



SARA-MANA INTERGROUP NEWSLETTER

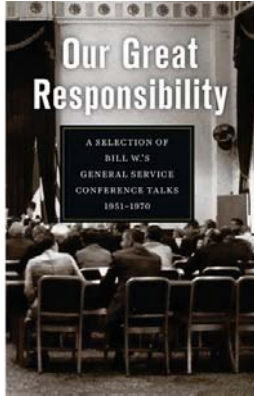
May 2019

Central Office 941.351.4818

AA HELPLINE 941.951.6810

aa.org

Hot off the Press!



First New Conference-Approved Book in More than 30 Years

On May 6, AA World Service announced publication of a new General Service Conference-approved book, *Our Great Responsibility A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970*. Gathering together for

the first time in print form sixteen addresses given by AA's co-founder, this rich reading experience culminates years of research and transcription of audio recordings.

Complementing the text are more than sixty archival photographs and other images from the General Service Office Archives—some never before published. Collected here, too, are Conference talks by Lois W., Bernard Smith and Dr. John Norris, nonalcoholic friends of AA who were instrumental in the history and development of the Fellowship.

Thanks to Michael D., District 4's Literature Chair, and Chris at Central Office for bringing this new book to our attention.

You can soon pick up a copy of *Our Great Responsibility* at Central Office or visiting aa.org online. The price is \$10.

Regarding Humility

-- Ross J.

I usually attend six AA meetings a week. One thing that I love about this is that I get to test my own ideas and perceptions against those of my peers. This is a wonderful learning tool for me because I get to see what other people think about various AA subjects. Sometimes I find that other people have a radically different viewpoint than my own and I embrace that. Sometimes I may change my thoughts to mirror those of someone else who has made a sound argument for that change. Sometimes I don't switch to another person's viewpoint but the points that they made cause me to alter my own viewpoint.

In a recent meeting the topic was "humility" and several people, including me, shared about some difficulty they were having and how they were dealing with it. In my case, I was having trouble with a local business and I shared about that and about the steps that I had and would be taking to remedy the problem.

About half way through the meeting a man who was visiting our group said that every time he sees the topic of "humility" in a meeting he sees that the people that are sharing are more likely demonstrating their lack of humility instead of their humility. Mind blown! I got to look at this topic from a whole new perspective and I did quite a bit of thinking about it.

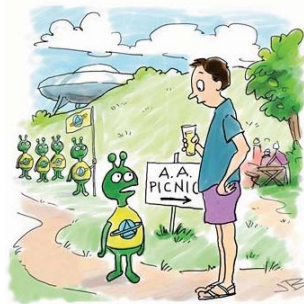
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Grapevine Brings the Laughs

Also coming soon to Central Office is the new book from *Grapevine*, *Take Me To Your Sponsor*.

Sobriety can be tough sometimes, which is why recovering alcoholics can always use a good laugh. In AA, members learn to not take themselves too seriously, to be happy, joyous and free. Luckily, sobriety can be pretty darn amusing.

Two of the most beloved departments of *Grapevine* are the



TAKE ME TO YOUR SPONSOR
Best Jokes & Cartoons from AA Grapevine

"At Wit's End" jokes and the cartoons, all contributed and drawn by AA members. This book contains some of the best laughs of the last few years, dealing with meetings, sponsorship, dating and marriage, friends and coworkers, character defects and more. We hope this book brightens your day and gives you some hearty, well-earned laughs. \$11.50

Humility

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I had already developed the opinion that any person who tells you that they have humility probably has a ways yet to go...They just don't realize it. That didn't change. What did change was my view of the topic "humility" in an AA meeting. Speaking only for myself, I found that I was not testifying to the depth of my humility. I was testifying about my struggle to remain right sized, fair and reasonable (humble) in my dealings with troublesome people and situations. In the example I gave I was definitely not demonstrating my humility. I was struggling to find that nebulous boundary between advocating for myself and protecting my rights against the need to give the other party every opportunity to respond and make amends. My frustration had me wanting to strike back at someone who had harmed me and my struggle was to maintain my own sense of fairness and integrity in the process of addressing a wrong.

