

# Communiqué

HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA



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### I AM “DEFINITELY AN ALCOHOLIC”

Joanne has been sober for over 8,776 days (March 25, 1997). Joanne arrived in AA to avoid jail. Joanne began her drinking career in high school and continued to drink while obtaining her Associates Degree and then her Bachelor of Arts degree. Still drinking, she was accepted into a Masters program, but, because of budget cuts, she was forced to return to her hometown in New York. She was successful in several different jobs in her field, but her happiness came from drinking after work with her friends at the local bar and playing softball for the bar, where she met the man who would become her husband.

Joanne was arrested for DUI in the 70’s and arrested again for DUI in the 80’s. Her and her husband decided it was time to settle down, so they got married and had a beautiful son. For a few years Joanne’s drinking slowed, her husbands did not. Joanne quit her DUI classes and her license was suspended, unbeknownst to her. Cunning, baffling and powerful, always out there waiting, alcoholism took over and Joanne’s drinking escalated quickly. Before school, after school, making dinner and when her family fell asleep Joanne had “1 or 2 drinks.” It was not until Joanne was in treatment that she realized her daily “1 or 2’s” added up alcoholic drinking.

In 1997, Joanne was arrested for Driving with a suspended license after walking to the local bar to drive the family car home since her husband had left it there. Because of her priors, she was facing 4-7 years in prison. She received 2.5 years of probation instead. Yet the “ism” still prowled. Joanne planned to begin drinking again after she completed probation.

Joanne and her family then moved to Spring Hill, 20 years ago, and it was then when she finally found her true home; in the rooms of AA. It was then when she started introducing herself as Joanne and I am “definitely and alcoholic.” She got a sponsor and went to 2-3 meetings a week. When her father passed away, she went to more meetings and when her mother passed, she went to even more meetings. For Joanne, when unforeseen circumstances befall us all, like it will, she makes a choice to turn to the tools AA freely gave to her and not to a bottle. She decided to ask for help and gave back to others instead of allowing the “quicksand to stretch around her in all directions.”

Joanne was married for over 30 years when her husband passed away last year. Joanne did of course feel despair, but she refused to “fall into that bitter morass of self-pity.” She drove to a meeting. She does the steps and lives them in her daily life. On top of it all, the pandemic hit. Meetings closed, fellowship declined. Instead of allowing alcohol to become her master once again, Joanne chose to keep moving towards sobriety and not towards a drink.

In fact, every Saturday night at 7:00 p.m. in the parking lot in front of the Intergroup office, Joanne makes sure an alcoholic has somewhere to go, rain or shine. The Fresh Air Group was formed. This writer remembers a specific Saturday night when a meeting was desperately needed. It was pouring outside but Joanne was there, and I knew she would be. The perfect part was that there was also newcomer who needed help. He was too afraid to attend a Unity meeting and had nowhere else to go. We had a meeting inside of the office. Me, Joanne, another solid AA woman we call the “AA Whisperer” and the newcomer sat together just like Dr. Bob and Bill W. did in the lobby of the Mayflower Hotel in 1935 and we helped each other not take a drink that night.

Joanne sums her life up like this: I don’t pick up a drink no matter what, I go to meetings rain or shine, I do service work and sponsor other women and I try to trust G-d, who I choose to call my higher power, and I try to do the next right thing. She met calamity with serenity.



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The Communique is a monthly publication of District 13 and Hernando County Intergroup. It is about, by and for members of A.A. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous. Publication of an article does not imply endorsement by AA or District 13 or Intergroup, except where indicated. To submit an article, e-mail to **communique.ed@gmail.com** Items need to be submitted by the 20th of the month for publication in the following month's edition. However, articles will be placed in the publication only as space and time allow.

***Special Notice***

Due to the July Fourth Holiday the Distric Meeting for this July

was unanimously voted on by those in attendance to move the meeting date to Monday July 12th

**District Meeting**

July 12, 2021

at 6:15 PM

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

1214 Broad St., Masaryktown

**Intergroup Meeting**

First Friday of the month

July 2, 2021

at 6:30 PM

Forest Oaks Lutheran Church

8555 Forest Oaks Blvd. , Spring Hill

**District 13 Committee Chairpersons****Accessibilities Committee**

OPEN

**Archives Committee**

OPEN

**Literature Committee**

OPEN

**PI/PC Committee**

Jim C.

