to prison meetings, then the county jail and detoxes. I was so busy my first year I didn't have time to think of my Horribly Insurmountable Problems (most of which went away through neglect). It saved my life and molded my thinking.

From the very start, I have been sponsored by men who themselves

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Sharing around the coffee pot

by Jack R.

We are not a glum lot...no...but we were a very funny lot! Over the years I have listened to many interesting stories in the program. And every once in a while I remember some of the more humorous ones. So I thought I would share some of them with you. These are all parts of their AA talks.

A good friend of mine named Danny tells in his talk of a time when he was in the service and he was stationed in Hawaii. He borrowed a jeep from his sargeant and promptly hocked it at a pawn shop for money to drink and gamble. Needless to say, he ended up in the brig. What was he thinking?

Another fellow told in his story how the police continually pulled him over for driving under the influence, but they could never find the booze. He had it rigged. The whiskey was in his windshield wiper fluid container and the hose ran through the firewall under the dashboard. When he wanted a drink he just pushed the windshield washer button and put the hose in his mouth. And we thought drunks were dumb. Pure genius.

I remember another speaker that felt so sorry for himself and said he would show everybody. Especially his wife. His plan was to hire an airplane to fly him over the everglades and he would jump out and they would all cry and miss him terribly. They would regret how they had treated him. So he did hire the plane and kept drinking and telling the pilot his sad story. But the pilot kept telling him how no one would ever know what he had done and they would never find his body. Well, as it turned out he wasn't able to find that perfect spot to jump and it is too late now because he has been sober for many years.

Or maybe the nun that I heard tell of a day when she got drunk on rectory wine and ran the car head on into a telephone pole. As the police pulled up she was out of the vehicle and asked the officers to help her find that poor little puppy that was in the street. The one whose life she saved by swerving into the telephone pole. *OH Yeah!*

And my own experience that I always remember and laugh about. Years ago there was a movie and I believe it was called "The Flim Flam Man". George C. Scott played a con man. One night when the sheriff was chasing him, he and his friend were escaping town in a pickup truck. The sheriff was close behind so the Flim Flam Man let a little air out of each tire and drove onto the railroad tracks and eluded the sheriff. The tire span of a standard pickup truck matches the width of railroad tracks perfectly. Now a friend of mine named Mike had an old pickup truck and he and I went fishing on weekends. Many times on a hot summer day when the fish were not biting, we would pull that pickup onto an old set of tracks in the country and put a cooler of beer on the hood. I would sit on the right side of the hood and Mike would start the engine, put the gearshift in low gear, climb out the window and join me on the hood. The truck would then drive us for miles through the country side. We were young and we would drink beer, sing and enjoy the coolness of the wind in our faces as we rode through all the small towns. The truck would only travel the tracks at idle speed and if you didn't stop, it would stay on the tracks. Great fun. I once asked Mike what we would do if a train came. "Get off the truck" he replied. Insane? Well maybe a little.

And then there was Charlie. He came from a wealthy family and had studied to be an attorney. Charlie's father was a well to do physician. Charlie was a ne'er do well and had a serious drinking problem. He resented his father's success and was always being nagged about his drinking. One winter evening Charlie was home when a call came for his father, the physician. A man complained he was terribly ill and needed him to make a house call. Charlie had answered the phone and said he would be right over. He picked up his dad's medical bag and hit the door. He made the house call and examined the man as best he could. He told the man to stay in bed three days, drink lots of water and he would be alright. Charlie looked in his dad's bag for medicine. Since it was the Christmas Season, Charlie gave the man some red pills and some green pills. Is that a hoot or what. The rest of the story doesn't matter. This was the part I remember. A glum lot...? I find the mind of an alcoholic is always a challenge. Drunk or sober! We need to harness this kind of thinking to do what is right in life. Life is tough but it can be fun. Don't take it too serious.



