

Plain and Straight



NOVEMBER 2009
The Newsletter of Pinellas
County Intergroup

The *Pinellas County Intergroup's* Primary Purpose is to assist and support the A.A. groups of Pinellas County, and surrounding areas, to carry the message of *Alcoholics Anonymous* to those who suffer from alcoholism. It is responsible to the member groups of the county. The voting body consists of representatives from each group, who decide on and implement the decisions concerning A.A. in Pinellas County. It is responsible for the maintenance of Central Office which provides general information and services, maintains a 24 hour phone line, publishes meeting schedules, and makes available an inventory of approved merchandise and literature for visitors, groups, and the general public. In all of its activities and policies, the *Pinellas County Intergroup* practices and observes the spirit of A.A.'s Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Concepts of World Service, and promotes unity and fellowship among all the member groups it serves.



Contacts

A.A. Central Office

8340 Ulmerton Rd., Suite. 220
Largo, FL. 33771

Ph: 727-530-0415

Fx: 727-530-0416

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon-Fri - 10AM-6PM

Email: centraloffice@aapinellas.org

Web Site: www.aapinellas.org

Plain and Straight

Email: plainandstraight@aapinellas.org
On web site: "What's Happening" > "Plain & Straight"

Submit Anniversaries:

On web site: "Group Submissions" > "Anniversary Information Form"

Where and When

Email:

whereandwhen@aapinellas.org

On web site: "Find a Meeting"

Add new meetings:

On web site: "Group Submissions" > "New Meeting Form"

Change Meetings:

On web site: "Group Submissions" > "Meeting Change Form"

Unity Meeting

Email: unitymeeting@aapinellas.org

On web site: "Find a Meeting" > Unity
Speaker Meeting

Unity Meeting Sign-up and Calendar:
"Group Submissions" > "Unity Sign-Up
Form"

Comments from Our Chairman

One of my personal goals for Intergroup this year is to develop a greater awareness of differences between our Intergroup organization and our District organization. I want folks to understand that each organization is responsible to provide specific services for Pinellas County A.A. and that individual A.A. members benefit from serving in either - or both - of these organizations.

To that end, I have had meetings with Berenice, (our District 1 Chairperson), and together we have pledged a spirit of cooperation to work toward a goal for a better understanding of, and cooperation between, our two organizations. We have resumed the practice of setting up a table to sell books and other A.A. materials at District Quarterlies, and we offer District Project Chairpersons the opportunity to distribute fliers and briefly announce their projects at the end our Intergroup Meetings. We are also looking at permanently displaying some of our "Pinellas County A.A. Archives" at Central Office.

Yours in service,
Tom H.
Chairman, Pinellas County Intergroup

Thanksgiving Aika-Thon!

November 26 – November 30, 2009

Meetings will be 24 hours a day, every hour and a half, beginning 11/26 at 1:30am and ending 11/30 at 1:00am.

Thanksgiving Dinner will be around 2:00pm on Thursday, 11/26 with a **Speaker Meeting** around 5:30. **Bring a Dish & a Newcomer!!**

The Blind Pass Group
7815 Blind Pass Rd.
St. Pete Beach, FL

More Fun and Fellowship

Back Porch Lunch Bunch THANKSGIVING BRUNCH

Saturday, November 21st
11:30am Brunch
Meeting @ Noon

DeGeorge Plaza
12678 Starkey Rd
Largo, Florida

Simple Solution Group 2ND ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Saturday, November 21st
Dinner 6:30
Speaker 8:00
St. Bede's Episcopal Church
2500 16th Street N.
St. Petersburg, FL

Bring a covered dish & a newcomer!!

For more information visit:

aapinellas.org

November Calendar of Events
under "What's Happening"

Get Involved

Archives Committee
Meets the 3rd Saturday
of every Month
Alono Beach Club
1:30pm

**District One Corrections
Committee Meeting**
November 9th
Church of the Good Shepherd
10891 102nd Ave. N. Seminole, FL

New Meetings

East Lake Group

Church of the Resurrection
155 Windmill Pointe Road
Palm Harbor
Friday, 6:00pm, C St

The Jaywalkers

Freedom Inn
9797 Bay Pines Blvd.
St. Petersburg
Sunday, 2:00pm, O D
Wheelchair Access
Main entrance behind the dining
room.
STARTS FIRST SUNDAY IN
OCT.

