



# The Today



July  
2011

Palm Beach County Intergroup Association

1371 Okeechobee Road West Palm Beach, FL 33401 561-655-5700 Fax 561-655-6441  
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## The 7th Tradition Where Money & Spirituality Mix

EXPOSED

*“The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.”—Tradition Seven (long form)*

With the realization that A.A. must steer clear of outside contributions in order to maintain its autonomy and independence came the understanding that the money necessary for A.A.’s survival would have to come from individual A.A. members and groups. As Bill W. put it in 1957, “Our spiritual way of life is safe for future generations if, as a Society, we resist the temptation to receive money from the outside world. But this leaves us with a responsibility — one that every member ought to understand. We cannot skimp when the treasurer of our group passes the hat. Our groups, our areas, and A.A. as a whole will not function unless our services are sufficient and their bills are paid.



“When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts, we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat we give a token that we are grateful for our blessings and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer.” (*The Language of the Heart*, p. 221) The paradox of A.A. is that financial independence and the support of our Fellowship by alcoholics and alcoholics alone, not only enhances A.A.’s

importance to each of us, but stimulates our engagement in our own recovery . . . A.A. is ‘our thing,’ from our group’s treasury to the balance sheets at the General Service Office. Now that we are sober in A.A., the word ‘support’ has to do with sharing, people, self-respect, gratitude, and what we are privileged to give — not take — in material terms. While the Fellowship has always faced problems of money, property, and prestige in one form or another, through the wisdom of the Seventh Tradition we have never been diverted from our primary purpose of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers — wherever he or she may be. This is the fundamental work of Alcoholics Anonymous, and to ensure that the hand of A.A. will always remain outstretched, money and spirituality must continue to mix. And for that, we are all responsible. - Reprinted with permission of AAWS F-3

### Minutes to be Removed from the Today

Starting with the September issue of the Today, the Intergroup Business Meeting minutes will no longer be printed in the Today. Minutes will be e-mailed to each group rep. and posted with the on-line Today edition.

### ◆ BRIDGING THE GAP ◆

#### A TEMPORARY CONTACT PROGRAM

If you are in a correctional/treatment facility, give us a call. Getting back into “real world” is not always easy for the alcoholic. Many of us had not been sober on the outside for a long time, and we admitted that the first days out were a little frightening. Sometimes, we did not know if we would stay sober. Even new members of A.A. usually know that they cannot make it alone. The dilemma for some of us was that we were not sure we could make it in A.A. either. We said things like, “Where will I find a meeting I can be comfortable in?” or “I will be able to trust?” It was tempting to give in to “I won’t fit in”, or “I’m too different.” Lots of alcoholics think like this; **WE DID**. To begin contact and request help from A.A. volunteers, call the Intergroup Office or email Bridging the Gap Coordinator at: [bridgethegap@aa-palmbeachcounty.org](mailto:bridgethegap@aa-palmbeachcounty.org)

## INTERGROUP MEETING

Intergroup Meeting June 8th, 2011

**Call to Order:** 6:21pm

**Number in Attendance:** 39

**Serenity Prayer**

**Read 12 Traditions**

**Declaration of Unity:** This we owe A.A.'s future: To place our common welfare first; to keep our fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives; and the lives of those to come.

**Chairperson's Report:** Steve Y. : No report given

**Welcome New Representatives:** Barry B./?, Diane/After Hours Group; Linda/ Lantana Group; John C./ Day's End Group; Christy/ Just for Today Group; Chris B./ Back to Basics Group.

**Vice Chair's Report:** Leroy H.: Our Founder's Day Picnic will be held Saturday, June 25, 2011.

**Treasurer's Report:** Henry M.: Our monthly revenue for May, 2011, was \$10,950.18 with expenses being \$8,663.30, resulting in a monthly surplus of \$2,286.88. Our Group Contributions were \$5,315.16 an absolutely terrific amount, which accounts for nearly half of our total revenue for the month. The Operating Account balance stood at \$4,525.72 as of May 31, 2011. We transferred \$2000.00 into the Prudent Reserve bringing that balance up to \$18,543.68 which is below the required balance of \$22,200.00 by \$3,656.32. Our expenses were routine with exception of \$807.10 paid out for the upcoming Founder's Day Picnic. Thanks to all for your continued support. Yours in Service, Henry M.

**Baskets Passed in accordance with the 7th Tradition.**

**Secretary's Report:** Claudia D: Accepted as posted in the Today.

**Registrar:** Gary B.: The days of our sign-in sheet for our monthly meetings have come to an end. Today, you were handed a Data Management Registration Form. This will serve as the foundation of Palm Beach County Intergroup's initial data base. Next month, when you arrive for the meeting you will see the database. Please locate your group and verify that the information is accurate. If said information is correct, initial by your name to signify your attendance at the meeting. If the information is not correct, please draw a line through the inaccurate information, and fill out another Data Management Form so I can correct the information. You should receive the agenda and minutes of today's meeting in about 10 days. If you do not receive this, please call Ed at the Intergroup office. He will then notify me and I'll get you the minutes. Please be patient as this process develops so we can serve all of you and your group as effectively as possible. Thank You for the opportunity to serve. In Love & Service, Gary B.