**Treatment Committee**

Joe C.

**Archives Committee**

OPEN

**Corrections Committee**

Debby Q.

**Grapevine Committee**

Jennean G.

**Palimentarian**

Wendy S.

**Hernando County Intergroup**

Central Office  
& Book Store

4116 Lamson Ave.  
Lamson Woods Plaza  
Spring Hill, FL 34608  
Office Manager:  
JJ M.

**352-683-4597**

Intergroup Office  
Hours: Mon - Fri 9 am -1 pm  
Saturday 9 am -12 pm

**info@aahernando.org**

**Group Donation Addresses**

Attention all Group Treasurers:  
Please send donations to the following:

**District 13 Treasurer**

P.O. Box 1941  
Brooksville, FL 34605  
(please make checks payable to District 13)

**Hernando****County Intergroup**

Donna M. (please make checks payable to Hernando County Intergroup)

**North Florida Area Assembly NFAC**

P.O.Box 226  
DeLeon Springs, Florida 32130  
(Please make checks payable to NFAC)

**General Service**

**Office** PO Box 459  
Grand Central  
Station New York, NY  
10163 (Please make  
checks payable to  
GSO

## Step Seven

“Humbly ask Him to remove our shortcomings.”

What is the difference between defects of character in Step Six and shortcomings in Step Seven, according to Bill W. , there is no difference, he just did not want to repeat himself and he wanted to change the topic from self to others by stressing humility and a personal change in attitude in Step Seven.

This is one of the many list that name Character Defects and Shortcomings:

Resentment, Anger  
 Fear, Cowardice  
 Self pity  
 Self justification  
 Self importance, Egotism  
 Self condemnation, Guilt  
 Lying, Evasiveness, Dishonesty  
 Impatience  
 Hate  
 False pride, Phoniness, Denial  
 Jealousy  
 Envy  
 Laziness  
 Procrastination  
 Insincerity  
 Negative Thinking  
 Immoral thinking  
 Perfectionism, Intolerance  
 Criticizing, Loose Talk, Gossip  
 Greed

Beginning with Step One, each of the steps is designed to help us learn the value of humility. Bing humble is keeping the ego right sized. When you think that you are humble, you're not.

There is a God today, and it is not me.

Bill Wilson stated, “the attainment of greater humility is the foundation principle of each of AA’s twelve steps.” Bill W. in the Twelve and Twelve later expanded the definition of humility to be “the clear recognition of what and who we really are, followed by a sincere attempt to be what we can be.”

Step Seven like Step Six is not a once and done effort. Recovery is the journey, not a destination and the act of being right sized, thinking of others instead of self is an ongoing practice, one day at a time, for the rest of our lives.

Seventh Step prayer: My Creator, I am now willing that You should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that You now remove from me every single defect of character which stand in the way of my usefulness to You and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here to do Your bidding. Amen

ME and the Boss Brooksville, Florida

### ***Communique Trivia for July***

- 1) Who introduced the idea of including the use of tokens to mark milestones in sobriety in A.A.
- 2) What was the official start of the 1 st A.A. meeting?
- 3) Who told Bill W. of a struggling Dr. Robert S. and had a meeting the next day  
“Mother’s Day May 12,1935
- 4) Henrietta Seiberling was the daughter-in-law of Frank (F.A.) Seiberling the founder of what?
- 5) Who started the 1 st A.A. meeting in Cleveland, Ohio?
- 6) In May 1939, the 1 st A.A. meeting in Cleveland was held in whose home?

Answers on Page 4

## Coming Events

In keeping with the Seventh Tradition the GSR's, Intergroup Representatives and the Officers of both organizations would like to believe that the pandemic is over and it is now time to bring Alcoholics Anonymous back to the vibrant and exciting movement that it was a couple of years ago. We are not a glum lot and a few dollars to keep up the pace and to spread the word are needed. The pandemic cut into the revenue flow of AA greatly. We survived, now it is time to flourish, have your groups donate whatever they can. Even if you are still not sure about attending your meetings, the mailing address of the District, the Intergroup, Area and the GSO are on page 2 of this issue of the Communique. Hopefully the amount you give will be representative of how much you value your sobriety.

Seventh Tradition.

“Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”

If I give you money, what will I get in return ? ? ?

From outside of A.A., we do not want your money, because we can offer you nothing in return.