Back Porch Young Peoples Meeting

DeGeorge Plaza
12676 Starkey Road
Largo
Sunday, 5:30pm

Myth Breakers

Salvation Army Office Bldg.
855 S. Highland Avenue
(corner Highland and Druid)
Clearwater
Thursday, 8:00pm, O B D S

Meeting Changes



Central Group

New address:
1150 49th St. N.
St. Petersburg

Tuesday – CD – 8pm
Saturday – OS – 8pm
Effective: 10/10

Palm Harbor Group

Only the CBD 6:45pm meeting is
ASL-Deaf.

WANTED!

Articles for the
Plain and Straight.

Reward!

Here are some ideas:



- If you're a founding member of your group, or it's just been around for a long time, write about its history and any hardships it's had to overcome along the way.
- Write an article about your recovery for the issue of your anniversary month.
- What was the easiest step for you? The hardest? Why?
- Tell us about meetings you've attended in other states and/or other countries. How were they the same? How were they different?
- Explain why a certain slogan or saying in AA is your favorite.
- How did you come to choose your home group? How did you choose your sponsor - or did s/he choose you?
- If you've had a spiritual experience, when and what was it?
- What has the program given you that you never had before?
- Tell us about the service work you've done and how it enriched your recovery.

Email it to:

plainandstraight@aapinellas.org
and put "Article Submission" in the
subject line.

If your submission is accepted by the Committee, it will be printed in the next issue of the Plain and Straight, so don't be shy. Submit something today!

Oh, and by the way – the reward?
Your sobriety for another day! What
could be better?

Pinellas County Intergroup History Corner

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Thanks to Angela L., the Archives Committee will be sharing with you a bit of the history we currently have gathered in reference to our Pinellas County AA groups and their activities. We are looking for any other information which your group would like to bring to our meetings. We meet the 3rd Saturday of the month at the Alano Club, on St. Pete Beach at 1:30. If the information which we share here is incorrect, please have your group submit a new form or come and share any changes you would like to see.

As I review the group history forms, I find a lot of wonderful information. I find it interesting to see that the St. Petersburg Group was formed in February, 1945 with 21 original members. I can't even imagine how it must have been back then. We have the correspondence to Works Publishing from the St. Petersburg Group enclosing payment for AA Pamphlets and two copies of the big book dated March 6, 1945. The information they provided shares the fact that there were no other meetings in Pinellas County at that time and if they wanted to go to a meeting they had to go to Tampa. The first meeting place for the group was the old Coca-Cola building. In approximately 1953, they opened a 12-step room which is still going strong. The history provided from this group shows how other groups were started because the number of people attending grew to be too many to be housed in one room. St. Petersburg Group still meets every day at 11:00 am and 8:00 pm with meetings on the Big Book, Traditions, Speaker meetings, and open/closed discussion meetings. The address and location of the group has changed many times over the last 64 years. Their current location is 3454 5th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Florida. The staying power of AA groups is amazing.

Today, there are over 600 meetings in Pinellas County. It is amazing how far we have come. If your group has not completed a group history form, please submit one so that we can continue to gather information for the archives committee. Anything your group has to offer will be interesting to someone else years from now. If we don't write it down it is lost forever. We look forward to hearing from all of you.

Submitted by: Kay; Archives Committee

Want to learn more?

The Archives Committee meets at 1:30 the third Saturday of every month at the Alano Beach Club, Dolphin Village - 4615 Gulf Blvd. #112 - St. Pete Beach. All are welcome!

ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT GROUP

FOUNDED MARCH 1985

In March 1985 this group had its beginnings in Clearwater. A young man from mid west states had the idea for a morning meeting. Along with several others the idea was presented to the members of the Serenity Club on Turner street, and approval was obtained to have a meeting at 0700am daily Monday thru Saturday in the Serenity Club facility.

The group met regularly for a couple months until it was realized that the group did not collect enough 7th tradition contributions to pay the rent. Subsequently the group was asked to leave.

A member of the group was an employee of Jimmy Hall's Steak house on Fort Harrison street. He obtained permission from the owner to hold our meetings there and the group relocated.

All was well for several weeks until a member was so inclined to lift a bottle of vodka from behind the bar one morning as the group exited the building. Once more the group was asked to move on. Several meetings were held in the parking lot until a new meeting site was found.

Then, a member located a vacant room not in use on the second floor of the First United Methodist Church at 411 Turner Street, Clearwater, Florida. Here the group took up residence and for the next fifteen years, uninterrupted, the group held regular meetings until the church was in need of expansion facilities for the teen children program at the church and we were asked to leave.

