



SARA-MANA INTERGROUP NEWSLETTER

August 2019

Central Office 941.351.4818

AA HELPLINE 941.951.6810

aasrq.org

ADVENTURES OF A PI/CPC TEAM

-- by Carol K.

Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community



My fellow PI/CPC team member and I gave an AA presentation to a nursing class at a local college. When we were finished, the nursing instructor very kindly offered the names of other faculty who taught classes in which there might be an opportunity for a presentation.

She steered us in the right direction toward the offices of the staff, and we went on our way. We had several successful meetings which turned into future presentations and had one more staff member to locate. We found his office and went looking for someone with whom to speak.

We happened on a secretary and told her we were looking for the director of that program, Mr. Doe. She told us he was at lunch but probably still in the building. As she started down the long hallway, Mr. Doe came around the corner into the hall and she said, "Oh, John, these people are looking for you." He came toward us; we stuck out our hands and introduced ourselves.

"Hi, Mr. Doe," we said, "We'd like to speak with you for a few minutes if you have the time." He said he did, and we started toward his office as we were introducing ourselves, adding, "We're from Alcoholics Anonymous," and before we could say why we wanted to speak with him, the secretary burst into laughter saying, "Oh, John, I told you they'd come for you one day." Fortunately, for the future of our AA presentations, we all had a really good belly laugh.

If you'd like to have your own adventure with the PI/CPC team, come join us at our meeting at 5:30 PM on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Central Office. Use the back door. We'll leave the lights on for you.

The PI/CPC General Service committee covers a vast area of concerns in our community including schools, professionals, physicians, lawyers, judges, courts, police departments, clergy, press and other media. If you enjoy talking about AA and what the program has to offer, you can find out more at aasrq.org.

THE PREVAILING AA SPIRIT

-- by Bob S.



A well-known AA speaker, from the 1970s, replied to his wife who queried about his very first AA meeting: "Well," he said, "They smoked a lot of cigarettes and they drank a lot of coffee; **and I am going back!**" Of course, it wasn't the cigarette smoking or coffee drinking, or even the different personalities that prompted his decision—it was that invisible AA spirit that we all know so

well! I recall when I was only a few months sober and working at an antique store located only a few blocks from a recovery clubhouse at 26th and Broadway, in Santa Monica, California. The most exciting thing at that club was a checkerboard. Yet when the newcomer heebie-jeebies began their chaos and imagined torture, I would forgo lunch, and make a b-line for that club—nervously shaking with my head spinning like a top! Yet, upon entry, a mysterious calmness would take over. Soon a much-needed AA style conversation would erupt. Following that brief experience, I would return to work—without eating a bite, mind you, refreshed and in a pleasant frame of mind.

I have seldom missed meetings, but there was a time during my LA taxi driving career where I had to pay for the cab 24/7 because my associate driver had a part in a movie for thirteen days. So, working both shifts allowed no time for meetings. But to be sure, I stopped by one or another clubhouse for a few minutes to receive my share of the joyous AA spirit.

I believe that spirit is what brings newcomers back to meetings on a regular basis. That is why I find it important to always greet the new person and make them feel welcome until they begin to feel this lifesaving spirit deep in their bones. In Los Angeles, many of the 90-minute meetings have a short break at halftime. I believe the surreptitious reason for the break is to get to know the new person and perhaps invite them out to a coffee shop after the meeting. The AA spirit flows through that conversation as well! Just because I can't see it doesn't mean it isn't there! It works—it really does!

The 63rd Florida State Convention Needs Your Help

The following communication was sent on August 16 to past attendees of the Florida State Convention. It has been edited for space.

There is no easy way to say, so here it goes. We did not meet our budget, and our attendance at the 63rd Florida State Convention was meager compared to years past. As to the exact reason, we can only speculate; some say it was the location, others say it was the weather. We have no way to know for sure. I do know the committee worked extremely hard to deliver a message of Recovery, Service, and Unity throughout the convention despite the attendance.