**Office Manager's Report:** Ed B.: The total Office activity for the month of May was 627 compared to 522 last year. There was large increase in the number of emails we received, due to an increased use of the Internet for meeting requests, changes in Group information, requests for information on Intergroup activities, etc. The Website activity was 2,267 compared to 2,107 last year. Since our Treasury has been steadily improving, and we can take advantage of quantity discounts, we have reduced the price on the following: "Big Books," (HC) \$9.00; "Big Books," (SC) \$8.50; "12&12," (HC) \$8.50; "12&12," (SC) \$8.00; "Came to Believe," \$4.50; "Living Sober," \$4.50. In the coming months we will continue to look for ways of reducing expenses, and ways to further reduce the cost of literature. We currently have a full staff of Office Volunteers, but we can always use back up volunteers. The Intergroup Office will be closed Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup> for Independence Day. The Intergroup Office hours are Monday to Friday, 9 AM – 5 PM and Saturday 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM. In love & service, Ed.

**General Service/ Intergroup Liaison:** Matt J.: The General Service Representative meeting for May was held at the Triangle Club on Sunday, May 15th, 2011 at 5:00 pm. The meeting began with G.S.R. sharing at 5:00pm and the business meeting began at 5:45pm. Reports were given by the officers and committee chairpersons. With sadness, it was announced that Joni E., our delegate to the General Service, conference had passed away. A memorial service for her is being planned. Kathy G., the alternate delegate, attended the General Service Conference. The Delegate's report and luncheon will be held at the Triangle Club on June 12<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-5:00 pm. The year to date income for General Service is \$8,292.84. Contributions of \$1,702.04 were made to both G.S.O. and Area 15. A motion was made and passed to provide \$1,000.00 in additional funding for the Founder's Day Dinner and Delegate's Report. A motion was made and passed to create a line item in the budget to provide an A. S. L. interpreter at \$55.00 per meeting for one meeting per week, to be decided by the deaf AA members of District 8. The cost is not to exceed \$1,500.00. Every group is urged to send a representative to the G. S. R. meeting on the second Sunday of each month. It is held at the Triangle Club at 5:00. Any AA member who wishes to receive the complete minutes of the meeting may do so by contacting the registrar at [area5district8@gmail.com](mailto:area5district8@gmail.com). In love and service, Matt J.

**South County Intergroup Liaison:** Roger B.: Chair called the meeting to order with the Serenity Prayer and new Group Reps were introduced. Vice chair deferred report. Treasurer reported that Group donations were down for the month. Secretary had no report. Office Manager reported that she will be taking vacation soon and that her assistant and volunteers were ready to fill in. Archives committee reported the next workshop will be sometime in August. BTG reported two calls this month. GS Liaison reported the next quarterly will be at the Doral on 7-15-7/17. H & I reported that all their commitments are filled. Telephone relay reported that all commitments for the year are covered. 12<sup>th</sup> Step committee reported that they will be conducting a 12<sup>th</sup> Step workshop at Central House on Aug. 6 from 2 to 4 PM. New Where & Whens will be going to the printer shortly. Picnic committee gave final report and thanked all that helped. Under Old Business, a chair was found for the Serenity Scramble golf event and a committee was formed. Date upcoming. Under New Business, the new by-laws were passed unanimously. Also, Bowling for Big Books event will be on 6/4 from 6:30 PM to 10:00 PM: unlimited pizza. Meeting adjourned.

**District 8 Archives Liaison:** Nick F. : I attended the 2nd quarter Archives Workshop Sat., May 11, 2011. I inventoried material from the Lake Worth Serenity Group. Bill H., thank you. I restored the audio/visual equipment with presentation from the 1970's. It was displayed at the General Service Founder's Day dinner on June 4, 2011. Thank you Archivist, Claudia M.. I will attend the next quarterly Archives workshop Saturday, August 20, 2011 (10am at South County Intergroup). This area's archivist and two liaisons have been invited to the state convention. Anyone interested in contributing archive material, please drop off at the Intergroup office during business hours. Love & Service, Nick F.

### **Committee Reports:**

**1. Public Information:** Martina R.: I would like to thank John C., who has stepped up to take over the chair position of Public Information. Thank you to Bob C., district P.I. Chair, for attending the Intergroup meeting to keep us informed of current P.I. events in the district. Thank you all for allowing me to serve this position. In love & service, Martina R.