New second floor quarters were provided by the Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church (The Pink Church) at 110 S. Ft. Harrison Street Clearwater, Florida. There the group met for approximately one year until the members decided that the rules and regulations imposed by the church were a little more than the group wanted to comply with.

On March 18, 2002 a move was made to the AA facility known as "301" located at 712 Osceola Street Clearwater, Florida. A city owned property that they rented as a sub lease through the "301" group. Again regular meetings were held until after about a year and a half the group conscious decided the building was too smoky, dirty, and in disrepair. They decided to find another location.

Once again a member located a new address for the group. So in fall of 2004 the group relocated to Friendship United Methodist Church 2039 E. Druid Road Clearwater, Florida where they continue to meet. Non smoking. OBB/OD/OTr 0700am Monday thru Saturday

Submitted by a founding member

PINELLAS COUNTY UNITY SPEAKERS MEETING
JOIN THE AA ROADSHOW AND BRING YOUR GROUP
TO DEGEORGE PLAZA ON STARKEY ROAD ON SATURDAY NIGHT AT 8 P.M.



Sobriety involves throwing out the old way of life and beginning anew. Telling our stories and listening to others, enables us to learn a new way of handling situations that used to baffle us.

Stories are like a mirror in which we can see ourselves.
 This meeting allows us to experience a wide range of speakers so that we can learn how to improve our lives and start living again.

We Don't Know Yet hosted the October 3 meeting. The Group meets at The Compass Center 401 2nd St. N. in Safety Harbor Wednesdays at 6:45.

The chairperson was Johnny W. The Preamble was read by Walt W. Don O. read How It Works.

The first speaker was Dave P. His sobriety date is 9/10/05. Dave spent 20 years in AA before he finally surrendered in August 2005. During his first 20 years he didn't know what he didn't know, he thought he was doing the work, but still felt that he didn't belong. He was always trying to convince himself that he was something he wasn't. He knows now that it was God that kept plucking him from one catastrophe and the next. Now Dave goes by the book. He tells us that everything we need to know is in the first 164 pages of the Big Book. His message to newcomers: Do the steps. Admit you fears for fear is behind everything that is not good in your life. We deal in the solution here – at this point what else is there?

The next speaker was John T. His sobriety date is 9/28/1992. Alcohol consumed John's life. He had active bottles and hidden bottles, he would go to different liquor stores so that the clerks would not know how much he drank. His wife told him one day "Where you are going, you're not taking me". He forgot all that was important in his life. Then, in August 1992 he went to an outpatient facility and started going to meetings. He

started seeing people who were "doing it right" and he wanted what they had so he did what they did and it turned his life around. "The program" John says, "is difficult, but very simple." Just try to remember the small phrases seen on the walls. Keep It Simple, Take it Easy, One Day at a Time...

The final speaker was Hazel R. Her sobriety date is 9/11/1987. Alcohol ruled Hazel's life. She was married to a drinker for 20 years, then her 2nd marriage lasted 20 days. Hazel was introduced to AA when a loved one died from alcohol abuse. This is a family disease she says. She has one son who has a drinking problem and one who doesn't but has the "ism". She is grateful that she has found her higher power. Now she is able to live life on life's terms and she knows that her God made her who she was meant to be.

The chips were given out by Novie L.

Today in Sobriety hosted the October 10 meeting. They meet at 5:30 Monday – Friday at the Wesley Methodist Church- 301 37th Ave. N. – St. Petersburg. The chairperson was Jen C. Christina J. read the Preamble and Henry S. read How It Works.

Libby P spoke first. Her sobriety date is 1/06/2008. Libby started drinking at 14 years of age, she was married at 20 and had three children. She was always very controlling- always had to be right which she realizes now was a

self-esteem issue. She was successful at work, her husband had a good job and for a number of years they lived the "country club" lifestyle, yet she always felt as if she was trying to be somebody else. She was always the one who ended up drinking too much. Her mom fell ill and she moved to Florida. After her mom passed away, Libby's life changed. The parties were over, her husband left her and she had a nervous breakdown. She tried to commit suicide, yet kept on drinking. She tried suicide again during Xmas 2007. She knew she had a problem but decided to go on one more bender. The next day she asked God to help her and he took her by the hand and led her to the Today In Sobriety group. Today she thinks that EVERYBODY should do a 12 step program. She has met so many wonderful people; she feels that she has purpose. She does service work, she makes coffee, and she chairs meetings... She is truly grateful that God brought her to AA. Her message to newcomers is: "It doesn't matter how old you are, you can still get sober and have a wonderful life!"