The state convention has always operated and supported itself based on registrations and support from the attendees to buy merchandise, book the rooms, and purchase meal tickets. As of Saturday, we had a shortfall of \$36,000 that would not be paid. Our hopes for on-site registrations fell through. Total number of registrations was 1,651, including pre-reg, on-site reg, and scholarships. Our total budget was for 2,500 attendees. Usually, the state convention gets between 2,700-3,000 people in attendance. We felt our number was conservative and everyone agreed.

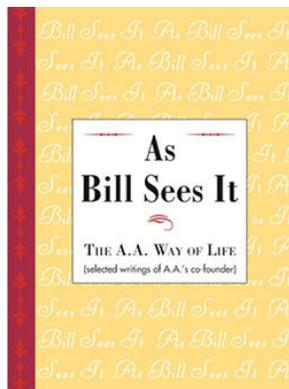
Forty-eight hours before our convention started, over 300 booked rooms canceled. The last-minute cancellations were the first sign that attendance was going to be a key factor.

As we evaluated our cash flow and expenses during the convention, we began to see where we could cut costs. So we went to work to cut services and save anywhere we could. At this point, we knew that we would have to ask the attendees to help. The committee provided a basket outside the doors, and contribute is precisely what they did.

	DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS + GENERAL SERVICE REPS TUESDAY, AUGUST 6TH 6:00 PM CENTRAL OFFICE EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!
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Central Office **\$9** Book of the Month

Originally published in 1967 as The A.A. Way of Life, this book contains material that reflects co founder Bill W.'s personal viewpoint and experience.



By Sunday morning, after the baskets were counted, we needed \$25,000. An announcement was delivered. More merchandise was purchased, and the baskets were outside the meeting once again Sunday morning.

Now the dust has settled and a full accounting has taken place. We are currently looking better but we still need your help to pay the bills. While the convention was a huge success, the attendance has left us short on fulfilling our financial commitment.

If you can contribute anything at all, we would be extremely grateful for anything that you can spare. Every dollar that we can generate is 1 dollar less that we need to request from the reserve. It is important not to empty the reserve as other conventions need to know that it is there for them as well. Please visit:

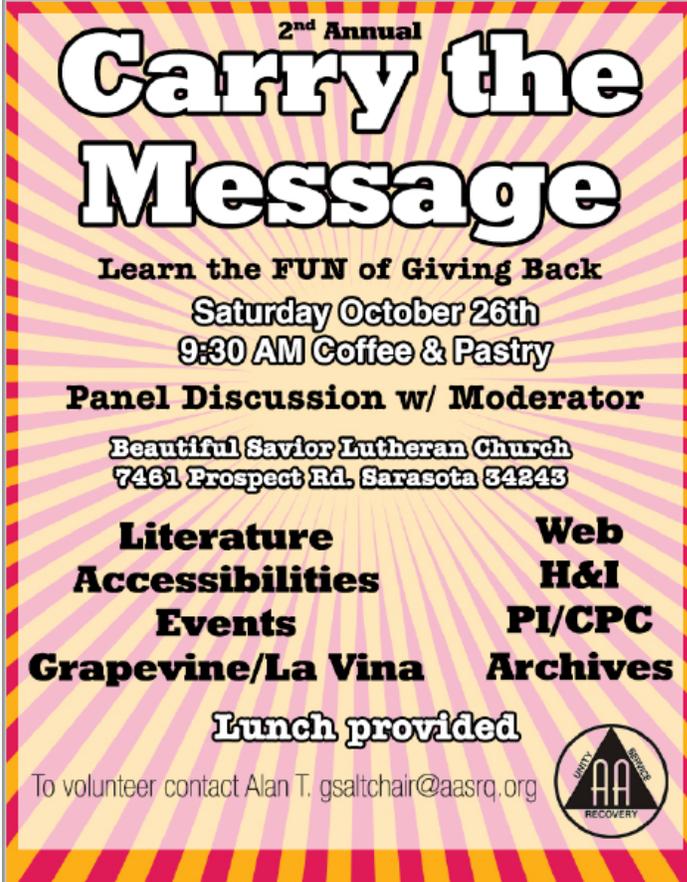
<https://63.floridastateconvention.com/products/off-site-contributions>

Despite the financial outcome, I am truly blessed and honored to serve the State of Florida while hosting the 63rd Florida State Convention for members of Alcoholics Anonymous.

God Bless,

Aron T.

