



SARA-MANA INTERGROUP NEWSLETTER

March 2019

Central Office 941.351.4818

AA HELPLINE 941.951.6810

aasrq.org

Central Office 2019 Fund Drive

District 4's Central Office serving Sarasota and Manatee Counties is trying to raise **\$32K by April 15**.

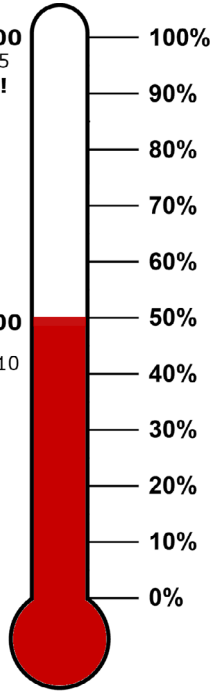
And we're not there yet!



Central Office is a true resource for our AA community, and it needs your help. Central Office provides a place for a dozen AA Services and Committees to meet; supplies literature and materials to individuals and groups; answers questions about AA, assists service committees; and provides resources for us to accomplish 12th step work.

\$32,000
April 15
GOAL!

\$16,000
as of
March 10



Donation envelopes available at meetings from your GSR and Intergroup Rep.

Liability Insurance Will Your Group Need It Too?

-- Dan S.

The church that provides our meeting space has allowed AA to hold meetings there for decades. To our surprise, we recently received an email from the church accountant, stating, "Greetings, hope all is going well – would you please provide us a copy of your certificate of liability? Our insurance carrier is requiring that all groups using our campus for regular meetings provide a minimum of \$1M coverage." The church had never had this requirement until now.

So what would you do if your group received an email like this? Has your group considered how it might respond? Have you asked how your facility handles liability claims? Are there sufficient reserves in place to cover the cost of

Volunteer Luncheon at the Sarasota Co. Jail

At its annual Volunteer Luncheon, the Sarasota Jail honored our AA volunteers who provided thousands of hours of service hosting AA meetings at the jail last year.

The Sarasota County Jail, one of the most progressive and innovative correctional facilities in the state, estimates that about 90% of the jail's inmates have drug and alcohol addictions. Several programs offer inmates an opportunity to get help during their incarceration.

The CARE Pod focuses on mental health and substance abuse issues and offers inmates counseling services, anger management techniques, mental health diagnosis, and medication therapy for opiate addiction.

The Men's & Women's Recovery Pods offer inmates a comprehensive treatment program for alcoholism and drug addiction. (Our volunteers host 20+ AA meetings each week.)

The Men's Re-Entry Pod offers the inmates discharge planning with facility caseworkers and outside community volunteers. (A Women's Re-Entry Pod will open later this year.) The Pod provides services and education in the following areas:

- AA and NA meetings
- Parenting and family relationships therapy
- Financial literacy training
- Identification cards for inmates

AA Hospitals & Institutions (H&I) Services

If you'd like to find out about volunteer opportunities at local treatment and correctional facilities, please come to our monthly H&I Meeting at Central Office at 7:00 PM on the 2nd Wednesday night of each month. (Please use the back door; it has "Central Office" written on it.) All are welcome!

Lisa G.
AA Coordinator for the Women's Recovery Pod

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Liability Insurance

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premiums? Which of your members would sign an agreement with an insurance carrier? And what exactly is a liability certificate? These are all good questions!

Apparently the insurance environment is changing. Insurance carriers are moving away from granting liability protection to churches when outside organizations use their facilities. So the chances are that if one church suddenly has to ask for these certificates, others may be asking for them soon.

Because liability certificates are tied to the actual meeting locations and not to the AA organization, neither Central Office nor AA World Services carry this type of insurance in their name to "blanket" the groups or meetings. So your group is on its own when shopping for coverage.

I had asked our church accountant if their own carrier could issue a rider to the church's policy, in the group's name. But the carrier responded with an exorbitant cost to obtain the rider. Since other carriers may be more accommodating, this may be a viable option to consider.

Our group learned that shopping for coverage is essential. Our group received quotes from four carriers, and the pricing differed substantially. This type of insurance is called Commercial General Liability Coverage. The pricing is determined by the type of facility you meet in, number of attendees and the meeting frequency.

Any facility is protected financially by requiring these certificates. But it should be noted that the AA group is also protected. Should someone get hurt during a meeting, the certificate would protect the attendees from being personally sued for damages.