Jim G. spoke next. His sobriety date is 1/10/04. Jim started drinking heavily in his late teens. He always felt like he was on the outside looking in and when he found alcohol he thought it was his miracle. Alcohol helped him relax and gain what he knows today was "false confidence". He was successful at business, got an engineering degree, but his life kept getting smaller and smaller. The only

thing he found he had room for in his life was alcohol. He chose drinking over his career. He tried AA several times, but kept holding back fearing that if people REALLY knew him he would be rejected. Each time he fell off the wagon and hit bottom he would ask family members for help, but one time he had a revelation. He asked specifically for them NOT to come to his rescue, he knew that he had to do it for himself! He talked to his sponsor and did what he was told for a change. Today he can do anything! There are a million possibilities for him in life. He has a good job, he sponsors others and he has earned the respect of his family back. Life is sweet.

George G. spoke last. His sobriety date is 4/22/85. George drank all the good times out of his life and he never wants to see that kind of hell again. He remembers saying "Dear God please help me" and although he has several sobriety dates, today he has no compulsion to drink because he kept coming back.

He has wonderful dreams today and a strong faith in his higher power. His hope is that all who come through these doors keep showing up and learn to live a life that has merit. His suggestions are: If you don't understand, just listen and pay attention – you will.

The chips were given out by Wendy W.

The Countryside Group hosted the October 17 meeting. They meet at Faith United Church of Christ -2401 Drew St., Clearwater on Mondays and Fridays.

The chairperson was Russell N. The Preamble was read by Walt W. and How It Works was read by Laura W. Brian G. spoke first. His sobriety date is 8/20/08. Brian comes from a long line of alcoholics and believes that alcoholism is genetic. He was raised Roman Catholic. His father was very strict but his family was close and he had a good childhood. Brian had perfect attendance at school until he was introduced to alcohol. He didn't like the taste of beer, but he loved the warm fuzzy feeling that it gave him. It

made him feel like he "fit in" with the rest of his peers unlike he ever had before. He would do anything for that feeling of "escape". He became a blackout drinker. He had many vehicle accidents, almost dies several times, but he didn't realize he had a problem and the disease progressed. After joining the marines his drinking escalated to an oblivious level. His 4 years in the service were a blur. He joined AA after leaving the service but became complacent and went back out. Then he went to prison. In prison he started going to meetings again and that's where he found his relationship with his Higher Power. Today he chooses to work the program as suggested. He believes that his Higher Power works through everybody. He does the steps and he does not take anything for granted any longer. Half measures availed him nothing, it's an all or nothing deal. AA and his Higher Power saved his life.

Nanette P. spoke next. Her sobriety date is 4/17/99. Nanette was raised in a nice military family. She was a good kid, made great grades and feels she had a blessed childhood. Her mom was 42 when Nanette was born so Nanette was always the center of attention.

Nanette's problem was "Nanette". She is an alcoholic. She had her first drink at 13 years old and her last drink at 36 after a DUI and a 2 month stay at the 49th St. jail. She had tried going to AA years earlier, but she became complacent, stopped going to meetings, stopped service work and went out. She stayed out for 3 ½ years. Then the DUI and she came back. She prays to her Higher Power every day, she meditates and she feels very fortunate in her life today. She goes to school, has a good job and lives responsibly. She has a relationship with her daughter, whom she almost lost while she was drinking. Her suggestion to newcomers: "If you're in trouble, put one foot in front of the other, keep coming back, and Don't Drink!"

The chips were given out by Rose W.

The Real Happy Hour hosted the October 24th Meeting. They meet

everyday at 5:30 at 1250 Seminole Blvd. The meeting was chaired by Charlene and shared some about the group she asked Bert to read the Preamble and Wayne read How It Works.

The first speaker was Marcia, she got sober 9/3/08. She is from Indiana, she has 3 older brothers and came from a social drinking family. She has a disability and was teased a lot in school. She started drinking beer, this made her feel better about her disability, but eventually added pills. She started in AA with her Husband which she did not think she had the problem and told them she was there for him. That is where she met her soon to be sponsor, the seed was planted. With her 16 year old son, she realized she needed help and after numerous attempts found her sponsor, Susan which started her on lots of service work and 8 months of continuous step work. She never thought she would be where she is now a year ago. She is grateful and thankful for her new life.