The next time that I see this topic come up in a meeting I will know that it is not about how humble we are but instead it is about the struggle to remain humble while navigating the minefields of life in this world. If we were all humble it would be a boring meeting. The wonder is that, despite all of our struggles and shortcomings, most of us continue to strive for a humble posture and that is the miracle of this program of redemption. That is the gift that is AA!

UPCOMING EVENTS

FCYPAA XXXVII

June 7-9

63RD FLORIDA ST CONVENTION

July 30-August 4

SAT NIGHT SPEAKERS POTLUCK

August 17

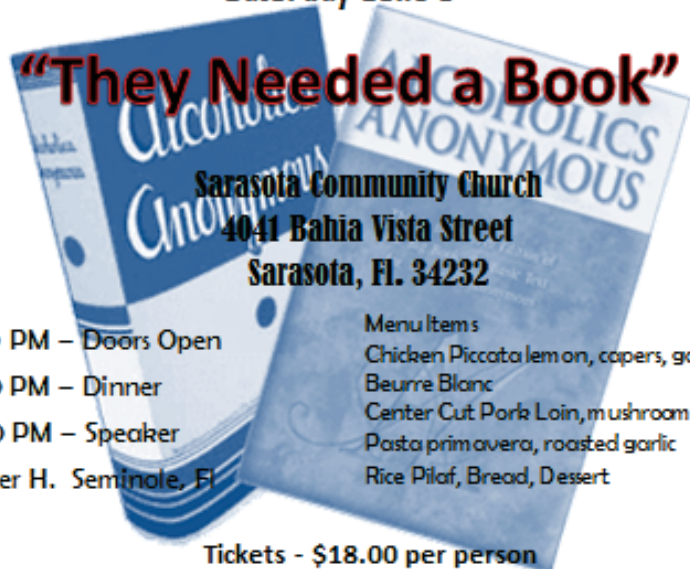
**Tickets Available at
Central Office
before the Event!**

District 4 Sarasota / Manatee

Founders Day 2019

They Needed A Book

Saturday June 8TH



5:30 PM – Doors Open

6:30 PM – Dinner

8:00 PM – Speaker

Roger H. Seminole, FI

Menu Items

Chicken Piccata lemon, capers, garlic

Beurre Blanc

Center Cut Pork Loin, mushroom gravy

Pasta primavera, roasted garlic

Rice Pilaf, Bread, Dessert

Tickets - \$18.00 per person

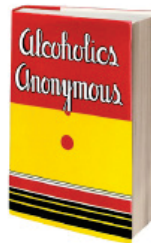
Available at Central Office

1748 Independence Blvd. Sarasota, FL

For more information or to Volunteer

Contact Holly S – events@aaqrq.org

www.aaqrq.org



Back of the Book

Three Vital Words

--Edgar C.

In Gutter Bravado (p. 501, Fourth Edition, Alcoholics Anonymous) the recovering author writes,

"... they're right when they say it keeps getting better... I owe it to the grace of God and to three words of the Twelve Steps: continue, improve, and practice."

CO SUMMER HOURS

Central Office is now operating under summer hours. The offices are open

9am to 4pm M to Thus

Closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday

The **DELEGATE'S REPORT**

& Luncheon

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
7461 Prospect Rd, Sarasota 34243

Fellowship: 11:00 am

Luncheon: 12:00 pm*

Delegate Report: 1:00 pm

Shirley P, Delegate for South Florida Area 15, Panel 69 will report on information from the General Service Conference.

*Potluck: Please bring a dish

All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Set up/Breakdown Volunteers Needed

Mick G. 941.587.0881

Alan T. 917.714.9495

AA Helpline Needs Your Help

We've filled 6 more slots to answer the Sara-Mana Helpline thanks to all of you! That means 34 of the 42 openings are accounted for.

We're getting close! But we need volunteers to answer the phones.

Wouldn't it be great to have a member of *our* AA community on the end of the line, every hour of every day, when someone reaches out for the hand of AA? We're almost there.

Shifts are, roughly, in 3-hour increments. If you or your home group would like to be of service and take on one of the remaining 8 positions, please call the Helpline Chairman Chris C. at 941-780-3808 or Central Office at 941-351-4818 and leave us your name, contact number and email address.

