



SARA-MANA INTERGROUP NEWSLETTER

January 2020

Central Office 941.351.4818

AA HELPLINE 941.951.6810

aasrq.org

Central Office Fund Drive Is Underway

It's that season again . . . Taxes and the Central Office Fund Drive. Each New Year, we begin our fund drive and it lasts until taxes are due - April 15. The fund drive is a major source of income for the Sara-Mana Central Office, serving Manatee and most of Sarasota counties, for the entire year. Our goal this year is to raise \$28,000.

Central Office is the "hub" of our local AA activities. It is a permanent office and meeting space with two paid employees. Central Office provides meeting facilities for several AA entities, including General Service, Intergroup, and the Central Office Board along with numerous committees, including Events and Hospitals and Institutions. You can access the event calendar at aasrq.org if you would like to see what groups meet at Central Office and when. They're usually open to those interested in seeing how these groups operate. The Central Office also stocks books, pamphlets and other AA related material for sale to our members, and it houses our local AA archive.

The money that you donate is used to rent our office space, pay our employees, purchase our AA related literature and materials and pay for our insurance and utilities, website, office supplies and contractors, such as our accountant. We record and report on donations from individuals to show how each person can make a difference. We also accept donations from groups, which is also an important means of support. However, as we update our donation progress each month, we'll only show the progress from our individual contributors, as they are the target for the fund raiser.

Your Intergroup Representatives should be distributing individual donation envelopes at your local meetings. You may also pick up envelopes at the Central Office. You may donate by cash, check or money order by sealing your donation in the envelope and returning it to your Intergroup Rep, taking it to the Central Office yourself or mailing it in the self-addressed envelope (Don't forget a stamp!). Central Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 4 pm, closed on holidays.

Our Central Office is organized as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, so your donations may be tax deductible, and the folks at Central Office are happy to give you a receipt for tax purposes. This is a great way to support your local AA community and get a nice tax deduction at the same time.

Our ability to continue to operate and offer services throughout Manatee and Sarasota counties is based largely on the donations that we receive from individuals, as well as the group donations. This is a part of the 12th Step because we're giving back what was so freely given to us so that alcoholics throughout our District (IV) can continue to receive the necessary products and services that help them on their journey to sobriety. Please give as generously as you can and watch for donation updates in the newsletter.

-- Ross J.



In Memoriam

The Sara-Mana AA Community says goodbye to two friends who recently passed away, Edgar C. and Tony F. Through their service and work with other alcoholics, both men greatly contributed to the success of Alcoholics Anonymous in this part of Florida.

Edgar C. was the longtime editor of this newsletter, and he graciously provided his experience and assistance to subsequent editors. Edgar passed away in December.

Tony F., until recently, was a constant fixture at Central Office, serving as our manager. Tony F. passed away on January 1.



New Year, New Meeting?

Find One Online and
in the App

**WHERE
& WHEN**

aasrq.org/meetingguide/meetings

GROUP OF THE MONTH

★ THE BAY GROUP ★

Tuesdays at 7:00 PM
St. Wilfred Episcopal Church
3775 Wilkinson Road, Sarasota

A regular weekly meeting attendance of about 120 men and women indicates that a good mix of old timers, medium timers and newcomers is providing the experience, strength and hope, plus some laughter, joys and heart connections that help each of us on our happy road to happy destiny.

Following the lead of the Pacific Group in LA and the Atlantic Group in Pompano Beach, FL, the group was named The Bay Group even though the meeting is a far way from Sarasota Bay.

One might say that The Bay Group has "come a long way, baby." It began in the early 1990s as a small group of 10-15 that met for 1 ½ hours, had three speakers, and, in those early days, required a collared shirt and tie, skirt or dress.

The meeting also adopted a three-color traffic light system to caution and, if necessary, close down more verbose speakers. While colorful, this device is long gone, but we are grateful for the Founders and all who have followed in creating and leading a great meeting.

Today, our meeting is one hour with two Speakers and an informal dress code. We try to keep the announcements down to allow each Speaker a full 20 minutes to share his or her experience, strength and hope with us.

To encourage more member participation and connection, when "How It Works" is read, we ask twelve individual attendees to stand and vocalize each of our Twelve Steps.