The next speaker was Randy, he got sober 3/14/07. His Dad got sober when he was 42 and worried about Randy's path, he tried to warn him. When he drank he did outrageous things and continued to ride his Harley even after several accidents. He did not know that when he did not remember after drinking that those were "black outs". After several failed marriages he became suicidal and tried to end his life on the Sky Way Bridge-someone came by and said "Get off the bridge, Asshole". He began AA with his sponsor, Jeff who he told he was willing to anything for his sobriety, but did not think he needed to call everyday, but he did. He was 45 days sober when he attended his first AA Picnic and came to believe. He said the over 200 meetings he attended in the first 90 days help him to build an "unshakable foundation" and that AA gave him the defense against the first drink. He is exercising more and is engaged to a wonderful woman.

Our Common Problem hosted the October 31 meeting. They meet at Our Savior Lutheran Church (formerly Rogate) – 4827 East Bay Drive, Clearwater on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday nights.

The chairperson was Lanni F. Diane S. read the Preamble and D.J. read How It Works.

John F. spoke first his sobriety date is 10/4/76. John had his first drink at 14 years old and immediately fell in love with alcohol. It was an escape for him and he found that he gravitated towards other people who did the same rather than go out for sports or other activities. Later he went to Vietnam where he found he had two personalities. One was responsible aboard ship and didn't drink at all, while the other would get drunk and usually arrested each time they were in port. It showed him that it was possible to avoid drinking when needed, but he chose to drink anyway. After the service he took a number of different jobs, each with less and less responsibility so that he would have more opportunity to drink. He hurt people he loved, he lied and he cheated. If he was in a loving relationship and he was confronted about his drinking he would simply leave. One day he was given the opportunity to join the fire department and he quit drinking for 60 days in preparation. Once he had been accepted, he started drinking again, but he found that he drank much more than the other fire fighters. Then after an intervention by the fire chief he found AA and by the grace of god he hasn't had a drink since. He got into the 12 steps and found out who he actually was. He was transformed and believes he is blessed to be able to witness other people transform as well. He realized that he "didn't know what he didn't know" and he wanted to stay in the program. Today he has a profound gratitude which is a very important part of his sobriety. His message to newcomers: The easiest way to go back out is to stop going to meetings and become complacent. Please, keep coming back, listen, take one day at a time and stay plugged in!

Jim H. spoke next. His sobriety date is 8/21/90. Jim had a prestigious job in the aerospace industry. He was in the middle of what was happening there, met astronauts and it was all very exciting.

He also liked to drink. He spent a lot of time in beach bars and one evening went to get a sandwich and woke up in jail. He was told that he could very well lose his job as a result, but started drinking again right after he got out. The threat of losing his job was not enough. Once his doctor told him he had bleeding ulcers, so he drank milk at the bars until he started feeling better, then he started mixing scotch in the milk. He always thought he could control his drinking. He got married, had a child, got divorced and used that as a convenient sob story at the bars. One day his boss suggested he see a counselor to get help, he went and the counselor invited him to an AA meeting. Jim thought it was a dreary idea but went to the meeting. He thought that surely someone would point out that he did not belong there, but nobody did. He was defiant and had "contempt prior to investigation". He read the book, but would not admit that he was an alcoholic. 12 years later he woke up in his car and realized that the only reason he had for leaving the bar the night before was because they had called "last call". He went back to AA and began to let it sink in. Today he can't think of one thing that a drink could make better. Alcohol is no longer a part of his life. This program is his way of life. He is very grateful today and has a wonderful life, a life that is available to everyone if they work for it.

The chips were given out by Maria H.

Thanks to Lauri C. and Connie for taking the notes for this article!

In December, the Hosts will be:

12/5-----Primary Purpose
12/12----- Grow Up
12/19----- Unity Intergroup
12/26----- Our Common Problem

The Unity Speaker's Meeting is a project of Pinellas County Intergroup. To sign up your group, go to the web site www.aapinellas.org and click on Group Submissions or call Melody at 623-1296.

This is an open meeting and is family friendly. Please come out to DeGeorge Plaza on Starkey Road every Saturday night at 8:00 PM. Parking is in the rear.



Inspiration

The following poem was given to Marge B. when she came into the program on 1/26/1968:

Lonesome Road of a Drunk

*The lonesome road is getting you
when your drinking isn't fun.
It's time for honest thinking,
a fight to be had and won.*

*You may be an alcoholic so don't give
in to sadness or despair.
Just try our way of living a great deal of
damage you can repair.*

*We have twelve steps of living
to aid you in this strife.
Twelve beautiful suggestions for a
fuller happy life.*

*They are yours for the taking passed
on by men who
blazed the way.*

*Bill W. and Dr. Bob who
conquered success by gaining
knowledge in defense of not
taking that first drink.*

*If you follow the steps of sober living
with AA, you will always keep away
from the lonesome road of misery,
regrets, sin, and shame.*

*Ask God for Grace to live a
humble life make it a game.
The faith gained in sobriety
you will see its reward,
good living.*

*Just remember AA is here to stay.
Booze can't make your life a hell.
--Soxie*



Ask Bill

Question: Could you tell us about the early days and the meetings in your home on Clinton Street?