From My Journal



Recently, I found myself reflecting on *willingness* and how key it has been to living the Steps of AA in my life while assembling a chair. And installing my smoke detectors. And installing and programming my streaming device on my TV.

Like sobriety, I want to be able to enjoy the benefits from products at the end of my efforts. But I hate reading directions. Often, I blame the directions when I do something wrong, have to undo it and start over. But with the chair I had willingness.

I gave up my pride and self will and decided to leave myself lots of time, gave myself permission to walk away before it was done, and paid attention to the advice given in online reviews. I still made careless mistakes, like putting the first leg on upside down, but my AA-learned willingness gave me patience and a sense of humor. I wanted the chair, at a certain price, and I was willing to go to any lengths to make it possible. And with my AA blueprint for living, I knew I did not have to be miserable and down on myself during the process. One hour and 45 minutes later, I was happily using my new chair, sitting comfortably at my computer, quite pleased; not prideful, but content. Thank you AA for my willingness.

-- by Nancy B.

Intergroup: It Works if We Work It

Thanks to all the groups for your participation at last month's Intergroup meeting and for contributions throughout the year. Starting this month, the Intergroup Board will publish a monthly attendance and contribution log, as well as year-to-date contribution totals for each group that has attended at least one meeting or contributed financially to Intergroup. Any groups interested in being represented, 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	Apr	Apr \$	YTD \$	Group Name	Apr	Apr \$	YTD \$	Group Name	Apr	Apr \$	YTD \$	Group Name	Apr	Apr \$	YTD \$
11th Step			25	Friends of Pelican	x			No Rainy Days		51	51	Sun Beginner's	x		65
63rd Ave	x			Growing Together			81	N River Mon Night	x			Sunrise		397	1273
A Lit Meeting				G Hisp Companeros			38	Oak Street Step	x		100	Sure Bet			100
AMI Womens				Gulf Gate Noon			746	Open Door			105	Surfside Serenity		111	225
As Bill Sees It			330	Happy Cookie Hour			300	Palmetto			120	The Islander			38
As The First 100	x			Holmes B Men's BB			59	PMS		50	50	The Oasis		10	38
Attitude Adjust			30	Humble Beginnings		78	135	Primary Porpoise	x	50	100	Third Legacy	x		
Bay	x		180	Keep It Simple		161	161	Primary Purpose	x	40	120	Traditions	x		15
Bee Ridge East				Kensington Park	x	105	230	Promises		90	180	Turning Point		55	100
Beneva Discussion			125	Lighthouse				Rose	x			Twilight Hour	x		200
Bradenton DT			30	Lost & Found				Sarasota Men's	x			Under the Rainbow	x	150	285
Bradenton YPG	x			LWR 12 & 12 East		150	150	Sarasota YPG				WAGS		60	60
Brown Bag	x			LWR Happy Hour			166	Sat Night Speakers	x		250	Wed Beginner Men's	x		150
Donut Hour	x		225	Main Street Men's			60	Serenity Room	x			Wed Morn Women's			163
Early Big Book	x			Make Today Count			175	Serenity Seekers	x		62	West Bradenton			175
11th Step Meeting			40	M & W of Serenity		30	30	Siesta Key Men's		300	900	Women in Solution	x		650
Enjoying Journey		90	90	Mid Morning			60	Singleness Purpose	x			Women's AA Lit			13
Fresh Start			207	Mon Night Men's	x	290	363	Sober Living	x		100	Women's Grp LWR			62
Fri Night in Wind		15	70	MWTh Harvest UM	x		185	St Armands Noon			150				
Friends		210	300	New Day		450	450	Suncoast Bid	x						

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

Bay Group

March

Bill W. 45 years
Jean W. 38 years
Vanessa P. 1 year

April

Bunni S. 1 year
David S. 7 years
Don N. 15 years

Bee Ridge East

Tom M. 32 years

Donut Hour

Chris 2 years
Frank 33 years
John A. 41 years

Down Home

Jeff 1 year
Raphael 23 years

Friends of the Pelican

Jeremiah V. 28 years

Gulf Gate Noon

Awe W. 12 years
Damon 6 years
Jeff 2 years
John 1 year
Kathi B. 37 years

Monday Night Men's

Jack R. 26 years

Oasis

Denise S. 16 years
Michael P. 6 years

Palmetto

David M. 11 years
Gene W. 5 years
McKensie S. 4 years

Serenity Room

Frank A. 8 years
Misty P. 13 years
Rick H. 27 years
Simon W. 2 years
Trudie S. 42 years