**2. 12 Step List:** Nancy J.: There are 7 new volunteers for the 12<sup>th</sup> step list: 4 women and 3 men.

**3. Website Committee:** Trish D. : Trish D.: The following changes/updates were made to the Palm Beach County Intergroup Website: The updated meeting list was posted to the website as of May 16th. The online version of the meeting list is now the same as the printed version of the Where & When. Archived the Today newsletter prior to January 2010 to a new webpage. Created two email aliases: 1) [registrar@aa-palmbeachcounty.org](mailto:registrar@aa-palmbeachcounty.org) for Gary B. and 2) [alternatechair@aa-palmbeachcounty.org](mailto:alternatechair@aa-palmbeachcounty.org) for Leroy H. Posted the 2 motions to the website. Posted a blank downloadable Motion .form to the website in Word format. Backed up website files.

**5. Today:** Alex A.: The Today is growing. We updated the Logo, and have added the 'Tomorrow' section to inform members of upcoming service events. We are seeking both Groups' and Members' suggestions in making the Today the voice of our Association. Please submit any ideas, suggestions, and Group Events to the Today at, [Today@aa-palmbeachcounty.org](mailto:Today@aa-palmbeachcounty.org). In Love and Service, Alex A.

**6. B-day Club/Today Subscription:** Dennis C: All is going well. Pat, Alex and Ed are helping and promoting the Today.

**7. Group Contact Committee:** Robert C: No Report.

**8. Bridging the Gap:** Frank S.: No Report.

**9. Where and When Committee:** Meredith: As of 06/07/2011, we had 620 Third Edition Where and When's. We will need all changes put on the group information forms. Please forward any changes to the Intergroup office or the website. Thank you.

**10. Institutions:** Katie: Your Institutions Committee currently brings 96 meetings a week to 36 facilities. We had 18 new volunteers this month. There are still plenty of opportunities for all interested in the rewarding service work. Plan to attend our regular meeting at the Triangle Club on Sunday, July 03. Orientation for new members at 4:30pm followed by the full committee meeting at 5:00pm. New volunteers need to have six months of continuous sobriety and will observe 2 meetings in facilities prior to active service. Hope to see you in July, Katie C.

**Unfinished Business:** Open committee chair position – PUBLIC INFORMATION. Open committee position – (1) ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER Motion made to suspend the rules for Public Information Chair. Motion seconded and passed. John C. elected as the new PUBLIC INFORMATION committee chair elect. Meredith elected as the new ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER committee chair elect.

**New Business:** Bob: P.I. Chair for the district P.I. and C.P.C. announced that AA has been invited to the Wellness and Detention center in 2 weeks, starts at 8am-3pm. 2 motions to be discussed. Trish D. made a motion to request \$250.00 for software updates in order to improve our Intergroup website. Motion seconded. Motion called to a vote: 30 in favor; 0 opposed. Motion passes. Meredith made a motion to allow Intergroup \$500 in a petty cash fund to use as operating expenses for particular needs as required to do business. This will allow Intergroup to conduct business in a expedient and efficient way. Henry called a POINT OF ORDER: Motion would alter Bylaws and needs 3 supporting groups to be submitted. Meredith withdrew his motion and will rewrite said motion.

**Meeting adjourned at 7pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.**

**Palm Beach County Intergroup**  
Operating Report – 6/01/2011 - 6/30/2011

**Revenues:**

Literature Sales	\$3,738.39
Sales Tax	\$223.35
Tax Exempt Sales	\$200.00
Group Contributions	\$2,540.73
Picnic Tickets	\$1,360.0
Picnic Beverage Sales	\$313.00
Picnic 50/50 Raffle	\$73.00
Today Subscriptions	\$0.00
Birthday Club Memberships	\$66.20
Meeting Basket	\$40.50

**Total Revenues: \$8,555.17**

**Expenses:**

Literature Purchases	\$3,171.32
Sales Tax	\$231.05
Picnic Expenses	\$1,137.05
Picnic Trophies	\$95.40
Computer Software	\$208.95
Office Salary	\$2,461.52
FICA & Unemployment Tax	\$188.31
Paychex (monthly fee)	\$69.00
Rent & Water	\$475.00
AT&T (Internet, Phone, Website)	\$308.69
FP&L	\$126.86
Exterminating	\$35.00
Printing	\$158.00
Office Supplies / Postage	\$240.50