Chair for the 63rd Florida State Convention



2nd Annual
Carry the Message
Learn the FUN of Giving Back
Saturday October 26th
9:30 AM Coffee & Pastry
Panel Discussion w/ Moderator
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
7461 Prospect Rd. Sarasota 34243
Literature
Accessibilities
Events
Grapevine/La Vina
Web
H&I
PI/CPC
Archives
Lunch provided
To volunteer contact Alan T. gsaltchair@aasrq.org



Volunteers Needed

Looking for an opportunity to provide service?

The **Men's Recovery Pod at the Manatee County Jail** is in need of volunteers to "bring the message."

Volunteers are needed immediately as "snowbirds" migrate north and other volunteers step down. Applicants should have worked the steps with a sponsor, have a minimum of one year sobriety and have no "paper" for 5 years (for those who don't know what "paper" is, don't worry about it!).

For more information please call Jim J. @630.638.3844

"The unity of the Fellowship of the spirit can be ours so long as we are willing to pass it on."



We ran this notice two months ago in the June newsletter. In mid-August, a gentleman shared at a meeting that he had followed up to volunteer his time. He was surprised to find out that his was the only call received in response to this notice. I know I often read appeals and think, "Oh, they don't really need me. I'm sure they have all the people they need by now." From this, I've learned that's not always (or, perhaps, most of the time) the case.

So, the need is real. If you've never done the corrections thing (as an AA volunteer) or it has been a while, please consider it. I know the current volunteers would welcome the help.

- Ed.

As of September 1
Central Office
Will No Longer Accept
Group Donations via
Credit or Debit Card
Please Submit Donations
Via Cash or Check

Best of

Dear Alkie,

"Alkie" is a long-time member of A.A. His comments are based on his own strength, hope, and experience and are not reflections of any official A.A. position or practice.

Q. Dear Alkie: Why did you drink?

Alkie: I had the delusion that alcohol could do something for me that God couldn't.

Q. Dear Alkie: What can you tell me about Step 2?

Alkie: Step 2 is when we intuitively know that everything is going to be all right.

Q. Dear Alkie: I've heard you talk about the "grace of God". What do you mean?

Alkie: The grace of God is showered on everyone. Those of us who choose to accept it have stopped hiding under our umbrellas!

Q. Dear Alkie: When I drink, I've been told that I act insane. Can you help me with my insanity?

Alkie: My insanity and ego were curiously linked. To give up the former I had to give up the latter.

Q. Dear Alkie: I can't stop drinking! Why do I have to ask for help? Why doesn't God just stop me?

Alkie: God is a gentleman who never goes where He's not invited!

Q. Dear Alkie: Can you tell if you're really working a solid program and have faith?

Alkie: Sure. On good days things go my way and I stay sober; on great days things don't go my way and I stay sober.

Q. Dear Alkie: Things are just not going the way I want. Why should I trust God?

Alkie: If things always went my way, I wouldn't have to trust God!

Q. Dear Alkie: I'm not sure what to do. Any advice?

Alkie: In the dance of life, I try to remember to let God lead.

From My Journal

-- by Nancy B.



I recall that in my drinking days, fueled by alcohol, I ran on self-righteous anger. I had strong opinions on just about everything,

including issues I knew nothing or very little about. It was exhausting. I laughed a lot, but laughter depended upon alcohol.

In sobriety I've learned to take care of my side of the street. It's a full-time job but with infinite satisfactions, not the least of which is no longer feeling the burden of self-righteous responsibility for issues that are not my business and that I couldn't change anyway. Without viewing the world through beer goggles, I've gained an appreciation of how little I know. I've also developed a thirst for history, which has reassured me that, overall, worldwide, people are having better lives and that history repeats itself because humans are humans -- and certainly not perfect.

Personally, I've learned to accept my flaws as they keep revealing themselves, to laugh at myself, admit I'm wrong and commit to being a better person, daily. I've learned to recognize and accept love, which makes life very sweet and joyful. I've learned to give love without strings (a biggie) and to help another person, again, without strings. And I've learned that it is perfectly safe to give up control and to be part of a team or relationship to accomplish something; that it never, ever, is as I first envision it; and that events and life are always as they should or need to be. I see the hand of my HP in everything, and I now trust that. I am happy, not part of the old glum, frightened lot anymore. And just about every time I'm with another AA, or more than one, we laugh a lot.

