



Sara-Mana Intergroup

P.O. Box 3075 1748 Independence Blvd., #B2, Sarasota, FL 34234

On the web at aasrq.org



April 2013

Central Office (941-351-4818)

Sara-Mana District 4, Area 15

Bill W.'s thoughts on the importance of financial support

Let us make our services respectable; let us rank them in importance with the Twelve Steps of Recovery and the Twelve Principles of A.A. Tradition. Let us forget our fear of over-organization; let us remember that A.A. as a whole cannot be organized; but that we must so organize and support our special services that A.A. can function. Let us forget our early fears of professionalism, of the accumulation of wealth, of government. Experience, now fortified by our Tradition, has already assured us none of these evils are likely to descend upon us.

Above all, let's change our old attitudes about money. Collectively, A.A. members earn an enormous income because of their sobriety, it's a one half a billion dollar bonanza each year. Can we not wisely, gratefully and humbly reinvest a tiny fraction of this vast sum in those vital services that make A.A. tick? I think we can, and I think we shall. For in our own lives we have seen sobriety produce money, and in our A.A. services we have seen a little money produce incalculable spiritual dividends. Let's think this all through again.

By our Twelve Steps we have recovered, by our Twelve Traditions we have unified and through our Third Legacy--Service--we shall carry the A.A. message down through all the corridors of time to come. Of this, I am happily confident.

Bill W.

Central Office fund drive needs your help; campaign giving down from 2012

With less than two weeks remaining in the annual District 4 Central Office Fund drive, giving to support this essential element in community A.A. work has reached only \$21,000, three-fourths of its goal of \$27,000.

Campaign volunteers are still eager to end the campaign on April 16, but unless there is a groundswell in giving, that hope seems dim.

Founders Day and Delegates Breakfast dates set

The Sara-Mana Events Committee has set June 14 as the date for the **2013 Founders Day** celebration.

Tom M. events chairman, said A.A.ers will meet at 5:30 p.m. for a fellowship hour, followed by dinner, then a program at 8 p.m.

A "more exciting menu" is being planned for attendees. Tickets will be \$15.

Additional information will follow. Tom also invited members interested in volunteering to attend the next Events Committee meeting, which will be held in the Central Office at 7 p.m. on April 17. Enter through the back door.

The **Delegates Breakfast** will be held at 9 a.m. on June 1 at St. Andrews Church, 6908 Beneva Road. A free breakfast will be served, and then the delegate's report will be from 10 a.m. until noon. Volunteers are also needed to help with this event.

Additional information on volunteering for the Founders Day dinner or Delegates Breakfast is available by contacting events@aasrq.org.

The Central Office, which serves Sarasota and Manatee Counties, has the reputation of being among the top such organizations in the U.S.

Located at 1748 Independence Blvd. in Sarasota, the staff and volunteers serve the A.A. community in various ways:

- ◆ Inquiries regarding A.A. are answered on a daily basis.
- ◆ It provides and maintains a facility for regular meetings of A.A. service organizations and committees, including PI/CPC, Current Practices, H&I, Literature, Grapevine, Special Needs, Archives, Events, Helpline, Newsletter, Where and When and for FCYPAA.
- ◆ It supplies A.A.-related literature and materials to individuals, groups and institutions.
- ◆ It assists service committees.

While the Central Office derives funds from the sale of A.A. literature, this amounts to a small portion of money required to maintain the office and provide services. Some funding comes through group contributions; however, the majority of the budget is from the annual campaign of individual member gifts.

Contribution envelopes are available at your group or can be picked up at the Central office. Please help keep our Central Office going.

Bill W.'s wonderful comment to us all

My Dear Friends,

Recently an A.A. member sent me an unusual greeting, which I would like to extend to you. He told me it was an ancient Arabian salutation. Perhaps we have no Arabic groups, but it still seems a fitting expression of how I feel for each of you.

It says, "I salute you and thank you for your life."