For the members of A.A. we want your dollar or two or more each time the basket is passed and in return we will give you the chance to hear a message that may save your life.

The history of A.A. showed that the movement was poor for most of its early years because the drunks could not see the forest for the trees. Eventually, to gain self respect, the groups paid the bills, realizing that the rent had to be paid, coffee was not free and the literature needed to carry the message, even at cost, was still more than nothing in the hat

Today, the central offices and their Hot Lines have made themselves invaluable in carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

Today, the Districts and their committees have made themselves invaluable in carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

Attend your groups business meetings, go to the Intergroup monthly meetings, go to the Districts monthly meetings and see how the money is spent.

Become involved, it supports your recovery, become a representative for your group and you can have a vote in how the monies are spent.

It is not big money and a good sponsor would be remiss if they did not explain to the new comer how an A. A. group can stretch a dollar to cover a multitude of expenses, usually much less money than most of us spent during a night at the bar. Even the closet drinkers spent far more on their booze than a couple of dollars dropped into the can at a few meetings per week.

Today, don't be shy, give what you can to make sure the message will continue to be delivered.

ME and the Boss            Brooksville, FL

### **Trivia Answers: from page 3**

- 1) Sister Ignatia
- 2) Bill W. and Dr. Bob had their 1st meeting on May 12, 1935, most celebrate the “official” start date as June 10, 1935 which was when Dr. Bob took his last drink to steady his hand before surgery.
- 3) Henrietta Seiberling (Divorced she was living in the Gate Hiuse.)
- 4) Seiberling Rubber Company (after leaving Goodyear Tire and Rubber)
- 5) Clarence S.
- 6) A.I.G. also known as Abby G. a patent lawyer.

## ***Know Your District***

BROOKSVILLE GROUP (C/D)  
First Presbyterian Church  
250 Bell Avenue,  
Brooksville

Saturday 8:00pm

Brooksville Saturday Night Group is a medium sized group with a meeting room that includes comfy furniture.

The topic of the meeting I attended was "Serenity-Not Chaos".

When we have worries and fear, do we use the tools available to us? Our Higher Power overpowers everything, do we pray when bad things happen in our lives? Do we talk with other alcoholics, our sponsors? Staying spirituality fit is key in living life on life's terms.

Some of us have "princess problems ". We have to let go of the past in order to grow spirituality. I was left with this phrase, " Change your perspective, change your attitude, or change your sobriety date".

A wonderful meeting where everyone spoke from their heart. Treat yourself to a Saturday Night at Bell Avenue, you won't be disappointed.

In Service, Eleanor B. DCM District 13

SUNSET GROUP  
First Presbyterian Church  
250Bell Avenue  
Brooksville

Monday @ 6:30 pm (O/BB/D)  
Wednesday @ 7:30pm (O/LIT)  
Saturday @ 5:30pm (O/D/Sp) (ABSI)

The Sunset Group is an AA Literature open discussion meeting. The meeting I attended was based on "As Bill Sees It", (Tradition 6 - character defects). Looking at ourselves and our behaviors, we need to take responsibility for our actions. We, as alcoholics, need to remember that correcting others is self defeating. We need to search within our own selves for our defects. This would be an honest attempt to examine ourselves, rather than the other fellow. (Page 80)

Don't forget to do a step 10 everyday. What a heart felt meeting!! I LOVE Literature, so this meeting really touched my soul!! With comfy sofas and friendly faces, go visit The Sunset Group! Did I mention, they have awesome Saturday Bar-B-Q's!! They may even have one real soon!!

In Service, Eleanor B DCM District 13

06/02/21  
 Accrual Basis

**District 13  
 Profit & Loss  
 May 2021**

	<u>May 21</u>	<u>Jan - May 21</u>
Checking Beg Balance	2870.37	
<b>Income</b>		
Corrections Contributions	21.78	157.72
Group Contributions - Other	340.00	1,797.00
HCI 1/2 Communique	255.00	765.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>616.78</u>	<u>2,719.72</u>
<b>Expense</b>		
Bank Service Charge	0.00	87.85
Communique	255.00	1,275.00
Postage, Mailing Service	0.00	76.50
Printing	132.48	142.48
Treatment Committee Exp	75.40	75.40
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>462.88</u>	<u>1,569.38</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u>153.90</u>	<u>1,150.34</u>
Checking End Balance	3599.27	