Answer: In those days we were associated with the Oxford Group and one of its founders was Sam Shoemaker and the Group was meeting in Calvary Church. Our debt to the Oxford Group is simply immense. We might have found these principles elsewhere, but they did give them to us, and I want to again record our underlying gratitude. We also learned from them, so far as alcoholics are concerned, what not to do - something equally important. Father Edward Dowling, a great Jesuit friend of ours, once said to me, "Bill, it isn't what you people put into A.A. that makes it good - it's what you left out." We got both sets of notions from our Oxford Group friends, and it was through them that Ebby had sobered up and became my sponsor, the carrier of this message to me.

We began to go to Oxford Group meetings over in Calvary House, and it was there, fresh out of Towns Hospital, that I made my first pitch, telling about my strange experience, which did not impress the alcoholics who were listening. But something else did impress him. When I began to talk about the nature of this sickness, this malady, he pricked up his ears. He was a professor of chemistry, an agnostic, and he came up and talked afterward. Soon, he was invited over to Clinton Street - our very first customer. We worked very hard with Freddy for three years, but alas, he remained drunk for eleven years afterward. Other people came to us out of those Oxford Group audiences. We began to go down to Calvary Mission, an adjunct of the church in those days, and there we found a bountiful supply of real tough nuts to crack. We began to invite them to Clinton Street, and at this point the Groupers felt that we were over doing the drunk business. It seemed that they had the idea of saving the world and besides they'd had a bad time with us. Sam and his associates, he now laughingly tells me, were very much put out that they gathered a big batch of drunks in Calvary House, hoping for a miracle. They put them upstairs in those nice apartments and had them completely surrounded with sweetness and light but the drunks imported a flock of bottles and one of them pitched a shoe out of the apartment window and it went through a stained-glass window of the church. So the drunks were not exactly popular when the Wilson's showed up.

At any rate, we began to be with alcoholics all the time, but nothing happened for six months. Like the Groupers, we nursed them. In fact, over in Clinton Street, we developed in the next two or three years something like a boiler factory, a sort of clinic, a hospital, and a free boarding house, from which practically no one issued sober, but we had a pile of experience. We began to learn the game, and after our withdrawal from the Oxford Group - a year and a half from the time I sobered in 1934 - we began to hold meetings of the few who had sobered up. I suppose that was really the first A.A. meeting. The book had not yet been written. We did not even call it Alcoholics Anonymous; people asked who we were and we said, "Well, we're a nameless bunch of alcoholics." I suppose that use of the word "nameless" sort of led us to the idea of anonymity, which was later clapped on the book at the time it was titled.

There were great doings in Clinton Street. I remember those meetings down in the parlor so well. Our eager discussion, our hopes, our fears - and our fears were very great. When anyone in those days had been sober a few months and slipped, it was a terrific calamity. I'll never forget the day, a year and-a-half after he came to stay with us, that Ebby fell over, and we all said, "Perhaps this is going to happen to all of us." Then, we began to ask ourselves why it was, and some of us pushed on.

At Clinton Street, I did most of the talking, but Lois did most of the work, and the cooking, and the loving of those early folks. Oh my! The episodes we had there! I was away once on a business trip (I'd briefly got back into business), one of the drunks was sleeping on the lounge in the parlor. Lois woke up in the middle of the night, hearing a great commotion. One of the drunks had gotten a bottle and was drunk; he had also gotten into the kitchen and had drunk a bottle of maple syrup and he had fallen into the coal hod. When Lois opened the door, he asked for a towel to cover up his nakedness. She once led this same gentleman through the streets late at night looking for a doctor, and not finding a doctor, then looking for a drink, because, as he said, he could not fly on one wing!