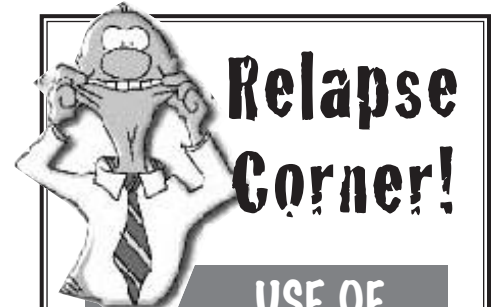
Hernando County Intergroup Office
4169 Lamson Ave., Suite 107
(behind Sherwood Forest)
Spring Hill, FL 34608
352-683-4597

Intergroup Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9-5
www.aa.hernandocounty.com

General Service Office
PO Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10164



www.alcoholics-anonymous.org



USE OF MOOD-ALTERING CHEMICALS

You may feel the need to ease things with a pill, and your doctor may go along with you. You may never have had a problem with chemicals other than alcohol, but you can easily lose sobriety starting this way - about the most subtle way of having a relapse. Remember you will be cheating! The reverse of this is true for drug-dependent persons who start to drink.

A fortune awaits the inventor of a mirror by which an active alcoholic could shave without looking at himself.

Hernando County, District 13 was well represented at the April Area Assembly April 8, 9, & 10 in St. Augustine, Florida. Saturday, April 9th was full of informative and interesting workshops.

They included much necessary upcoming information and help for the current and new GSR's. Many helpful discussions and suggestions were gained by the attending GSR's from officers, committee chairs, and other GSR's throughout the area. Hourly workshops were held on the Traditions, Grapevine, CPC, Intergroup, Public Information, Literature, Archives, Corrections, and Accessibilities/Treatment. In addition there were discussion meetings, Officers Service Coordinator and DCM meetings, including "Ask the Officers Forum."

The business meeting was conducted Sunday, April 10th from 9:00 to 12:00. Hernando County was represented by 8 voting members; 1 Alternate DCM and 7 GSR's. The minutes and treasurer's report were approved and Marilyn B. reported on conferences visited. The treasurer asked that when any contributions were made to the area that the contribution form be used when mailed

District Update

to avoid any misunderstandings. Old Business moved smoothly with all motions passing except for the motion to post minutes on the website and cease mailing minutes. It was voted to continue mailing minutes.

New motions included purchasing an area wide display case. This case would be available to any large event in the area for Public Information. A motion was passed to increase the treasurer's discretionary authority. A motion passed to increase mileage reimbursement from 35 to 40 cents a mile for Officers, Chairmen, and Service Coordinators. This will begin in July. A motion failed to accept a contribution from Gay Days Roundup. Discussion was on the 7th tradition and the money will be returned. Finally, a housekeeping motion accepting a change in boundaries for 3 districts passed.

Hernando County is very proud of Steve R. and Sheryl R. for their continued work on archives and the Grapevine. The Grapevine room was a "hot spot" and enjoyed by all. We are looking forward to Steve R. having our archives displayed at the State Convention.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam P

G.S.O.'s Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Are raffles within A.A. Traditions?

A. Past General Service Conferences have been asked this question. The Conference has not come forth with a recommendation in regard to raffles. A show of hands usually indicates that about half the delegates think they are all right and about half the delegates think they should be discouraged. So the best we can do when asked is to reply that it is up to the group conscience.

Q. Is it okay to hold a dance (no meeting) as a fund raiser for an A.A. function?

A. If tickets for the dance are sold within the Fellowship, it's up to the group conscience; if they're sold outside, it's a clear violation of the Seventh Tradition. Dances themselves are a popular feature of A.A. conventions and get-togethers.

Box 4-5-9
Spring 2011

My Pathway - (continued from page 1)

were and still are active in service, and who would have it no other way for me. They attribute the quality of their sobriety directly to the service they perform. If I wasn't willing to follow their path they suggested I should think about getting a different sponsor. Richie emphasized the point that **Service Work isn't supposed to be convenient, hence the word work, and that I was to plan my schedule around the service I had volunteered for and not the service around my social calendar.** I am forever grateful to these men and for all the sage advice they shared with me. Because of their guidance, I have learned that the true gift really is in giving.

I have a new sponsor in the Brooksville area, and he is of the same ilk. Ray is another giver, not a taker. And he is becoming a dear friend. Ray recently reminded me where sympathy was in the dictionary. What is it with these guys, did they go to the same sponsor school or what? Anyway, when I mentioned in passing the Corrections chair was going to be vacated he said

4 words, *stand for the position*. I wasn't even sure I wanted to, but there could be no argument from the tone of his voice...where does God find these wise and loving characters that are blessed with so much wisdom. My life is richer still as a result of Ray's guidance.