My thoughts are much occupied these days with gratitude to our Fellowship and for the myriad blessings bestowed upon us by God's Grace. If I were asked which of these blessings I felt was the most responsible for our growth as a fellowship and most vital to our continuity, I would say the "Concept of Anonymity." Anonymity has two attributes essential to our individual and collective survival: the spiritual and the practical. On the spiritual level, anonymity demands the greatest discipline of which we are capable: on the practical level anonymity has brought protection for the newcomer, respect and support of the world outside, and security from those of us who would use A.A. for sick and selfish purposes. A.A. must and will continue to change with the passing years. We cannot, nor should we, turn back the clock. However, I deeply believe that the principle of anonymity must remain our primary and enduring safeguard. As long as we accept our sobriety in our traditional spirit of anonymity we will continue to receive God's Grace.

And so -- once more I salute you in that spirit and again I thank you for your lives. May God bless us all now, and forever.

Bill Wilson

The above was provided by Edgar C., who says, "I do not know if this is Bill's comment as Lois gave it for him at his last convention, but I copied it to see if we agree that it is as was originally given."

Get your newsletter via email. Send your request to secretary@aaqrq.org.

YOU need to know this

You and your family are invited to the **Main Street Men's Group anniversary** barbeque Saturday, April 20 at 911 Central Avenue, Sarasota (across from the Salvation Army). Barbeque follows a 10 a.m. open speaker meeting. We'll have hot dogs, burgers, sides, sodas, desserts. Bring a side or more desserts if you'd like.



The Third Legacy, a new men's closed literature group, meets at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays at Trinity Church, 7225 Lockwood Ridge Road.

MOTHERS & INFANTS program needs women with one year of sobriety to take meetings to them once a month. Contact ldross@comcast.net or call 941-320-8389.

The **164 PLUS STUDY GROUP** is a new closed Big Book meeting at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, at St. Armands Key Lutheran Church. Bring your Big Book and your 12 & 12.

THE FRESH START Group is a new meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday at the Gratitude Room in Bradenton.

LWR AS BILL SEES IT is a new meeting, held at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday at Harvest Methodist Church, 14306 Covenant Way, Lakewood Ranch.

Carry the message behind walls or bars??? We need you at (1) The Bradenton Bridge on 63rd ANY night of the week, (2) Serenity Place at Doctor's Hospital- afternoon commitment, (3) SRQ jail men's Wed. p.m. general population meeting, (4) SRQ jail women's 7:30 a.m. meetings and (5) Manatee county jail. Please consider responding to hni@aaqrq.org or 444-9698.

Disbanded meetings include *Sarasota Men's* at 7 p.m. Monday, *Salvation Army First Things First* at 10 a.m. Tuesday, *Thursday Big Book* at 8 a.m., *Everybody's Group* at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and *Carry This Message* at 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

Moves: The 10 a.m. **DONUT HOUR** AND 12 noon **LUNCH BUNCH** meetings have moved to Church of the Cross, 3005 South Tuttle and **SRQ YOUNG PEOPLE** now meets at Concordia Lutheran Church, 2185 Wood Street.

GRATITUDE SPEAKER is a new meeting at 8 p.m. on Wednesday at the Gratitude Club.

DRUNK SQUAD is a new meeting at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday at Siesta Key Chapel.

NEW BIG BOOK is a new meeting at 8 a.m. on Tuesday at Pine Shores Presbyterian Church, 6116 Crestwood in Sarasota.

For up-to-date changes please check the website Where & When at aaqrq.org. Click on the meeting tab at the top of the page.

3 for April

Step 4

Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Tradition 4

Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

Concept 4

At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

Here's some easy service work

You can be a member of the Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC) committee without ever attending a business meeting, sending an email, or making a phone call.

How, you ask? Simple. After you've read your Grapevine magazine, throw it on the seat of your car, tuck it in your purse or back pocket, and the next time you find yourself in any waiting room anywhere waiting for anything, drop it on a table or a shelf, slide it into an existing magazine rack, put it on the seat of the next chair.