On one occasion, a pair of them were drunk. We had five, and on another occasion, they were all drunk at the same time! Then there was the time when two of them began to beat each other with two-by-fours down in the basement. Then one night, poor Ebby, after repeated trials and failures, was finally locked out one night, but lo and behold, he appeared anyway. He had come through the coal chute and up the stairs, very much begrimed. So you see, Clinton Street was a kind of blacksmith shop, in which we were hammering away at these principles. For Lois and me, all roads lead back to Clinton Street. (Manhattan Group, 1955)

**PINELLAS
COUNTY
INTERGROUP**
Contributions Report
October, 2009



**A ticket,
a tasket,
If you can,
Put TWO in the
basket!**

	<u>Oct 09</u>	<u>Jan - Oct</u>		
Anonymous Individual	0.00	100.00	Lake Seminole Speakers	0.00 115.63
2250 Group	100.00	400.00	Largo Young People's Group	0.00 84.00
3RD Tradition Meeting	0.00	146.80	Last Call Group	0.00 25.00
4th Dimension	0.00	109.40	Living Sober	0.00 300.00
7 and Up	25.00	45.00	Lunch Bunch	324.05 1,717.61
A Safe Place	0.00	252.00	Maximo Point	0.00 30.00
AA By The Sea	0.00	142.50	Mixed Nuts	0.00 40.00
ABC	0.00	50.00	New Beginnings Womens Meeting	250.00 250.00
ABES Place	141.75	1,544.12	New Freedom/New Happiness	0.00 525.00
Absolute Sobriety	0.00	190.00	New North	0.00 37.00
After Work Bunch	101.15	1,314.44	Oakhurst	0.00 400.00
All Ages	180.00	607.00	Off Your Chest	0.00 297.00
Amazing Grace	0.00	25.00	Oldsmar Group	0.00 1,600.00
Archangel Group	0.00	350.00	Open Door	0.00 500.00
At The End Of The Rainbow	36.50	450.71	Our Common Problem	0.00 75.00
Attitude Adjustment	191.30	1,362.11	Palm Harbor Group	0.00 365.00
Back Porch Lunch Bunch	0.00	892.44	Philippe Park	0.00 60.00
Back To The Book	53.00	206.13	Primary Purpose	0.00 158.95
Beach Bunch	0.00	700.00	Progress Not perfection	0.00 191.13
Beacon Group	0.00	25.00	Rainbow Serenity	0.00 33.00
Blind Pass Group	0.00	300.00	Saturday Morning Men's Step	0.00 217.00
Cash Customer	0.00	735.20	Saturday Morning Mens Group	0.00 265.00
Center Of Hope	0.00	70.00	Saturday Night Group	0.00 150.00
Central Group	0.00	186.34	Saturday Steppin' In	0.00 295.00
Circle Of Friends	0.00	200.00	Seminole Group	0.00 240.00
Clearwater Group	0.00	240.00	Serenity Seekers	136.82 1,332.73
Common Solution	0.00	79.20	Snowbirds	0.00 142.00
Countryside Group	0.00	360.00	Sober In Paradise	0.00 565.00
Countryside Women	0.00	200.00	Sober Spirits	0.00 273.37
Couples Growing Together	20.82	63.62	Spirit Group	0.00 235.00
Daily Refleotions Group	0.00	100.00	Step Up To The Plate	0.00 58.48
Don Vista Group	0.00	330.00	Steps For Sobriety	0.00 100.00
Dunedin Group	0.00	30.00	Stonewall Men's	0.00 125.00
East Lake Group	0.00	593.50	Suncoast Roundup	0.00 1,109.00
Feelings Group	0.00	441.60	Sunday A.M. Big Book	0.00 63.63
Find Yourself	93.45	590.47	Sunrise Sunset	280.00 2,887.00
Forty Niners	10.00	50.00	Sunset Beach	0.00 1,166.66
Free Spirits	135.00	495.00	Sunshine City	50.00 125.00
Friendship Group	0.00	150.00	Surfside Group	0.00 100.00
Go After Your Sobriety	0.00	105.00	THE GOD STUFF	0.00 100.00
GOYA	120.00	280.00	The Real Happy Hour	43.45 544.89
Grow Up Group	40.00	160.00	Thursday Morning Break	0.00 38.82
High Noon Daily	0.00	267.90	Thursday Night Uplifters	0.00 25.00
Highpoint	0.00	75.00	To The Max	0.00 202.14
Holiday Isles Group	0.00	100.00	Today In Sobriety	0.00 160.00
Hopeful Group	0.00	107.84	Triangle	0.00 55.00
Intergroup Meeting	45.00	487.81	Tuesday Night Men's	0.00 75.00
Into Action	50.00	150.00	Tuesday Night Step	50.00 50.00
Joy Of Living	0.00	256.52	Turner Street Evening	0.00 80.00
Keep It Simple	0.00	295.00	Unity Meeting	236.25 2,598.78
Kirk Group	79.69	259.47	Wayout Northeast Group	0.00 200.00
Ladies Night	90.00	255.00	We Are Not Saints	0.00 30.00
			We Don't Know Yet	0.00 175.00
			What's Your Motive	0.00 70.46
			Women In Step	0.00 50.00
			Women Stepping Up	0.00 62.00
			Women With Freedom	0.00 120.00
			TOTAL	<u>2,883.23</u> <u>37,818.40</u>