Our meeting is strongly supported by a solid group of about 50 Members and about 20 Attendees at each Business Meeting.

Tuesday Night at The Bay Group is surely on our Gratitude List!

Correction

In the November issue, we mistakenly listed the meeting space for our Group of the Month, Monday Nite Men's, as Harvest Tabernacle in the headline. Monday Nite Men's, in fact, meets four times each week at the First Brethren Church in Sarasota. Our apologies for the confusion.

*The Group of the Month feature is a fun way to build an even greater sense of AA community in our area. If your group would like to be featured as a **Sara-Mana Group of the Month**, submit 200-300 words and tell us about the group's history, special events, what the group is known for, meeting size, funny stories, how you got your name - really, whatever you'd like to tell us. Send it our way at newsletter@aaqr.org and we'll print it!*

"Every alcoholic will stop drinking, but it's best if it's done while he is still breathing."

Did You Know ...?

Accessibility & AA

-- Jeanne T.

Did you know that Sarasota/Manatee County (District 4) has an Accessibilities Committee? Our primary focus is to assist people who have special needs, providing access to meetings and increasing awareness about what tools are available. Members with special needs include but not limited to: hearing and visual impairments and mobility challenges in accessing a meeting.

Is your group's meeting room wheelchair accessible? If yes, is it posted in the Where and When and in the Meeting Guide app appropriately?

Is your group willing to pay the expense of providing an Interpreter for the hearing impaired?

We here at the Accessibilities Committee can help you answer those questions. And MORE! Currently, **our most pressing need** is volunteers willing to provide transportation to and from a meeting - preferably during the day!

Our next Committee meeting is Thursday, February 13th, at 5:30 at Central Office, and all are welcome to attend. And we can always be reached by email at accessibilities@aaqr.org.

While there are no special AA members, many members have special needs.

AA Guidelines, GSO New York, NY

Greetings from General Service

-- Alan T.

District 4 General Service wants to wish all of our fellow members a terrific 2020. General Service exists, in part, to help you and your group in carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. The key to connecting your group to what is happening in the District is to elect a GSR from your group and to have the GSR attend a few meetings and report back to you key information.

If you don't have a GSR but want to be informed, provide us with an email contact for a key contact in your group. You can send the information to our Registrar at geregistrar@aaqr.org.

On the 3rd Saturday of each month, we host a one-hour workshop on one of our traditions. February will be Tradition 2. They start at 9am and help us all to understand the importance of the traditions in our group and personal lives. Please join us.

At these meetings, you can also meet members from Committees such as Public Information, Hospitals and Institutions, Archives, Accessibility, Grapevine, Events and Web Site and learn what they are doing and how you can participate. To keep our energy up on Saturday mornings, we also serve donuts and coffee. Please join us. All are welcome.

Central Office is located at 1748 Independence Blvd., Suite B-2 Sarasota, FL 34234.

Friends of the Pelican Is Celebrating 40 Years!

And Everyone's Invited

Friends of the Pelican group invite all to dive into a Pot Luck Dinner celebrating our 40th Anniversary. The event will be held on **Thurs., February 27th** at Roser Memorial Community Church on Anna Maria Island. The address is 512 Pine Ave.

Please bring an appetizer, covered dish, salad or dessert to share. This is an Open Meeting, and everyone is invited.

Fellowship at 5:30pm | Dinner at 6:00pm | Speaker at 7:30pm

We hope to see you there!

New Meeting Announcement

We are starting a second secular meeting of "As We See It." The new meeting started on January 12 and will be held each week on Sundays at 5:00 PM at the Sarasota Center of Light on the corner of Browning and Tuttle. If you can't make this one, join us at our other meeting on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM at the same location. For more information, see our piece in the September 2019 issue of the newsletter.