The carrier my group chose charged us \$400 for one year's coverage. The premiums are payable in quarterly installments without an interest charge. I used my personal credit card to obtain the coverage and then received reimbursement from the group. Our carrier is Bradenton Insurance, located at 1400 Ballard Park Drive (www.bradentoninsurance.com).

Tough Day? Find a Meeting



Online at www.aasrq.org

STEPPING UP TO SERVE



Helpline Volunteers Needed

The Sara-Mana helpline needs volunteers to fill one or more of the 42 slots for answering the phones.

Shifts are midnight to 9 am, 9 am to noon, noon to 3 pm, 3 pm to 6 pm, 6pm to 9pm, and 9 pm to midnight. If you or your home group would like to be of service and take on one of these positions that would be a great help. Only 19 of the 42 slots are filled so many service opportunities are available.

To help call Chris Carman at 941-780-3808 or Central Office at 941-351-4818 and leave your name, contact number and email address.

In love and service,

Chris Carman
Sara Mana Intergroup Helpline Chair

From My Journal

by Nancy B.



Willingness, honesty and open-mindedness seem to be what spirituality is all about, as it says in the Big Book, and practicing these have given me sobriety, serenity and a profound contentment.

When I first came into AA, I didn't like all the talk and references to God, Him and Father or the prayers with lots of Thys and Thees, but I kept an open mind, reminding myself that spirituality is not religion, that AA maintains a very wide and open door, and that I would find my way to relating to my HP in time.

Steps 2 and 3 took a lot of willingness and open-mindedness and honesty about my discomfort and my lack of understanding. I trusted AA and my sponsor, so I did the best I could with those steps as well as with Steps 6 and 7 and 11. It seems that my relationship with my HP has gotten deeper as I experience success with all these Steps.

My comfort level has increased with our AA literature's use of all the words and names that I previously associated only with religions. It just works, and I think that must be my spirituality. I try to keep it simple.

It Works if You Work It

Intergroup thanks the following groups that sent representatives to the FEBRUARY meeting.

AMI Women's | As the First 100
Beneva Discussion | Donut Hour
Early Big Book | Friends
Friends of the Pelican | Harvest
Kensington Park | Mon Night Mens
North River Mon Night
Palmetto | Rose | Sarasota Mens
Sarasota YPG | Sat Night Speakers
Serenity Room | Singleness of Purpose
63rd Avenue | Traditions
Wed Beginners Men's
Women in the Solution
Under the Rainbow

Make Sure Your Group's Voice is Heard!

Special Meeting on March 30: Agenda Items for 2019 Service Conference

On March 30, District 4 General Service will meet to review and discuss key issues being raised and voted on at the New York City General Service Conference in May. By sharing your views with your GSR, you are ensuring that your group's voice is heard on such important items as

Should we publish a 5th Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, with stories focusing on people who got sober early in their lives?

Should AA have a LinkedIn Page, and if so, what should it say?

Should the pamphlet "Twelve Traditions Illustrated" be revised?

Should the pamphlet "The AA Group" be revised?

Should the forward to the book *The Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions* be revised?

All of these proposed changes affect each of us. And they will affect those who join us in the future. Let your voice be heard. Share your views with your GSR, send him or her to the meeting at 10 am on March 30 at Central Office and ask them to report back on the 2019 General Service Conference Agenda Items.

Don't have a GSR? Elect one and send them to the March 30 meeting. If this is not possible, contact Alan T at gsaltchair@aasrq.org to discuss how your group's voice can be heard.

Another Successful Concept Workshop

Who: General Service, District 4
What: 12 Concepts Workshop
Where: Central Office
When: 3rd Sat., Every Month 9:00 AM

Concept II: The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.

On February 16, Jeff S. led a fantastic Workshop and discussed how Concept II clarifies the delegation of authority and responsibility from each group to its GSR and ultimately to the General Service Conference. Join us next month for Concepts III and IV.

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: You say you believe that God will keep you safe from alcohol, so why do you still go to meetings?