Anniversaries



3rd Tradition

Alice S.	60
Carolyn S.	23
Charlie M.	23

49ers

Johnny O. II	6
Margie P.	34
Rob V.	2
Kern B.	29
Sonya	16
Linda Mc.	22
Pat M.	6

Abes Place

Todd S.	2
Bob D.	6
Lucy C.	7
Sooz D.	11
Harley	16
Jim M.	32
John C.	34

After Work Bunch

Steve F	2
Carlton (aka Clayton)	3
Kenny L.	5

All Ages Gulfport

Tom C.	32
--------	----

Attitude Adjustment

Sheila	3
Cooper	5
Sharon C.	4
Buzz	29
Billy NY	1

Back Porch Lunch Bunch

Mark P.	2
Lin N.	30
Jennifer R.	2
Joanne S.	23
Hugh W.	19
Jerry Mc.	32

Central Group

Jack S.	23
Joe J.	23

Charlie F. 38

Clearwater Group/301

Sally	3
Jerry D.	3
Barry	5
Mark M.	10
Steve K.	20

Countryside

Kathleen R.	10
Laura W.	17

Don Vista

Frank P.	4
Rob G.	10
Bruce A.	19

Dunedin Group

Pauline D.	42
Steve M.	3
Betty W.	11

Dunedin Lunch Bunch

Pamela A.	2
Clare D.	12
Jerry D.	29
Mark B.	1
Pete D.	24
Dennis	33
Bobby C.	23
Kevin B.	1
Jim S.	11
Charlie Mc.	23
John L.	45

Find Yourself

Deirdre W.	27
Kathy H.	25
George S.	18
Andrew D.	15
Cathy C.	11
Maryann J.	8
Bennett S.	7
John K.	5
Robert O.	5
Roger R.	3

Free Spirits

Jennifer T.	5
Kim K.	17
Tom Y.	24
Hank B.	35

High Noon Daily

Cyndi V.	5
Mel R.	28

High Point

Dwight 8

Hopeful Group

Andy K	16
Dick S.	32

Into Action

Barbara J.	23
Doug	16
Tom	2

Kirk

Judy V.	30
Shirley J.	27

Ladies Beach Serenity

Frances T.	16
Joan D.	23

Monday Night Speakers

Darrin O.	1
Don M.	2
Kevin R.	4
Dan	13
Roger A.	21
Janice P.	24

Off Your Chest

Jim M.	32
--------	----

Riviera Group

Margie P.	34
Joan E.	33
Dan H.	27

San Martin Group

Phil	2
Tory	2
Charlotte	2
Tina	4
Armon	13

Seminole Group

George	1
Don G.	11
Kristi	23
Chuck L.	23

Serenity Seekers

Robyn	1
Bill G	1
Frankie B	24

Shore Acres Gratitude

Jeanine H	11
Alice L	22
Becky W.	11
Dale S.	21
Pat M.	10

Sober Spirits

Donna L.	1
----------	---

Step Up To The Plate

Al R.	3
Mike S.	2

Sunday AM Big Book

Cora G.	11
---------	----

Sunshine City

Gary G.	21
Susan W.	25

The Real Happy Hour

Dottie D.	1
Norma	1
Ernie G.	3

Today in Sobriety

Debra W.	1
Sue B.	3
Jeff C.	23
John M.	23
Johnny H.	25

Tuesday Night Step

Lou D.	23
--------	----

We Don't Know Yet

Frankie B.	24
Walt W.	1



Countryside

Sue L.	1
--------	---

Don Vista

Kelley S.	2
-----------	---

Dunedin Lunch Bunch

Randy K.	1
Ellie K.	33
Scott S.	24
Susan M.	1
Jane F.	9
Jan G.	31
Ron B.	23
Brian R.	2
Patrick T.	5
Cheryl D.	2
Jackies L.	17
Johnsson	26
Jonna	4
Kirk	6
Michael B.	2
Nancy B.	16