



The Today



June
2011

Palm Beach County Intergroup Association

1371 Okeechobee Road West Palm Beach, FL 33401 561-655-5700 Fax 561-655-6441
www.aa-palmbeachcounty.org Email: pbcia@bellsouth.net

FOUNDERS DAY PICNIC



Kids Bounce House



**Volleyball
Tournament**
Sign up your Home Group

June 25th
Carlin Park, Jupiter
11 am—6pm



Bring your Family and Friends for Fun, Food, and Fellowship

\$10.00 Contribution (Kids under 10 FREE)

For Tickets or Information - Call Intergroup @ 561-655-5700

Go to Indiantown Rd East to A1A South—Follow Signs to Sea Oats & Gumbo Pavilions



Help Wanted

The Today wants your help is 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

July 20th - 24th



55th Florida State Convention

www.55.flstateconvention.com

Is your Group Registered?

Intergroup now has a Registrar who will email your group representative the current Minutes, Agenda, and Motions.

Please contact the Intergroup Registrar at Registrar@aa-palmbeachcounty.org

◆ 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

INTERGROUP MEETING
Intergroup Meeting May 11th, 2011

Call to Order: 6:17

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. : We would like to thank Alex A. for his service to Intergroup during the past year and a half. Also, we still have 3 service positions left to fill and will be conducting elections for those positions in accordance with the Bylaws and Third Legacy.

Welcome New Representatives: Eddie - Lake Worth Young People's Meeting, Anthony - Patience, Love & Tolerance Group, Matt - Day Openers, and Wes - Fern Street

Vice Chair's Report: Leroy H.: Our Annual Founders Day Picnic will be held at Carlin Park in Jupiter. Tickets are \$10 and we have them available tonight for Group Reps. We will be needing service volunteers. If you would like to help out, please contact the Intergroup Office.

Treasurer's Report: Henry M.: Our monthly revenue for April 2011 was \$12,538.95 and expenses were \$9,295.73 leaving us with a surplus of \$3,243.22. Our Checking Account balance was \$4,238.84 as of April 30, 2011. We were able to transfer \$3,000.00 into our Prudent Reserve Account bringing that balance up to \$16,543.15 of which \$00.51 was interest. We are still below our \$22,200.00 required balance by \$5,656.85 at this time. Our Annual Old-timers Spaghetti Dinner was a great success, providing food, fun, and fellowship for nearly 500 alcoholics in attendance. Revenues from that event were \$5,307.00 with expenses being \$2,186.88 providing a surplus of \$3,120.12. This surplus was still possible even though the ticket price was \$2.00 lower than last year. These figures were combined between March and April 2011 as the dinner was held in early April this year as opposed to the usual late March date. We would like to thank all who supported the event either through service and or attendance. Our revenue in April 2010 was \$7,680.72 with expenses being \$8,381.33 leaving us with a deficit of (\$700.61) at that time. Our Checking Account balance was \$4,273.60 and our Prudent Reserve Account balance stood at \$2000.22 which was roughly \$22,000.00 below the \$24,000.00 required balance in April 2010. Our revenue for Fiscal 2010-2011 (May 2010-April 2011) was \$113,972.02 and our expenses were \$99,035.56 resulting in a surplus of \$14,936.46. Through continued prudence and service we are beginning to realize that the recovery our office needed is well underway. We would like to thank all of our groups and members for helping us to get through the difficulties we have endured and overcome in the past year. Yours In Service, Henry M.

Pass Baskets

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

Office Manager's Report: Ed B.: The total Office activity for the month of April was 635 compared to 561 last year. We had a surge of email activity, because we were updating the "Where & When's." The new meeting lists will be available this Monday. The Website activity was 2,023 compared to 2,117 last year. As you heard in the Treasurer's Report the financials look great. We transferred another \$3,000.00 to Prudent Reserve Account. Office activity has been more or less consistent from month to month. The surplus from the Spaghetti Dinner was \$3,120.12, but we just received another \$70.00 in ticket money which makes the surplus \$3,190.12. We currently have all of the Office Volunteers positions filled, but we can always use back up volunteers. The Intergroup Office will be closed Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial 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 B.

General Service/ Intergroup Liaison: Matt J.: No report available.

South County Intergroup Liaison: Roger B.: Sheryl (chair) opened the meeting with the serenity prayer. Liz (Vice-Chair) reported the new bylaws had been handed out to the groups and will be voted on at next months meeting. The treasurers report is available in the SCAAN newsletter. Pam (Office Mgr) announced that the 27th annual Intergroup picnic would be Sunday May 1. Archives Chair reported all SCAANs from 1984 to present have been cataloged and are on the website. BTG reported the draft of the new letter for treatment facilities will be ready next month. H&I needs more women volunteers. Telephone Relay needs Group volunteers for August and December. Fundraiser Committee needs a Chair for the Serenity Scramble golf event in October. There were no motions to start an Intergroup Inventory under Old Business. Meeting adjourned.

