

DISTRICT 13 AND HERNANDO COUNTY INTERGROUP

Communiqué

HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

NOVEMBER- GRATITUDE MONTH

GRATITUDE FOR HERNANDO COUNTY A.A.



Beginning in the 1940's, the month of November has been designated as Gratitude Month as a time to express our collective gratitude for our individual sobriety and our shared thankfulness. Traditionally, Bill W. focused upon the traditions during gratitude month "as they are the undeniable anchor of our new sober life." The Traditions, he wrote in November 1949, "are a distillate of our experience of living and working together. They apply the spirit of the Twelve recovery Steps to our group life and security." (The Language of the Heart, p. 96) The Gratitude luncheons were discontinued in 1968 because they became more of a time and place to sell literature and to show the world who A.A. was than it was about true gratitude for individual sobriety and unity. Some time ago, there was an article written in this Communiqué that included an interview with one of our beloved "old timer's," Duffy. He posed this question: "What if you woke up tomorrow and AA did not exist. Then Covid hit. In many States people woke up and AA did not exist; all meetings were shut down and people did wake up to a world where A.A. disappeared. Not in Hernando County. We woke up to service worker's everyday posting announcements on Facebook when and where groups were and zoom information. Perhaps Gratitude Month should be focused on our local fellowship who did show up for all of us. Those who kept Hernando County A.A. alive and well, no matter what. This year, let us place our focus upon our local A.A. members, give our gratitude to the daily meetings that kept going, our fellowship, our sponsors, our friends who live near us and go to meetings with us. The premise behind the theme of this article began with the pandemic and continues today after the loss of so many valuable members of our community either to this disease or otherwise. Let us use Gratitude Month this year to turn to one another and say, "thank you." Rarely do we focus and thank those we see in our own community and instead focus on Bill W. and Dr. Bob during these festivities. The past few years Hernando County A.A. honored the responsibility pledge when other places failed to do so: "I am responsible, when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there, and for that I am responsible."

Gratitude is for our local Intergroup office and volunteers who kept the office open, who continued to update and print meeting lists and who never let the hotline cease to exist even for a moment. Gratitude is for people who run the hotline and keep it alive; they sure the phone to the lifeboat is answered. In fact, an A.A. member who recently moved to Hernando County, vividly described her fear while living in New York when Covid hit. New York completely shut down, A.A. disappeared. Thankfully, she was in the process of moving to our town, so she called our hotline. The phone was answered. She was given the name of a woman named Mary T. who called her right back and took her to her first meeting in Florida, the "Let Go and Let God" group. She was able to make

[1] (It is impossible to include all that have given of themselves during this period of time, but we know who you are and we are grateful to you.)

Continued on Page 4

Answer 5 Depending on our creator. Pg 68 Big Book

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DISTRICT 13 OFFICERS**DCM**

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ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON

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HEAART

Nancy E
352-2325207

HOTLINE

352-683-4597
Chairperson: Johnny V.
352-346-6096

WEBMASTER

John K 352-650-2324
webmaster@aahernando.org

If your Group or Meeting makes changes (time/location,etc) please contact Webmaster (John K) with that information. He will update online meeting list, notify "Where and When" and HEAART. Thanks!

HEAART- Please contact Nancy if you would like to be a representative for your group.

District Meeting
next District meetings
November 1,2021
6:15PM

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1214 Broad St., Masaryktown
Zoom info
ID 98757909290
Password district13

Intergroup Meeting

First Friday of the month
November 5, 2021
6PM
555 Forest Oaks Blvd., Spring Hill
Zoom
ID 8529525883
Password -intergroup

**District 13 Committee
Chairpersons**

Accessibility Committee
Ashley W.

Archives Committee
OPEN

Literature Committee
OPEN

PI/CPC Committee
Jim C.

Treatment Committee
Joe C.

Corrections Committee
Debby Q

Grapevine Committee
Jennean G.

Parliamentarian
Wendy S.

Communique Chairperson
Sue S

Question 2,

**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
Alternates needed for hotline,
please contact Johnny V

Current Where and When's now
available in the office.

**Group Donation
Addresses**

Group Treasurers:
Please send donations to
the following:

District 13 Treasurer
P.O. Box 10653
Brooksville, FL 34605
(please make checks
payable to District 13)

Hernando Intergroup
4116 Lamson Ave,
Spring Hill, 34608 (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 Eleven

“Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.”