Singleness of Purpose

Marvin C. 11 years
Melody 7 years
Mike B. 4 years

Sober Living

January

Barbara J. 37 years

February

Coretta F. 20 years
Ginger F. 16 years
Julie W. 19 years

March

Joan B. 7 years
Lew B. 2 years
Michael M. 3 years

April

Greg C. 24 years
Kathy H. 31 years
Maureen C. 2 9 years

Central Office

Thanks

The Following Groups & Individuals for Their Contributions over the Last 2 Months

11th Step Holmes Beach | As Bill Sees It | Siesta Key | Bay Group | Bee Ridge East | Donut Hour | Enjoy the Journey | Free Thinkers | Friday Night In The Wind | Friends | Friends of the Pelican | Grupo Hispano Companeros | Grupo Hispano Fortaleza | Gulf Gate Noon | Happy Cookie Hour | Holmes Beach Big Book | Humble Beginners | Intergroup | Islander | Keep It Simple | Keep It Simple Men's | LWR 12 & 12 | Main Street Men's | Make Today Count | Midway | Monday Night Men's | New Day | North River Monday Night | Oak Street Step | Oasis | Palmetto Group | PMS | Primary Purpose | Promises | Rose | Sarasota Men's | Saturday Night Speakers | Serenity Seekers | Siesta Key Men's | Sober Living | St Armand's Noon | Sunday Beginners | Surf Side Serenity | Third Legacy Men's | Traditions | Turning Point | Twilight Hour | Under The Rainbow | WAGS | Wednesday Night Beginners | West Bradenton | Women in the Solution | Women's Group of Holmes Beach | Women's Group of LWR

Alison A | Alison T | Allison B | Althea H | Andrew F | Anthony T | Arnold C | Arnold T | Barbara M | Betsy B | Betsy W | Bill | BJ B | Bob G | Brenda H | Brenda S | Carmen D | Carol D | Carol S | Cathy L | Cheryl E | Christine S | Cynthia Mc | Cynthia S | David B | David C | David T | Davis | Dennis F | Diane B | Dodie Z | Don N | Dwight B | Earnest D | Francine P | Francis G | Fred W | Gail K | Gerald C | Gil O | Hedwig N | Henry W | James B | James M | James Mc | James Z | Jamie F | Janet B | Janet H | Janet W | JB L | Jean S | Jeanne T | Jennifer T | Jerald B | Jim M | Joan E | Joe C | Joe D | John | John A | John C | John D | John H | John L | John M | John S | John Y | Jose M | Judith G | Judy W | Julie A | Karen C | Kathy D | Kelly M | Kerry S | Kerstin N | Kevin C | Kevin G | Kimberly W | Larry B | Lee I | Lee N | Leslie W | Linda N | Linda W | Lisa E | Lisa S | Lori P | Luanna L | Lynn B | M. T. | Mallory B | Marcia S | Margaret F | Margaret T | Marla H | Martha E | Mary B | Maureen G | Michael D | Michael P | Michael Q | Michael R | Michael S | Michael T | Mike T | Millard Y | Mitchell P | Nancy B | Nancy L | Neil A | Norman S | Parker C | Pat B | Patricia C | Paul D | Paul F | Paul Mc | Rebecca P | Renee P | Richard G | Richard M | Rick Mc | Robert C | Robert D | Robert V | Robert W | Rusty J | Scott T | Stephen G | Stephen O | Steve K | Steven R | Susan M | Susan R | Susan Y | Suzanne R | Suzi L | Sylvia M | Ted V | Thaddeus H | Theron P | Thomas O | Thomas S | Thomas T | Tom H | Tom M | William J

Central Office 2019 Fund Drive

The Annual Fund Drive as of April 15th was at \$26,164 with more contributions still arriving.

-- Chris @ Central Office

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.