	<u>May 21</u>	<u>Jan - May 21</u>
A Desire/Friendship Group	0.00	440.00
AlGood Grp	30.00	60.00
Audio Big Book Group	0.00	235.00
Hope Group	0.00	103.00
Intergroup	256.78	741.17
Let Go Let God	0.00	75.00
Living Sober	0.00	100.00
Ridge Manor Big Book Group	110.00	168.55
Rough Road Group	20.00	77.00
Singleness Of Purpose Gp	0.00	120.00
Spring Hill Group	60.00	60.00
Sunset Group	0.00	150.00
There Is A Solution Group	40.00	130.00
Tranquility Group	0.00	100.00
Womens Serenity Group	100.00	100.00
	<u>616.78</u>	<u>2,659.72</u>

**Prudent Reserve Account**

Beginning Balance	1119.4
Interest	0.01
Ending Balance	1119.41

Corrections Beginning Bal 900.61

	<u>Jan 21</u>	<u>Feb 21</u>	<u>Mar 21</u>	<u>Apr 21</u>	<u>May 21</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Hope Group	0.00	3.00	0.00	0.00		3.00
Intergroup	5.41	20.43	0.00	8.55	1.78	36.17
Ridge Manor Big Book Grp	0.00	0.00	0.00	58.55		58.55
Rough Road Group	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	20.00	40.00
Singleness Of Purpose Gp	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00		20.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>5.41</u>	<u>23.43</u>	<u>20.00</u>	<u>87.10</u>	<u>21.78</u>	<u>157.72</u>

Corrections Ending Bal 1,058.33

***At the time that the Communique was going to print the Treasurers Report  
For the Intergroup was not available.***

## *Founders Day Celebration*

Saturday July 26, 2021

What an awesome evening.

The Skit was the highlight of the evening.

Thanks to the many volunteers who made the evening possible.

Good food, great speaker.

The Count Down by Ed S. was emotionally motivating, too many years to count.

And to Eleanor B. who chaired the evening along with Ed, many cudos for an evening that will live in the AA Hernando archives for many years to come.

## ON A PERSONAL NOTE

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a friend, Bob W. Last year I wrote Bob's story and his experience as a Trustee at Large. Now Bob is on to his next chapter in A.A Service work and has recently accepted the position at the General Service Office as the new General Manager. Congratulations Bob, they couldn't have chosen a better person.

Sue S.  
Communique Chairperson

<u>Group Anniversaries</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Let Go &amp; Let God</u>	<u>Years</u>
Lets Get Serious	13	Rachel K	36
<u>Member Anniversaries</u>		Vanessa	2
<u>Al Good</u>			
Ralph G	3	<u>Principles B4 Personalities</u>	
Sharon H	35	Nick O	1
		Johathan H	1
<u>Aripeka Open Speaker</u>		Marsha P	4
Doe	16	John C	10
		Mari-Beth	10
<u>Hernando Beach</u>			
Clark C	33	<u>Promises</u>	
Dave P	4	Marcus A	6
		Sandra T	1
<u>Hope Grp</u>	2		
Michelle L	2	<u>Ridge Manor Big Book</u>	
Col L	52	Adam S	39
Sam C	2	Mike G	31
Rachel P	30	Larry H	45
Tony R			
		<u>Rough Road</u>	
<u>Sunset Grp</u>		Harry P	28
Ed S.	<u>Years</u>	Bernadette C	13
Alex M	16	Johnny H	32
Phil P.	2	Mike C	22
Lyda S	17	Steve N	8
Gary	10		
Renee L	45	<u>Serenity Sisters</u>	
	2	Lori P	28

*Next Unity Meeting  
Saturday,  
July 10*

*Doors open at 6:30 ,  
Meeting at 7:00*

Nativity Lutheran  
Church 6363 Commercial  
Way, Weeki Wachee, FL

The July 10 meeting will  
be hosted by the  
*Hope Group*

**The Fellowship We Crave  
AA Meeting**

New Location starting  
Wednesday July 7 th  
7:00 PM

People Helping People Building  
1396 Kass Circle

This is behind the Save A Lot

This is a open meeting so  
come join us!

*If you find mistakes in this  
newsletter, please consider  
that they are there for a  
purpose. We publish  
something for everyone, and  
some people are always  
looking for mistakes.*