Step 11 suggest prayer and meditation. We shouldn't be shy in this matter of prayer. Better men that we are using it constantly. It works, if we have the proper attitude and work at it. Step 11 is my continual reality check and compass. It keeps me grounded in the reality that I know has brought me out of my addictive behaviors. It keeps me in a safe place by keeping my conscious contact with God. Through prayer and meditation I maintain this conscious contact with God and continually try to carry what God leads me to do. In that path, I find the sanity, serenity and joy that I have been seeking.

Those of us who have come to make regular use of prayer would no more do without it than we would refuse air, food or sunshine, and for the same reason. When we refuse air, light or food the body suffers. And when we turn away from meditation and prayer, we likewise deprive our minds, our emotions and our intuitions of vitally needed support. As the body can fail its purpose for lack of nourishment, so can the soul. We all need the light of God's reality, the nourishment of His strength, and the atmosphere of His grace. To and amazing extent the fact of A.A. life confirm this ageless truth. Step 11 provides daily spiritual maintenance. As recovering persons, we may use our support groups and recovery literature as springboards toward spiritual and emotional growth. We will probably reach a level, through, at which we hunger for an even deeper contact and communication with God. If we have had little or no experience with prayer, we should probably begin in a simple fashion, that means putting aside perfectionistic concerns about praying “the right way” We should pray simply and forthrightly to God, not worrying about what we should and should not say.

Over time, as we become comfortable with God, we talk with Him as with a trusted friend. He will be the Person with whom we can conduct our daily inventories of grief and confession issues. And we will begin to sense His answers to our prayers..

When we first come to the Program, we usually express a lot of things which seem to be important wants and needs. As we grow spiritually and find out about a Power greater than ourselves, we begin to realize that as long as our spiritual needs are truly met, our living problems are reduced to a point of comfort. When we forget where our real strength lies, we quickly become subject to the same patterns of thinking and actions that got us to the Program in the first place. We eventually redefine our beliefs and understanding to the point where we see that our greatest need is for knowledge of God's will for us and the strength to carry that out. We are able to set aside some of our personal preference, if necessary, to do this because we learn that God's will consist of the very things we care most about. God's will for us becomes our own true will for ourselves. This happens in an intuitive manner which cannot be adequately explained in words .We become willing to let other people be what they are without having to pass judgement on them. The urgency to take care of things isn't there anymore. We couldn't comprehend acceptance in the beginning-now we can...

Answer 2, To show other alcoholics precisely how we have recovered. Pg xiii Big Book

Tradition Eleven

Providence has been looking after the public relations of Alcoholics Anonymous. It can scarcely have been otherwise. Though we are more than a dozen years old, hardly a syllable of criticism or ridicule has ever been spoken of A.A. Somehow we have been spared all the pains of medical or religious controversy and we have good friends both wet and dry, right and left. Like most societies, “we are sometimes scandalous” but never yet in public. From all over the world, naught comes but keen sympathy and downright admiration. Our friends of the press and radio have outdone themselves. Anyone can see that we are in a fair way to be spoiled. Our reputation is already so much better than our actual character! Surely these phenomenal blessings must have a deep purpose. Who doubts that this purpose wishes to let every alcoholic in the world know that AA is truly for him, can he only want his liberation enough. Hence, our messages through public channels have never been seriously discolored, nor has the searing breath of prejudice ever issued from anywhere. Good public relations are AA lifelines reaching out to the alcoholic who still does not know us. For years to come, our growth is sure to depend upon the strength and number of these lifelines. One serious public relations calamity could always turn thousands away from us to perish a matter of life and death indeed! The future poses no greater problem or challenge to AA than how best to preserve a friendly and vital relation to all the world about us. Success will rest heavily upon right principles, a wise vigilance, and the deepest personal responsibility on the part of every one of us. Nothing less will do. Else our brother may again turn his face to the wall because we did not care enough.