District 8 Archives Liaison: Nick F. : The Archives Committee will be meeting at the Intergroup Office on May 20th from 2pm to 4pm, all are welcome to attend.

Committee Reports:

1. Public Information: Martina R.: Nothing to report. I am willing to stay on in service until someone else would like to serve.

2. 12 Step List: Nancy J.: Nothing to report

3. Website Committee: Trish D. : updated the following items on the website: committee contacts email aliases, added the most recent Today and archived all Today's prior to Jan 2010. I also updated Meeting List and it will be posted on the website within a few days of the intergroup meeting.

4. Phone Volunteer: Luiz C: There have been some changes on the volunteers, but all the shifts are covered. Again I would like to thank all the volunteers that make it possible for this important service to be available for those who reach out for it. If interested in helping please contact me at: scimitar2127@hotmail.com (put "phones" on the subject, please).

5. Today: (open) : In the absence of an editor, Alex A. has completed the May edition of the Today in service to Intergroup.

6. B-day Club/Today Subscription: Dennis C: I am working on some new ideas for the Birthday Club and will present them when completed. I will be setting up a table at the Intergroup picnic to encourage members to join.

7. Group Contact Committee: Robert C: Not Present.

8. Bridging the Gap: Frank S.: There were six bridges out of the area in the month of May. There were many who requested bridges in the month of May that will be discharged sometime in June. Those people are not included in this count. Bridging The Gap is in need of phone numbers and names of people who are willing to call, meet, and possibly give rides to people who are just getting out of treatment and wish to attend an AA meeting. If you can help in this regard please send your information to the new BTG chair Frank S. at Intergroup. Thank you for allowing me to serve Ashley N.

9. Where and When Committee: Meredith: We will be going into our third printing soon. Please have any corrections or changes sent to Intergroup via email so we can get any changes in before printing.

10. Institutions: Katie: Your Institutions Committee currently brings 96 meetings a week to 36 facilities. There are still plenty of opportunities for all interested in this rewarding service work. Plan to attend our regular meeting at the Triangle Club on Sunday, June 5th: orientation for new members at 4:30 pm 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.

Unfinished Business: Elections for Registrar - Gary B, Elections for Today Editor - Alex A., Elections for Public Information - all declined to stand.

New Business: none

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

Palm Beach County Intergroup
 Operating Report – 5/01/2011 - 5/31/2011

Revenues:	
Literature Sales	\$3,949.42
Sales Tax	\$259.53
Tax Exempt Sales	\$111.50
Group Contributions	\$5,315.16
Picnic Tickets	\$700.00
Today Subscriptions	\$12.00
Birthday Club Memberships	\$187.00
Meeting Basket	\$37.00
Florida Roundup	\$378.57
Total Revenues:	\$10,950.18
Expenses:	
Literature Purchases	\$3,669.65
Sales Tax	\$266.30
Picnic Deposit & Fees	\$591.50
Picnic Insurance	\$215.60
Gift Certificates Used	\$15.00
Office Salary	\$2,461.52
FICA & Unemployment Tax	\$75.21
Paychex (monthly fee)	\$59.00
Rent & Water	\$475.00
AT&T (Internet, Phone, Website)	\$322.11
FP&L	\$124.79
Exterminating	\$35.00
Printing	\$244.00
Office Supplies / Postage	\$108.62
Total Expenses	\$8,663.30
Monthly Surplus / (Deficit)	\$2,286.88
Checking Account Balance	\$4,525.72
Prudent Reserve Interest	0.58
Transferred to Prudent Reserve	\$2,000.00
Prudent Reserve Balance	\$18,543.68

Office Activity in May

- 12 Step Requests – 4
- Other program info - 35
- Institutions – 0
- Request for meeting info – 172
- Public Information – 7
- Visitors – 213
- AA Emails – 196
 - Total Activity - 627

Website Visits in May

- 1st time visits – 1825
- Return visits — 442
- Total Visitors — 2267

INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE
 Operating Report 5/1/11 - 5/31/11

Beginning Balance	\$9,187.30
Income:	
Group Contributions	
Each Day A New Beginning	\$24.00
Love Faith & Life	\$5.00
Free Spirited Women	\$95.00
Sobriety & Thunder	\$18.33
Sweet Serenity Group	\$15.00
Bank Adjustment	\$1,513.01
Total Income	\$1,670.34
Expenses:	
Where & When	\$100.00
Bank Charge	\$0.00
Big Books	\$0.00
Printing	\$22.26
Rent	\$60.00
Total Expenses	\$182.26
Monthly Profit/Loss	\$1,645.41
Ending Balance	\$10,675.38

76 Years Ago

A seemingly unplanned meeting in Akron, Ohio in 1935 between two men, both of whom were termed "hopeless" alcoholics, began a program of recovery that has helped millions find sobriety and serenity.