**Total Expenses \$8,906.65**

**Monthly Surplus / (Deficit) (\$351.48)**

**Checking Account Balance \$4,174.24**

Prudent Reserve Interest	0.77
Transferred to Prudent Reserve	\$0.00

**Prudent Reserve Balance \$18,544.45**

**Palm Beach County Institutions Committee**  
Operating Report 06/01/2011—06/30/2011

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$10,675.38</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
<b>Group Contributions</b>	
After Hours Group	\$692.91
Men's Tell It Like It Is Group	\$792.63
Days End Group	\$90.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,575.54</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Where & When	\$0.00
Literature Reimbursement	\$80.61
Big Books	\$0.00
Printing	\$22.26
Rent	\$60.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$140.61</b>
<b>Monthly Profit/Loss</b>	<b>\$1,434.93</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$12,110.31</b>

**Help Wanted**

The Today wants your help in better serving our Groups and Members. What items or articles would you like to see? Are there items or articles you don't feel we need? Please email your suggestions to: **Today@aa-palmbeachcounty.org** Or mail your suggestions to the Intergroup Office, Attn: Today Editor, 1371 Okeechobee Rd, West Palm Beach, FL 33401



*Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the Founders Day Picnic. Congratulations to Monday Night Men's Group; Winner of the Volleyball Tournament.*

**Tomorrow**

**July 15th - 17th:** Area 15 Quarterly @ Doral, Miami. Hosted by District 10

**July 20th - 24th:** Florida State Convention in Orlando. For info: [www.55.flstateconvention.com](http://www.55.flstateconvention.com)

**August 3rd:** Intergroup Committee Chair Meeting 6:15pm @ Intergroup Office—All Are Welcome to attend.

**August 7th:** Institutions Committee Meeting @ Triangle Club (4:30pm - Orientation) 5:30pm Committee Meeting.

**August 10th:** Intergroup Business Meeting 6:15pm @ Intergroup Office.

**August 14th:** General Service, District 8 Meeting 5:00pm @ Triangle Club.

**August 19th - 21st:** Sunset Round Up in Key West. For Info: [www.sunsetroundup.com](http://www.sunsetroundup.com)

**August 20th: District 8 Archives Workshop.** @ South Palm Beach Intergroup. 10am to Noon. Call 561- 276-4581 for more info.

**August 26th - 28th:** 16th Annual SE Region Woman to Woman Seminar in Naples. For info: [www.sewomantowoman.org](http://www.sewomantowoman.org)

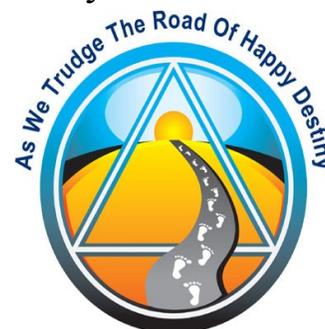
**Office Activity in June**

- 12 Step Requests – 9
- Other information - 38
- Institutions – 0
- Request for meeting info – 164
- Public Information – 3
- Visitors – 212
- AA Emails – 222
  - **Total Activity - 648**

**Website Visits in June**

- 1st time visits – 1747
- Return visits — 449
- **Total Visitors — 2196**

July 20th - 24th



**55th Florida State Convention**

[www.55.flstateconvention.com](http://www.55.flstateconvention.com)

**\* Step 7 :**

Humbly asked Him to remove  
our short comings.

**JOIN THE BIRTHDAY CLUB!**

Celebrate your years of recovery by giving a little  
something back!

You get:

Bill & Bob Medallion, Birthday Flyer , and

Name in the TODAY newsletter.\*

Complete this form and mail to:

Birthday Club, 1371 Okeechobee Road, WPB FL 33401

Or email us at: pbciaa@bellsouth.net.

**\$1 per year of sobriety is the suggested donation.**  
(Feel free to give more!)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Email : \_\_\_\_\_

Home Group : \_\_\_\_\_

Sobriety Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Phone # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* Deadline for new submissions for Today printing is  
the last Wednesday 1 month prior to sobriety month.



**BIRTHDAY CLUB**

**★ July Celebrants ★**

Jane N.	34 Years	Robert K.	31 Years
Colleen M.	27 Years	Patricia F.	17 Years
Karen P.	4 Years	Karen C.	3 Years

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**\* Tradition 7:**

**Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting,  
declining outside contributions.**

1. Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a barroom?
2. Should the Grapevine sell advertising space to book publishers and drug companies, so it could make a big profit and become a bigger magazine, in full color, at a cheaper price per copy?
3. If GSO runs short of funds some year, wouldn't it be okay to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?
4. Is it more important to get a big AA collection from a few people, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?
5. Is a group treasurer's report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?
6. How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect, rather than the feeling of being always under obligation for charity received?

**\* Concept 7 :**

**The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.**

- Do we act responsibly regarding the "power of the purse?"
- Do we realize that the practical and spiritual power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the G.S.B.?

*In Loving Memory*

With gratitude, we remember and celebrate the lives and sobriety of those we were blessed to have met as we trudge the road of happy destiny.

**Inge G.      Sean W.      Danny H.**



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