And so it goes. One day at a time I am humbled by your trust, and can't possibly tell you how grateful I am. But I will try and show you by serving the district the best I can and work to carry out our primary purpose and with your help, to see that our message reaches the still sick and suffering behind the walls. I would like to extend a special thanks to the incredible corrections volunteers who just keep giving of themselves. I am blessed and honored to know them. If you want to know what gratitude is, they can tell you. My experience continues to show that **Service is Gratitude in Action, and the reward is Humility.**

Steve Z
Corrections Chair

The traditions are important to all AA members - Traditions protect us from ourselves. As more and more groups were started and were spread out geographically, guidelines were needed to keep all AA uniform, successful, and moving forward. The fifth tradition parallels the fifth step.

Step five

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

Tradition five

Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

The relationship of the fifth step to the fifth tradition is that the fifth step taught me the exact nature of my wrongs, "I am not in charge." In the fifth tradition I learned the other side of the coin- what my nature should be and the ability to participate in the "Spiritual Entity", the Group, to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. In the fifth step I learned what's wrong about me and in the fifth tradition I learned what's right with me. What's right with me is the ability to carry the message to another suffering person by the grace of my higher power

through experiences only an alcoholic knows. This experience is transformed into a message of hope when one alcoholic reaches out to another.

Early on in my sobriety I marveled to my Sponsor about how I thought AA should be everywhere - just about everyone could use it I said - even businesses - they should sell this stuff. She promptly reminded me of our primary purpose and how important it is to stay the course to it. Just image she said, if when you were in the depth of despair searching for help the AA group members were out on the Golf Course running an AA scramble? Maybe good for golfers, but sure wouldn't help to keep us sober.

Into Action - what a great title for the chapter of the Big Books which talks about Step 5. In parallel, Tradition 5 suggests action on the part of the AA Group. One truth we know; in order to stay sober we must help the next alcoholic through the door. The focus of the Group cannot waiver - or you have just a bunch of individuals with their own agendas - no longer there for the newcomer or members.

Someone was there for me when I came through the doors - I want to be there for the next.

Yours in Service,
Lori P
DCM District 13

Coming Events

May 20-22, 2011

Women's Conference
DaySpring Conference Center
8411 25th St. East
Parrish, FL 34219
Speakers! Workshops! Meditations!
Fellowship! Fun! & Even Canoes
Space is Limited - Register Early!—No registrations can be accepted at the door
Register Online: www.SISconference.com
Contact us by Email:
sis@sisconference.com

July 9-10, 2011

North Florida Area Assembly
The Renaissance® Resort
At World Golf Village
500 South Legacy Trail
St. Augustine, FL 32092
Toll Free: 1-888-740-7020
www.worldgolfrenaissance.com/

July 20-24, 2011

55th Florida State Convention
Doubletree Hotel/Universal
Orlando
Online registration
55.FLSTATECONVENTION.COM

September 22-25, 2011

National AA Archives Workshop
Helena, Montana
contact Gerry R. at 406-933-5342
traditionsway@yahoo.com
www.aanationalarchivesworkshop.com

GROUP DONATION ADDRESSES

Attention all group treasurers: Please send donations to the following. It is very important to include your Group Number on all your donations. Please contact Howard with any questions.

District 13

Howard M.

Spring Hill FL 34608
(please make checks payable to District 13)

Hernando County Intergroup

Paul K.
4169 Lamson Ave.
Suite 107
Spring Hill, FL 34608
(please make checks payable to Hernando County Intergroup)

North Florida Area Assembly

NFAC
PO Box 8983
Jacksonville, FL 32239-8983

General Service Office

PO Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
(please make checks payable to GSO)

District 13 Committee Chairpersons

Communication between the general population of AA members and District 13 Committee Chairpersons is very important. If you are not sure what their committee is all about, District 13 encourages you to call them. Speak with them about what their service committee has to offer for the still suffering alcoholic and you as a member of AA. One alcoholic working with another alcoholic is all good.

Accessibilities Committee

Steve G.

Cooperation With The Professional Community Committee/Public Information Committee

Claudia S.