Bill W. was one of those men. In fighting his own battle against drinking, he had already learned that helping other alcoholics was the key to maintaining his own sobriety, the principle that would later become step twelve in the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.

A stock broker from New York, Bill W. had traveled to Akron, Ohio on May 12, 1935 for a shareholders' meeting and proxy fight, which did not turn out his way. Fighting desperately to maintain his sobriety, his immediate reaction was, "I've got to find another alcoholic."

A few inquiries lead him to a meeting with an Akron surgeon, forever to be remembered simply as "Dr. Bob," who had struggled for years with his own drinking problem.

The effect the meeting had on Dr. Bob was immediate, as he tells it in his own words and soon he too put down the bottle (June 10, 1935), never to pick it up again. The bond formed between the two men would grow into a movement that would literally affect the lives of millions.

Starting in an upstairs room at Dr. Bob's home at 855 Ardmore Avenue, in Akron, the two men began helping alcoholics one person at a time.

In took four years to get the first 100 alcoholics sober in the first three groups that formed in Akron, New York, and Cleveland. But after the publication in 1939 of the group's "Big Book" Alcoholics Anonymous, and the publication of a series of articles about the group in the "Cleveland Plain Dealer," the development of A.A. was rapid. Membership in the Cleveland group soon grew to 500.

The response was so overwhelming, the group found itself sending out members, who had only a short time in the program themselves, to work with other new members.

Tomorrow

June 12th: Delegate's Report & Luncheon 2:00pm - 5:00pm @ Triangle Club. Hosted By District 8

June 12th: General Service, District 8 Meeting 5:00pm @ Triangle Club.

June 25th: Intergroups' Annual Founders Day Picnic 11am-6pm @ Carlin Park, Jupiter, Contact Intergroup for more details. 655-5700

July 3rd: Institutions Committee Meeting @ Triangle Club (4:30pm - Orientation) 5:30pm Committee Meeting.

July 4th: Intergroup Office CLOSED due to Holiday.

July 6th: Intergroup Committee Chair Meeting 6:15pm @ Intergroup Office—All Are Welcome to attend.

July 10th: General Service, District 8 Meeting 5:00pm @ Triangle Club.

July 13th: Intergroup Business Meeting 6:15pm @ Intergroup Office.

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

This was a key point in the development of A.A. For the first time, the founders learned that recovery was something that could be "mass produced" and was not limited to the ground that they themselves could cover.

After a dinner in New York in 1940, given by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., to publicize the group, membership soon grew to 2,000. An article in the *Saturday Evening Post* in 1941 resulted in another growth period and membership in the United States and Canada rose to 6,000.

By 1951, Alcoholics Anonymous had helped more than 100,000 people recover from alcoholism and by 1973 more than one million copies of The Big Book had been distributed. Since that time the fellowship has continued to grow and has become worldwide. A number for Alcoholics Anonymous can be found in the white pages of virtually every local telephone directory.

Dr. Bob died Nov. 16, 1950 and Bill W. passed on Jan. 24, 1971, but the legacy they left behind continues to touch the lives of millions.

*** Step 6 :**

Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

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: \$ _____



BIRTHDAY CLUB

★ June Celebrants ★

Lee B.	28 Years	Phil O.	20 Years
Charlie O.	15 Years	Robert N.	8 Years
Karen L.	4 Years	Connie Y.	2 Years

Our Apologies - We failed to list Mary D. in May with 26 Years

Subscribe to Today!

\$6.00 per year

12 issues mailed directly to you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail to:

Palm Beach County Intergroup Association

1371 Okeechobee Rd, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

*** Tradition 6:**

An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

1. Should my fellow group members and I go out and raise money to endow several AA beds in our local hospital?
2. Is it good for a group to lease a small building?
3. Are all the officers and members of our local club for AAs familiar with "Guidelines on Clubs" (which is available free from GSO)?
4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor's advisory committee on alcoholism?
5. Some alcoholics will stay around AA only if we have a TV and card room. If this is what is required to carry the message to them, should we have these facilities?

*** Concept 6 :**

The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

- Are we familiar with how our General Service Board (G.S.B.) Class A and Class B trustees serve A.A.? Are we familiar with how our other trusted servants serve A.A.?
- Are we clear about the terms, "chief initiative" and "active responsibility"? Can we see a direct link to our home group?



Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.