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., August anniversaries will appear in the September edition). Deadline for submission of anniversaries is the 7th of each month. The following anniversaries are for July, unless otherwise noted.

Bay Group

Elizabeth S. 23 years
Hazel O. 38 years

Early Big Book

Harry R. 28 years
Sam S. 4 years

Happy Cookie Hour

John W. 29 years
Rob Mc. 17 years

Monday Night Men's

Greg F. 7 years
Jerry G. 40 years

St Armands Noon

May
Doreen B. 35 years
Lisa G. 35 years
Tom S. 28 years

June

Carol K. 49 years
Linda R. 38 years
Melvin 38 years
Gayl 35 years
Barry B. 26 years
Linda McK. 8 years

July

Dave S. 16 years
Luann L. 40 years
Mitchell G. 11 years

Singleness of Purpose

Althea H. 26 years
Doug W. 7 years
Lynn M. 7 years
Sam H. 15 years

Sober Living

June
Arnie J. 1 year
Jim Mac 30 years
Matt S. 13 years
Neil A 36 years

Women in the Solution

Dawn D. 29 years
Lorri C. 20 years
Shere 20 years
Shirley P. 25 years

*Central Office
Thanks*

The Following Groups for Their Contributions

Brown Bag
Eleventh Step (Holmes)
Grupo Hispano Companeros
Gulf Gate Noon | IF Group
Islander | LBK Tuesday
Lost & Found
Monday Night Men's
New Day
North River Monday Night
Primary Porpoise
Primary Purpose
Siesta Key Men's
Singleness of Purpose
SIS | Sober Living
St Armand's Noon | Sunrise

INTERGROUP REPORT

Each month, the Intergroup Board publishes a monthly attendance (except this month - data issues) 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	July \$	YTD \$	Group Name	July \$	YTD \$	Group Name	July \$	YTD \$	Group Name	July \$	YTD \$
11th Step	25	50	Friends of Pelican		75	No Rainy Days		51	Sun Beginner's		65
63rd Ave			Growing Together		81	N River Mon Night			Sunrise		1273
A Lit Meeting			G Hisp Companeros	20	127	Oak Street Step		165	Sure Bet		100
AMI Womens			Gulf Gate Noon	159	1301	Open Door		105	Surfside Serenity		342
As Bill Sees It		330	Happy Cookie Hour		300	Palmetto		180	The Islander		138
As The First 100			Holmes B Men's BB		59	PMS		50	The Oasis	24	62
Attitude Adjust		84	Humble Beginnings		135	Primary Porpoise		100	Third Legacy		
Bay		330	Keep It Simple		161	Primary Purpose	40	160	Traditions	15	45
Bee Ridge East			Kensington Park		230	Promises		180	Turning Point		100
Beneva Discussion		125	Lighthouse		150	Rose		30	Twilight Hour		200
Bradenton DT		30	Lost & Found	33	33	Sarasota Men's			Under the Rainbow		285
Bradenton YPG			LWR 12 & 12 East		150	Sarasota YPG			WAGS		60
Brown Bag			LWR Happy Hour		166	Sat Night Speakers		550	Wed Beginner Men's		150
Donut Hour		225	Main Street Men's		60	Serenity Room			Wed Morn Women's		163
Early Big Book		176	Make Today Count		175	Serenity Seekers		92	West Bradenton		350
11th Step Meeting	55	95	M & W of Serenity		30	Siesta Key Men's		1200	Women in Solution		650
Enjoying Journey		90	Mid Morning		120	Singleness Purpose			Women's AA Lit		13
Fresh Start		207	Mon Night Men's		363	Sober Living		200	Women's Grp LWR		62
Fri Night in Wind		85	MWTh Harvest UM		185	St Armands Noon	180	630	Holmes Beach BB		264
Friends		300	New Day		450	Suncoast Bid			Sobriety Group		
			LBK Tuesday		39				Steps in the Sand		30

The opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and not necessarily those of A.A., Sara-Mana Intergroup or the Central Office.