INTERGROUP REPORT

Each month, the Intergroup Board publishes this attendance and contribution report, as well as year-to-date contribution totals for each group. All forms of support are greatly appreciated! Any groups interested in being represented, please send a home group member to our meeting on the third Tuesday of every month at 7p.m. at Central Office. If you have questions or correction requests, please email them to IG Chair Jim C. at sarasotajim.flg@gmail.com

Group Name	Nov/Dec \$	YTD \$	Group Name	Nov/Dec \$	YTD \$	Group Name	Nov/Dec \$	YTD \$	Group Name	Nov/Dec \$	YTD \$
11th Step		50	Growing Together	82	163	No Rainy Days		51	Sun Beginner's		65
63rd Ave			G Hisp Companeros	12	163	N River Mon Night			Sunrise		1273
A Lit Meeting			G Hisp Fortaleza	9	9	Oak Street Step		275	Sure Bet		100
AMI Womens			Gulf Gate Noon	310	1947	Open Door		105	Surfside Serenity	69	484
As Bill Sees It		330	Happy Cookie Hour		300	Palmetto	40	220	The Islander		160
As The First 100		50	Holmes B Men's BB		59	PMS		100	The Oasis	24	118
Attitude Adjust	60	144	Humble Beginnings		225	Primary Porpoise		100	Third Legacy		
Bay		480	Keep It Simple		351	Primary Purpose		180	Traditions		45
Bee Ridge East		60	Kensington Park		425	Promises		180	Turning Point		216
Beneva Discussion		250	Lighthouse		150	Rose		30	Twilight Hour		200
Bradenton DT	30	60	Lost & Found		83	Sarasota Men's			Under the Rainbow		435
Bradenton YPG			LWR Mid-day		255	Sarasota YPG			WAGS		60
Brown Bag			LWR Happy Hour		329	Sat Night Speakers		550	Wed Beginner Men's		150
Donut Hour	255	483	Main Street Men's	26	136	Serenity Room	180	180	Wed Morn Women's		163
Early Big Book		253	Make Today Count		415	Serenity Seekers		122	West Bradenton		426
11th Step Meeting		95	M & W of Serenity	30	60	Siesta Key Men's	300	2400	Women in Solution		650
Enjoying Journey		180	Mid Morning		150	Singleness Purpose		101	Women's AA Lit		23
Fresh Start		207	Mon Night Men's	93	720	Sober Living		200	Women's Grp LWR	43	105
Fri Night in Wind	142	272	MWTh Harvest UM		185	St Armands Noon		780	Holmes Beach BB		264
Friends	180	480	New Day		450	Suncoast Bid			Sobriety Group		
Friends of Pelican		75	LBK Tuesday	69	108	Together We Can		100	Steps in the Sand		30
			G Hisp de Mayo	9	21	Siesta Key Women		86	Women of Hope		50

Celebrating Tony!



When: Sunday, February 2, 2020 2-4 PM
Groundhog Day, of course!!

Where: Central Office of Sara-Mana
1748 Independence Blvd B-2
Sarasota, FL 34232

Come join us to share stories, memories, moments and to celebrate the life of this wonderful man who touched so many lives.

Coffee and refreshments served.

ANNIVERSARIES

Please email birthdays to newsletter@AAsrq.org, put **ANNIVERSARIES** in the subject line, and submit them typed in the body of an email or a Word file. Anniversaries appear the month after they occur (ie., January anniversaries will appear in the February edition). Deadline for submission of anniversaries is the 7th of each month.

Bay Group

November

Janet B. 3 years
Paul W. 37 years
Ron W. 24 years

December

Dona P. 9 years
Karen L. 9 years
Kerry S. 38 years
Rip C. 25 years

Bee Ridge East

November

Greta T. 32 years
Mary M. 32 years
Walt M. 31 years

December

Ursula K. 32 years

Down Home

November

Gordon G. 27 years
Jamie 10 years
Jesse S. 4 years
Michael B. 15 years
Robert K. 6 years

December

Louise 12 years
Mikel 5 years

Early Big Book

August

Dwight B. 45 years
Joyce C. 28 years
Julie M. 15 years
Kristen B. 6 years
Stacy A. 6 years

September

Erin M. 10 years
Jim M. 3 years
John M. 32 years
Jude B. 10 years
JoAnn H. 1 year

October

Dan R 31 years
Debbie C. 10 years
Jacqueline 11 years
Jean S. 34 years

John W. 13 years
Marianne C. 31 years
Terry A. 3 years

November

Carl P. 14 years
Eddie A. 2 years
Gus G. 28 years
Holly S. 8 years
Jennifer P. 1 year
Judy L. 35 years
Patty D. 48 years