Treatment Committee

Tom H.

Archives Committee

Mary T.

Corrections Committee

Steve Z.

Grapevine Committee

Arnie C.

Literature

Tammy B.

If you find mistakes in this newsletter, Please consider that they are there for a purpose. We publish something for everyone and some people are always looking for mistakes.

Does your group want to host a UNITY meeting?

It's so simple even a cavegroup could do it!!!

All you need is a group (or 2), a desire, a chairperson and greeters.

- 2 speakers (about 30 min each).

- 5 people to read the preamble, the steps, the traditions, more about alcoholism (first 4 paragraphs and the promises.

Your group can bring your chip system or we will use ours.

Your group needs to provide the desserts (and utensils, plates forks, napkins etc).

We will serve the drinks, coffee is free. Soda and water is available.

Set up and clean up help is usually provided by the host group but we always have help.

AND LETS NOT FORGET TO BRING THE FUN. WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT! Any questions please call 683-4597 to ask or get on the schedule.

Minutes – District 13 Meeting – Date: 4/4/2011 (To be approved at next District Meeting)

OPENING: Moment of Silence/Serenity Prayer/Preamble.

TRADITION OF THE MONTH: (Claudia) Tradition #4 “Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.” Claudia shared on “Singleness of purpose” and rule #62...“Don’t take yourself so seriously”.

INTRODUCTIONS: 22 Members were present: Cindy, Steve Z., Gary, Tom, Mary, Louise, Claudia, Wendy, Mike, Tina, Tom, Howard, Steve G., Pam, Tammy, Arnie, Dave, Sherri, Lori, Sheryl, John, Christine.

SECRETARY’S REPORT (Wendy S.): Minutes reviewed & approved.

TREASURER REPORT (Howard M.): Treasurer’s report in Communique. Approved with corrections made.

Income

Group Donations	\$ 238.75
Restricted Donations	\$ 00.00
Corrections	\$ 48.77
Misc.	\$ 67.50
TOTAL:	\$ 355.02

Expenses: \$ 240.00

Closing Balance:

Restricted	\$ 240.00
Group	\$ 4414.83
Corrections	\$ 337.18
TOTAL:	\$ 4992.01

ACCESSIBILITY (Steve G.): Asking G.S.R.’s to check their groups for wheelchair access not only to meetings but the restrooms also. Let Steve know, his # is in the Communiqué.

ARCHIVES (Mary T.): Mary T. wrote an article for the April Communique stressing the need to preserve early history of AA in Hernando County for future generations. Interviews will begin soon with caution to protecting the person’s anonymity of members. Also working on downloading interviews on disc that will play on a dvd. We need volunteers to man our Archives exhibit at Florida State Convention in Orlando in July. We would like to have a list of past DCM and Intergroup Chairpersons for a display at the Founders day dinner.

CORRECTIONS (Steve Z.): Requesting all G.S.R.’s to ask their groups if they would agree to make a box available at their meetings for collection of old A.A. literature. This is not to replace the pink can but a means of recycling some of your old literature. The Saturday women’s meeting will begin on April 16th.

CPC/PI (Claudia S.): A literature rack was placed in the West Hernando Library. We are using \$50 for literature for the racks.

GRAPEVINE (Arnie): The A-club and Intergroup are full of Grapevines. We will be using \$50 to get back ordered Grapevines. If any one has any used Grapevines contact Arnie.

COMMUNIQUE (Jack R.): No Report.

LITERATURE (Tammy): No Report.

TREATMENT (Tom H.): There is a literature rack at Springbrook. We are clarifying which people are taking which meetings into Springbrook on which nights.

Intergroup (Tina): The Hotline needs volunteers. The Unity meeting is covered thru June. The 29th Annual Gratitude Dinner will be on the 5th of November. We would like to stay with the old printer for the Communique.

ROOM COORDINATOR (Tammy): One room was cancelled for April area Assembly.

ALTERNATE CHAIR (Pam P.): With Area coming up focus was on the Agenda items. The Agenda items were emailed to all the committee chairs.