So the Eleventh Tradition stands sentinel over the lifelines, announcing that there is no need for self-praise, that it is better to let our friends recommend us, and that our whole public relations policy, contrary to usual customs, should be based upon the principle of attraction rather than promotion. Shot-in-the-arm methods are not for us no press agents, no promotional devices, no big names. The hazards are too great. Immediate results will always be illusive because easy shortcuts to notoriety can generate permanent and smothering liabilities. More and more, therefore, are we emphasizing the principle of personal anonymity as it applies to our public relations. We ask of each other the highest degree of personal responsibility in this respect. As a movement we have been, before now, tempted to exploit the names of our well-known public characters. We have rationalized that other societies, even the best, do the same. As individuals, we have sometimes believed that the public use of our names could demonstrate our personal courage in the face of stigma, so lending power and conviction to news stories and magazine articles. But these are not the allures they once were. Vividly, we are becoming aware that no member ought to describe himself in full view of the general public as an AA, even for the most worthy purpose, lest a perilous precedent be set which would tempt others to do likewise for purposes not so worthy. We see that on breaking anonymity by press, radio, or picture, any one of us could easily transfer the valuable name of Alcoholics Anonymous over onto any enterprise or into the midst of any controversy.

Bill W

Language of the Heart

DISTRICT CORNER

Women's Serenity GrFL. (C/D/W)
Weeks Wachee Comm.Ctr.
7442 Shoal Line Blvd. Sunday @ 10:30 am
 Weeks Wachee, Fl.

The Women's Serenity Group is a closed woman's Group with a large gathering. The meeting started with members introducing themselves, which sincerely personalized the meeting. The topic was "staying spirituality connected ". Do we forget to pray? Do we ask God for help to stay sober? Do we live a balanced life or are we on auto-pilot? These are some of the questions posed to the group. The responses were truly divinely inspired. We need to keep our balance in the program; prayer, meditation, gratitude and attendance to meetings were suggested. Keeping a routine in mind, we take the time to care for ourselves. If we take a sincere look at ourselves, we can develop awareness, balance, change and structure to live a daily sober life. Staying spirituality connected, we get a daily reprieve.

There was so much love and caring expressed in this meeting. Sincere and genuine, these women are strong, warm and welcoming. Don't miss out on this wonderful experience! They left me with this thought; "Don't forget the everyday little things that keep you sober" Do the steps, work the steps, live the steps!

In Service,
Eleanor B.
DCM District 13

Continued from Page 1

contact with a fellow alcoholic, find a meeting, develop a fellowship all because of our local volunteers that never let us down.

Gratitude for Mary T.'s service work and the efforts the Intergroup Committee ensured the hotline remained functioning is what this month should be about. This woman has met many new friends and remains sober in her new home. One month after her call to the hotline, Mary T. passed away. Gratitude is for all the guidance, leadership, A.A. history and knowledge and service work that Mary T. provided to each of us. I know we made her proud by keeping Hernando County A.A. open to all during this difficult time period. Gratitude is for people like our DCM and the other members of our District leadership who did not allow our community to fall apart, but kept us moving forward, kept the subcommittee's moving forward and, when it was safe, ensured that the Founder's Day Dinner occurred. Both District and Intergroup made sure that the Communique was published and contributors to the Communique continued to provide service work by contributing wise writings, notwithstanding the loss of a loved one.

Gratitude is for people who never stopped trying to keep A.A. alive within the prisons and jails. Their continued efforts resulted in A.A. meetings now being held in prisons and jails once again; where the message of hope can be shared with those who may have thought they were long ago forgotten. Gratitude is for people who kept our Unity Meetings going again, who waited until it was safer to gather people together and then made sure our Unity meetings began again so we could see one another and no longer isolate at home. Isolation is the one of the main killers of alcoholics and our Unity meeting gives us a chance to see one another and allow our fellowship to thrive. There are some who still cannot attend because of their own health, but those who lead the Unity meeting leadership continue to make sure that our Unity meetings occur each month and that our fellowship thrives. Gratitude is for people who showed up to Chair and lead the women's meeting, and still does, every Wednesday evening for the women's meeting outside, rain, or shine, to make sure women had an A.A. meeting to attend safely and so newcomers had a place to go to meet others and hear the experience, strength and hope shared only in meetings. If a newcomer had no place to go on a Wednesday evening and this particular woman did not continue to show up, only G-d knows how many would have went to a bar instead.

Gratitude is for a woman who shows up in her blue chair ever Saturday night, rain or shine, in the Intergroup parking lot to make sure there is a meeting where someone can go. Newcomers, old-timers, visitors can count on seeing someone holding a life preserver. This woman always has the back of her car full of books to hand out to newcomers who may need one. This woman sits in that chair every Saturday night, rain or shine, to make sure, whether 30 people show up or just a single newcomer appears, that a meeting is available, that a lifeline will be there.