Alkie: **Belief or faith in God doesn't do me any good unless I remember I have it, which is why I come to meetings.**

Q. Dear Alkie: I know I need to go to AA, but I'm a mess and afraid of how I'll be treated.

Alkie: **AA is where we are treated like ladies and gentlemen before we become ladies and gentlemen.**

Q. Dear Alkie: It's hard to believe we were ever really alcoholic. You seem so . . . normal.

Alkie: **AA allowed me to pass for normal until I became normal.**

Q. Dear Alkie: Alcohol has caused me to lose everything! Can AA help?

Alkie: **If alcohol is the solvent that removed everything from your life, AA is the glue that puts your life back together again.**

Q. Dear Alkie: Do you really hang out with other people in AA?

Alkie: **Of course. United we stand; divided we stagger.**

Q. Dear Alkie: I need a second chance at life. Can AA help?

Alkie: **AA doesn't give you a second chance at life; it gives you a second life, one that you can't even imagine.**

Q. Dear Alkie: Do you AA's really tell each other what you did while you were drinking?

Alkie: **I'd rather be in AA meetings telling you I'm crazy, than be out there trying to convince others that I'm not!**

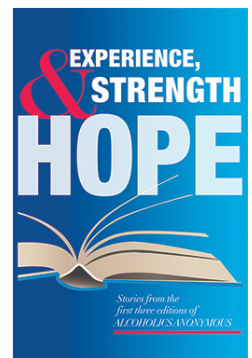
Central Office

Book of the Month

Experience, Strength & Hope

\$5.50

Fifty-six retired stories from the first three editions of the Big Book come back in print in this anthology.



Still Assistance Needed

Central Office needs someone familiar with Word Press to help with the new Meeting Guide App. Please contact chris@aasrq.org

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., March anniversaries will appear in the February edition). Deadline for submission of anniversaries is the 7th of each month. Unless otherwise noted, the following anniversaries are for February.

Bay Group

Krysal S. 3 years

Monday Night Men's

Jimmy G. 28 years

Down Home Group

Michael P. 5 years

Duane P. 3 years

Scott A. 2 years

Palmetto Group

Berk A. 5 years

Bobby M. 34 years

Dick C. 37 years

Donna L. 20 years

Joyce F. 39 years

Early Big Book

Angela G. 1 year

Diana E. 33 years

John T. 56 years

Marcus E. 5 years

Pamela B. 1 year

Sue Anne C. 19 years

The Serenity Room

Bari R. 40 years

Greg K. 32 years

Henry D. 33 years

Steve K. 1 year

Gulf Gate

Ann Marie 3 years

Bob K. 43 years

Jack 45 years

John H. 46 years



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of the
Book* **Back
Next
Month**



General Service Save the Date

Founders Day June 8th

Delegates Report June 15th

Volunteer Sign Up Is Open

63rd Florida State Convention

Trump National Doral Miami

July 31 - August 4, 2019



<https://63.floridastateconvention.com>

Central Office

Thanks

The Following Groups for Their Contributions

Friday Night In the Wind | Free Thinkers | Fresh Start

Friday Night in The Wind | Friends of the Pelican

Grupo Fortaleza | Grupo Hisp Companeros

Happy Cookie Hour Holms Beach BB | If

Islander | Keep it Simple | Kensington Park

Main St Men's | Make Today Count

Monday Night Men's | New Day

North River Monday Night| Oak Street Step | Oasis

Promises| Rose | Saturday Night Speakers

Siesta Key Men's | Serenity Seekers | Midway

Sunday Beginners | Surfside Serenity

Third Legacy Men's | Traditions | West Bradenton

Women's Literature Parrish

And These individuals for Their Contributions to the Fund Drive Since the Last Newsletter

Alan T | Allison B | Althea H | Anon (8) | Anthony T

Barbara M | Bob B | Brenda H | Brenda S | Burton S

Carol M | Charles W | Christine M | Chuck D

Cynthia C DH | Danial D | David C | Davis

Deborah D | Dennis F |Dodie Z |Emmet Y | Faivus I

Francine P | Francis G | Gerald C | Gerald O | James B

James M | James Z | Janet B | JD | Jennifer T

Jodie S | Joe C | John B | John F | John L | John Y

Joseph F | Josie M | Judith B | Karen C | Kelly M

Kerry S | Louis S | Luann L | Mallory B | Mary B

Maureen G | Mel W | Michael P | Millard Y | Mitchell P

Norman S | Patrice C | Paul F | Paul G | Richard G

Richard H | Rick M | McKerstin N | Steven R | Suanne R

Patrice P | Thaddeus H | Thomas O | Thomas T

Tom H | Word M

6th Annual Sponsorship Workshop

Presented by the Sure Bet Group of AA

Saturday March 23, 2019 10AM-3PM

Picnic Bench Seating or Bring a Chair

Gamble Mansion State Park Pavillion, Hwy 301 Ellenton

For Info Call Kathy (941-228-9576) or Janice (813-299-0101)

**\$4 on Arrival
Lunch Included**

**Email
SureBetGroup@
gmail.com**

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.