CHAIR (Lori P.): District 28 (Citrus) hosted a preconference meeting about the Agenda items. Saturday night at the Area Assembly will address the Agenda items. We will host a post conference meeting to get a report from Cecelia. District 28 will be invited to attend. General Service distributed a list of group contributions. Any committee chair that would like to receive information from Area can register with the Area Registrar.

OLD BUSINESS: The Founders day dinner will be June 4th. There is a committee meeting on the 7th to discuss the details. District 13 has decided to co-host the NFAA in October 14-16 2011. The new district meeting time will be 6:15 pm every month.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business

NEXT MEETING: May 2, 2011

CLOSED WITH THE LORD’S PRAYER

INTERGROUP DONATIONS

Group Name	March, 2011	YTD 2011
A.A. Way of Life		
Algood Group	\$100.00	\$169.00
Aripeka Big Book		
Aripeka Open Speaker		
Ask It Basket		
Attitude Adjustment		
Audio Big Book		
Brooksville Group		
Brooksville Heavy Hitters		
Brooksville Recovery Group		
Brooksville Women		
Easy Does It		
Feeling Better Group	60.75	60.75
Friday Evening TGIF		
Friendship Group	75.00	75.00
Fun & Frolic Group		
Garden Grove AA Way of Life		
Garden Grove (Tues. Noon)		
HCIG	8.00	23.00
Happy Hour Group	62.00	62.00
Happy Hour Gratitude Dinner		
Heavy Hitters Group		84.51
Hernando Beach Group		
Hope Group		
Ladies Big Book		
Let Go and Let God		
Life Goes On Group		
Living Sober Group		
Monday Night Meeting		
More Serenity Sisters Group		
New Hope Beginners		
Precisely II BB Study		
Promises Group		
Ridge Manor BB		
Rough Road Group	60.00	100.00
Saturday Morning 12th Step		
Saturday Night Beginners		
Serenity Sisters Group	85.00	85.00
Serendipity Sisters		
Singleness of Purpose Group		
Spring Hill	25.00	25.00
Steps We Took Step Study		
Sunset Group		
Thursday Night Welcome Group		
There is a Solution		
Tranquility Group		
Tuesday Ladies BB		
Tuesday Nite Get A Life Group		
Tuesday Noon Group		
Umbrella Group		100.00
W.I.S.E. Women Group		
Women's Serenity Group		55.00
Young Men's Group		
Intergroup Basket		
Total Contributions	\$475.75	\$839.26

HERNANDO COUNTY INTERGROUP TREASURER REPORT INCOME & EXPENSES – March, 2011

INCOME	
Donations (Regular)	\$ 475.75
Unity Meeting	195.30
Sales	342.40
Refund Store Merch.	410.50
TOTAL INCOME	\$1423.95

EXPENSES	
Unity Meeting	\$ 17.00
Store Merchandise and Literature	23.75
Where & Whens	125.00
Postage	
Office Supplies	31.95
Mgr. Gas	40.00
Rent-Office	350.00
Repairs	
Telephone/Internet	112.41
Website	
Communique (1/2 printing)	67.50
Unity 6 months rent	300.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1067.61

Transfer from savings to checking	\$ 00.00
Transfer from checking to savings	\$ 00.00
OVERALL TOTAL	\$ 356.34

Checking Account	\$1901.26
Prudent Reserve Account Balance	\$1500.00
<small>(Not to exceed \$3000.00)</small>	

Unity Meeting

Second Saturday of each month
7:30 pm to 9:00 pm
(Doors open at 6:30)

Sponsored by your Hernando County Intergroup

Nativity Lutheran Church
6363 Commercial Way

Refreshments will be served

If your group is interested in hosting a Unity Meeting, please have your Intergroup Representative sign your group up at the monthly business meeting or contact the Intergroup office at (352)683-4597

Upcoming Unity Meeting Calendar

Date.....Host Group

MayWomen's Serenity Group

JuneMore Serenity Sisters Group

Each Group Should Have A GSR!

Your home group should have an elected representative to attend monthly District meetings. Your GSR would carry your group conscience to District and vote your will in making decisions^o.

◆ **FIRST THINGS FIRST - TRUST GOD** ◆

NEWCOMER ADVICE ANSWER

Don't Drink

Go to Meetings

Read Big Book

Get a Sponsor

Learn to Pray

KEEP IT SIMPLE