The owners of the A Club, although not affiliated with AA, decided to keep the A Club open so that meetings could still occur, with proper safety measures in place. If the club had closed, a plethora of meetings would have disappeared, and old timer and newcomer alike would have nowhere to go to hear the message of A.A. and enjoy fellowship. In addition, gratitude is given to those who made sure our New Year's Eve marathon meeting was kept alive so people could go somewhere safe instead of to a party or bar and drink.

Gratitude is for people who paid for a and opened their own Zoom accounts to hold meetings in the event some simply could not attend meetings in person. Some may not like Zoom, but for those who could not leave their homes, our gratitude goes to those who paid out of their own pockets every month to zoom to make sure everyone had a place to go to connect with another alcoholic.

Gratitude is for aa women who tirelessly, daily posted on Facebook updates regarding every meeting that was open and when and where every meeting would occur. Notwithstanding the many devastating losses experienced by this women, she never stopped showing up to make sure all of knew there was a place to go to get help and stay sober together.

Continued on Page 5

GSR's share their favorites:

Gratitude Should Go Forward

"Gratitude should go forward, rather than backward".

"In other words, if you carry the message to still others, you will be making the best possible repayment for the help given to you".

No satisfaction has been deeper and no joy greater than in the Twelfth Step job well done. To watch the eyes of men and women open with wonder as they move from darkness into light, to see their lives quickly fill with new purpose and meaning, and above all to watch them awaken to the presence of a loving God in their lives— these things are the substance of what we receive as we carry A.A.'s message.

GRATITUDE Cont'

Gratitude is for a woman who learned that a Hernando County A.A. member was in desperate circumstances in deep relapse and reached out to A.A. contacts in New Port Richey, specifically a fellow AA woman who runs sober living homes and can get people into a detox even when there are no beds available. Gratitude is for that woman in New Port Richey who not only made sure that there would be a place for this desperate and dying member to stay that evening; but also made a special call to a detox where three nurses were waiting outside to welcome this person and save her life. There were no beds available, but this woman cared enough about another A.A. member in another town who she did not know to make sure the detox had a special place set up in the intake section of the unit, so someone at least had a chance to live one more day. Gratitude is for when our higher power uses us to serve one another no matter where we live. Gratitude is for the laughter that Kathleen C. always provided to each of us, especially at Founder's Day two years ago during our fashion show in one of her many extravagant outfits. What she left behind will never be forgotten and her laughter and positive attitude will always be a blessed gift she left with us.

Gratitude is for A.A. members who continued to show up at meetings, continued to give rides to other women to meetings, continued to sponsor and help other women while at the same time overcoming a near death experience with covid and the loss of her husband. This A.A. member refused to let go and stayed alive and sober to help others. She immediately went to meetings again, caring and giving members of Hernando County A.A. wise guidance.

Gratitude is for men who answer their phones and show up for anyone at any time, even at 2:00 a.m. in desperate situations if needed, to give another A.A. a ride home to safety. Some A.A. local men never stopped showing up to meetings, so others always knew the doors remained open.

These are only a small set of examples of the quiet efforts given on a daily basis by the people in our own community. That is what this Gratitude Month should be about. The Responsibility Pledge is alive and well in Hernando County and for that, I am grateful.

As Bill W. once said: "No satisfaction has been deeper and no joy greater than in a Twelfth Step job well done. To watch the eyes of men and women open with wonder as they move from darkness into light, to see their lives quickly fill with new purpose and meaning, and above all to watch them awaken to the presence of a loving "Higher Power" in their lives -- these things are the substance of what we receive as we carry A.A.'s message. (TWELVE AND TWELVE, pg. 110)

"The Unity of AA is the most cherished quality our Society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it. Without unity, the heart of A.A. would cease to beat; our world arteries would no longer carry the life-giving grace of G-d." (As Bill Sees It, pg. 125) Those mentioned in this article did ensure and continue to ensure that unity remains and that the heart of A.A. continues to beat in Hernando County. **For that. we are grateful.**

Answer 3: That we have had deep and effective spiritual experiences which have revolutionized our whole attitude toward life, toward our fellows, and towards Gods universe. Pg 25 Big Book