December

Dan P. 7 years
Casi W. 1 year
Gretchen 28 years
John B. 1 year
Kunnell W. 24 years
Nancy L. 41 years
Richard J. 35 years

Friends of the Pelican

November/December

Ben B. 5 years
Dick C. 37 years
Kathy B. 24 years
Nancy W. 21 years
Skip P. 19 years
Tim B. 5 years
Walter P. 25 years

Happy Cookie Hour

November

Jimmy J. 35 years
Joel S. 29 years

December

Craig M. 1 year
Eric A. 26 years
Maribeth D. 16 years
Toby M. 17 years

Monday Nite Men's

November

Chuck D. 2 years
Mike C. 2 years
Terry F. 1 year

December

Mike T. 23 years
Tom S. 3 years

Palmetto

November

Chuck N. 32 years
Jim M. 40 years
Joany L. 3 years
Marty 11 years
Mitch 3 years
Robert J. 5 years

December

Dave L. 3 years
Denny B. 36 years
Greg M. 8 years
Jimmy K. 3 years
Ken M. 41 years

St. Armand's Noon

October

Clark W. 12 years
David C. 28 years
Dick C. 36 years
Julie 10 years
Kathy D. 8 years
Ken J. 29 years
Lucia B. 38 years
Martha C. 13 years
Michael M. 14 years
Mike Y. 3 years
Pat G. 14 years
Sharon E. 16 years

November

Dick C. 37 years
Jerry W. 32 years
Kathy B. 31 years
Mary Jane L. 44 years
Nani M. 8 years

December

Bob M. 11 years
Joop V. 29 years
Lisa M. 12 years
Pat P. 13 years
Sue M. 38 years
Yolande W. 17 years

Serenity Room

November

Marcie W. 5 years

December

Barb S. 1 year
Dane S. 12 years
Eddie 29 years
Johnny A. 1 year
Lisa 1 year
Michelle H. 11 years
Richard D. 26 years
Tim B. 33 years
Tracy P. 9 years

Singleness of Purpose

November

Charlie N. 12 years
Steve S. 11 years

December

Linda J. 31 years
Sai M. 9 years
Tom W. 8 years

Sober Living

October

Bill F. 17 years
Kathy J. 33 years

November

Vick 10 years

December

KC C. 24 years

Women in the Solution

December

Debra 14 years
Maribeth 16 years
Patti B. 14 years
Patty 17 years
Sue 1 year

The District 4 General Service 2020 Budget Is Now Available

and included in the
online version of the
newsletter. Find it at
aasrq.org.

TO SUBMIT ITEMS TO THE NEWSLETTER: Anniversaries, articles and meeting notices should be sent to newsletter@aasrq.org. Submit material as attachments or placed directly into an email. Include your first name, group and type of item being sent. Deadline is the 7th day of the month. Submissions may be edited for length or content. The opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and not necessarily those of A.A., Sara-Mana Intergroup or the Central Office.

District 4 General Service 2020 Budget

DISTRICT 4 GENERAL SERVICE		2020 BUDGET
Income		
	District Mtng Basket & Donuts	550.00
	Founders Day Dinner - INCOME	5,760.00
	Group Cont & Individual	26,000.00
	I.G. Contribution	400.00
	New Years Eve Event-Ticket	620.00
	Quarterly HOSTING Income	500.00
Total Income		33,830.00
Expense		
	Accessibilities	90.00
	Archives	1,170.00
	Area Contributions	1,600.00
	Banking Fees	45.00
	Carry The Message Event	450.00
	C.O. (Rent/Supplies)	9,500.00
	Delegate's Report	225.00
	Founders Day - EXPENSE	5,760.00
	Grapevine	45.00
	H&I	1,200.00
	Literature	225.00
	New Year Event	450.00
	Officers	450.00
	PI/CPC	3,400.00
	Quarterly Expense	8,100.00
	Quarterly HOSTING Exp	500.00
	Regional Forum	900.00
	Translator Cost	1,800.00
	Website Exp	270.00
Total Expense		36,180.00
NOTE:		
\$2,350 Deficit is offset by 2019 surplus over Prudent Reserve		