Be creative. This automatically makes you part of the PI/CPC "Plant a Grapevine Team" which, by the way, is valid service work, should your sponsor ask.

The love of God is with me; with every step I take. I look to Him for guidance; God doesn't make mistakes. He has appointments for me, each day that I'm awake. Although, I don't know what they are, I never seem to be late.

Cheryl M.

A man with over 20 years of sobriety in A.A. walks into a Central Office in Yourtown USA. He grabs a book off the shelf titled *The Steps We Took* by Joe McQ. Upon leaving the office, he states, "Man, this is the best book in Alcoholics Anonymous." Do you find anything wrong with that statement? If not, ask your sponsor.

A second opinion on non-A.A.ers at A.A. meetings

Food for Thought #2 was submitted by Panama Jack, rebutting the article last month on Singleness of Purpose. If you would like a pdf file of the March issue, email newsletter@aaqrq.org.

The Growing Together Group is an open discussion group which allows Al-Anon members to attend, just as anyone can attend an "open discussion" meeting.

Sometimes referred to as a couples group, the meeting is geared to a couples format; however, the group has and still welcomes anyone, couple or not, to attend,

In our book "Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age," Bill W. refers to Al-Anon speakers being invited to the Cleveland International Convention, not just to share as in a group meeting. but to speak to A.A. members from all over the world. Bill writes that the Al-Anon family group is one of the most encouraging developments in the whole A.A. picture (pages 23, 24). So if a member of Al-Anon needs to share at a growing together group meeting in order to help in his or her recovery, we are grateful to our Higher Power that he has given us the venue to help them since June 1991.

Make no mistake, the group adheres to all of A.A. group traditions and nowhere does it forbid or even suggest that a member of Al-Anon cannot share at an open discussion meeting.

Bill W. wrote, "our first duty as a society is to insure our own survival." The Growing Together Group recognizes this and makes it their priority.

A Grapevine Quote

"I was so busy juggling the regrets of the past with the expectations of tomorrow I had no time for living in the present."

Dear Alkie

Dear Alkie: I'm not sure if I'm powerless. How can I tell?

Alkie: If you're sitting in an A.A. meeting or a treatment center, being powerless is a fact, not a choice.

Dear Alkie: I've been thinking and thinking about this business of powerlessness and whether my life is unmanageable, this stuff you talk about. I can't seem to make up my mind, but I am still drinking.

Alkie: Until you take the first step, you aren't going anywhere.

Dear Alkie: My life sucks, and the world sucks. I keep traveling from place to place but I keep drinking. Are there any good places?

Alkie: In order to change your world, you need to change your mind. Try doing the Steps.

Dear Alkie: I keep picking up that damn drink. Any suggestions?

Alkie: As long as I hold A.A. in one hand and God in the other, I won't have one free to pick up a drink.

Dear Alkie: I keep fighting this alcohol problem, but nothing works.

Alkie: The struggle stops when we stop struggling! A white chip is the token that gets you on the train of recovery for the ride of your life.

Dear Alkie: Does alcohol really kill those who have alcoholism?

Alkie: It's not alcohol that kills alcoholics; it's amnesia.

Dear Alkie: I keep thinking that I'm not really an alcoholic, but I keep getting in trouble, now almost every time I drink.

Alkie: I'd rather go through life sober thinking I'm an alcoholic, than go through life drunk, trying to rationalize that I'm not.

Dear Alkie: I'm afraid to try A.A., but I'm afraid to drink too.

Alkie: If you won't take a chance, you don't have a chance.

ANNIVERSARIES

Groups: email birthdays to newsletter@asrq.org and put **ANNIVERSARIES** in the subject line. Cutoff for the newsletter is the last day of the month. Do not send anniversaries for future months: i.e. March anniversaries appear in April.