Intergroup Treasury Report

<u>Hernando County Intergroup</u>	<u>Checking</u>	
dad	9/30/2021	
Beginning Balance	\$	5,244.43
Cash Deposits	\$	1,398.23
Credit Cards	\$	61.12
Checks	\$	(968.78)
Withdrawals/Debits	\$	(167.96)
Interest	\$	-
Ending Balance	\$	5,505.92
	\$	5,505.92
	<u>Income</u>	
Group Contributions	\$	1,065.30
	<u>Sales</u>	
Office Sales	\$	336.20
Sales tax	\$	21.53
	<u>Other income</u>	
Archives rent	\$	-
District Copies	\$	-

Total Income	\$	1,423.03
	<u>Expenses</u>	
Rent	\$	(600.00)
Electric	\$	(70.00)
Hazelton Books	\$	(240.00)
Spectrum	\$	(167.96)
Office Supplies	\$	(57.98)
Upped cash jar at office by \$25.00	\$	(25.00)

Total Expenses	\$	(1,160.94)
Profits or Loss September 2021	\$	262.09
	<u>Savings</u>	
	\$	3,062.73
	\$	0.02
	\$	3,062.75

Gratitude Dinner

Saturday November 6th, 2021

Doors open 4pm
Event starts 5pm

*Guest Speaker
*Raffle
*Baskets

At the Jerome Brown Center
99 Jerome Brown Place, Brooksville, Florida 34601

Have your group donate a picnic basket!

Ideas: Spa, Lottery, Gift Cards, Electronics, Garden, Beach,
Pet supplies, Chocolate/Coffee lovers, cash..

Bring your basket to Gratitude Dinner

Trivia Corner

Find the answers somewhere in this
Communique.

- 1) What are the 3 things God wants us to be?
- 2) What is the purpose of A.A.'s Big Book?
- 3) What is the "Great fact and nothing less"?
- 4) At certain times the alcoholic has no effective mental defense against that 1st drink, where must his defense come from?
- 5) What do we never apologize to anyone for?

Hernando County Intergroup Annual Christmas Party



Saturday December 18th
First United Methodist Church
109 South Broad St.
Brooksville, Fl.

Doors open at 2:30
Food at 3:30

DJ and Karaoke with Richie Hodge from 4-7:30
Pot luck- Bring a covered dish or dessert
Kids are welcome!!!!



November Anniversaries

GROUP ANNIVERSARIES

Aripeka Big Book	39
Living Sober	24
Ridge Manor Big Book	18
There is a Solution	13

MEMBERS ANNIVERSARIES

A Desire Group

Britni W.	3
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All Good Group

Mike M	3
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Aripeka Open Speaker

Hernando Beach Group

Marion	35
Vi	43
Nancy E	33
Kathleen L	31
Jim S	33

Singleness of Purpose

Jim F	3
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Sunday Women's Serenity

Luanne	17
Vi	43

Promises

Jerry J	41
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Hope Group

Tom C	47
Larry	19
Michael D	4

Answer 1, Happy, Joyous and Free Pg 103 Big Book

Let Go Let God

Amy B.	31
Amy R.	4
Tony	1

Principles B4 Personalities

Amy B	31
Amy R	4
Bonnie A	13

Ridge Manor Big Book

Rough Roads

Marian J	35
Elizabeth	38
Eric J	2

Serenity Sisters

Melanie W	27
Meaghan M	12
Maggie C	11
Dianne K	6
Sherry S	4
Kren L	4

Singleness of Purpose

Steve D	41
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Spring Hill Monday Night

Bob B	4
John F	42

Southern State Service Assembly

Will be virtual 11/19-11/21

For more Information

www.ssaasa6.com

Or aanorthflorida.org

Intergroup will be holding election in November, Please come and be of service..Nov 5, 2021 @ 6:30

The Birthday Plan

Contributions to the General Service Office support G.S.O.'s service to members and groups throughout Canada and the U.S. and help ensure that the A.A. message is carried around the world. The services that G.S.O. provides the A.A. groups cost more than \$6 per member contributes a year. Members customarily \$1, \$2, or even \$5 a year for each year of sobriety- others may give a penny or a nickel a day for each day of their sobriety. (reprint from www.aa.org)

*The General Service Office
P.O.Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163-0459*

Unity Meeting

Saturday

Nov 13, 2021

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

Nativity

*Lutheran Church
6363 Commercial Way,
Weeki Wachee, Fl.*

The November host will be Lunch Bunch

Answer 4, It must come from a Higher Power. Pg 43 Big Book

If you find a mistake in this newsletter you are the perfect person to join our committee, we would love to have you join us.