63RD AVENUE

March

Steve R. 2 years

BEE RIDGE EAST

March

John L. 28 years
Jeanette K. 27 years
Chuck L. 3 years

DONUT HOUR

January

Peg F. 13 years

February

Kathy B. 11 years
Donna F. 10 years
Pam P. 10 years
Sharon T. 4 years
Rick T. 2 years

March

Liz M. 18 years
Carly C. 7 years
Jill A. 3 years
Tracy R. 2 years

EARLY BIG BOOK

March

Jack Q. 31 years
Candy 1 year

EARLY BIRD

March

Tim L. 20 years

FRIENDS OF THE PELICAN

March

Bob C. 33 years
Norris E. 24 years
Terry H. 16 years
Kathleen W. 8 years
Viola W. 7 years
Peggy P. 5 years
Jim S. 3 years
Tonne N. 2 years

GULF GATE NOON

March

Sylvia P. 41 years
Edgar C. 27 years
Kim G. 2 years
Chris P. 1 year

HAPPY COOKIE HOUR

March

Jaci M. 10 years
Thom B. 6 years
Connie G. 3 years

LAKWOOD RANCH 12&12

March

Marty K. 13 years

LUNCH BUNCH

March

Edgar 28 years
Mark E. 26 years
Phyllis D. 23 years
Toni J. 20 years
Ralph 18 years

NEW WOMEN

March

Cathy E. 37 years

OAK STREET STEP

March

Jane D. 45 years
Cynthia C. 33 years
Michael F. 33 years
Judy Y. 30 years
Kathy A. 21 years
Jenn S. 18 years
Kathy J. 18 years
Jody F. 14 years
Annette W. 9 years
Joan B. 9 years
John K. 9 years
Janice C. 7 years
Jeff S. 4 years
Linda R. 4 years
Danni R. 3 years

SERENITY

March

Don S. 35 years
Diane C. 11 years
Steve R. 2 years
Jared T. 2 years
Jack D. 1 year
Mimi C. 1 year

SINGLENESS OF PURPOSE

February

Joyce F. 32 years
Ken S. 7 years

March

Ray C. 38 years
Cathy V. 8 years
Barry D. 4 years
Tess B. 1 year

SOBER LIVING

February

Coretta F. 14 years

March

Jeff M. 23 years

UNDER THE RAINBOW

March

Karen O. 38 years
George L. 31 years
Joy G. 12 years
John W. 6 years
Brenda P. 4 years
Pauline T. 3 years

HELPLINE TOTALS

MARCH 2013

Call count.....386

BREAKDOWN:

Meeting time/location...255

In lieu of

12 step call.....17

Actual 12 step calls.....21

Al-Anon referrals.....25

Special Needs.....6

Miscellaneous.....66

Please HELP the helpline by submitting your name to be on the 12-step call list. Contact Central Office at (941) 351-4818 or the Helpline through the web site at www.asrq.org.

"I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for HELP, I want the hand of A. A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible."
- A.S. at the 1965 International Convention in Toronto.

AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS

- ◆ Your Ego is NOT your Amigo!
- ◆ The A.A. program helps me to be my very best self.
- ◆ A.A.s can be like people without brakes.
- ◆ Our stories are all different but they rhyme.
- ◆ The past is not the future unless we live

Have a story to share?

There's a life-saving story in nearly every member of Alcoholics Anonymous. What's yours? Put your story in about 300 words and send it to newsletter@asrq.org. It's cool to see your story in print, and you just might strengthen the sobriety of a fellow A.A.er.

The main purpose of this newsletter is to inform, connect and entertain. TO SUBMIT ITEMS TO THE NEWSLETTER: Anniversaries, articles and meeting notices should be sent to newsletter@asrq.org. Submit material as attachments or directly in an email. Include your first name, group and type of item being sent. Deadline is the last day of the month. Submissions may be edited for length or content. Opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and not necessarily those of A.A., Sara-Mana Intergroup or the Central Office, located at #B-2, 1748 Independence Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34234. Phone 941.351.4818.