

The Today

Palm Beach County Intergroup Association



*April
2012*

To serve our associated groups in carrying the A.A. message to the still suffering alcoholic according to the principles of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of A.A., always remembering that our common welfare comes first.

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

General Service District 8



Founders' Day Dinner

Saturday June 16, 2012

Finland House

301 Finlandia Blvd. Lantana, FL

Dinner tickets \$10

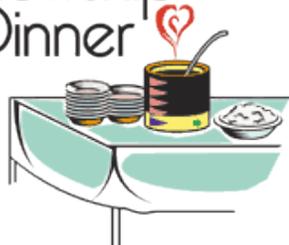
Meeting is Free



Open: 6pm, Dinner 7pm,

Speaker 8pm

Fellowship
Dinner



Tickets are available through groups' GSR &
at the PBC Intergroup Office

Please bring a desert to share.

'My name is... and I'm an alcoholic'

It's a phrase heard in A.A. meetings around the world. But where does it come from? Why do we say it? And should we keep doing so? Surely, identification is an important concept in A.A. In fact, it could be considered the keystone of the program's entire philosophy: one alcoholic helping another. Yet, as a Fellowship with lots of suggestions, but no official "rules," must a person declare, as many do when introducing themselves at meetings, that he or she is an alcoholic?

In A.A.'s formative years, cofounder Bill W. struggled with this question and often wrote about the dilemma facing newcomers as they grappled with their disease, often for the first time and often in a relatively "public" way at A.A. meetings.

Bill wrote convincingly about allowing the newcomer as much freedom as possible in deciding just how and when he or she might identify as an alcoholic, noting in a 1946 essay written for the Grapevine, titled "Who Is a Member of Alcoholics Anonymous?" — an article which later formed the foundation of Tradition Three: "That is why we judge the newcomer less and less. If alcohol is an uncontrollable problem to him and he wishes to do something about it, that is enough for us.... Nowadays, in most groups, he doesn't even have to admit that he is an alcoholic. He can join A.A. on the mere suspicion that he maybe one, that he may already show the fatal symptoms of our malady."

Bill clarified further, as referred to in the "Twelve Traditions Illustrated" pamphlet in the section on Tradition Three: "Who determines whether or not newcomers qualify, whether they do want to stop drinking? Obviously nobody except the newcomers themselves; everybody else simply has to take their word for it. In fact, they don't even have to say it aloud. And that's fortunate for many of us who arrived at A.A. with only a halfhearted desire to stay sober. We are alive because the A.A. road stayed open to us."

Bill rarely, if ever, introduced himself from the podium specifically as an alcoholic,

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Group Spotlight

Jupiter Sunrise Group

Monday - Sunday @ 7am : Lighthouse Park - 500 Captain Armors Way, Jupiter, FL

History: Formed November 31, 1989 The Jupiter Sunrise Group is also known as The Porch Group, due to meeting at the far end of the porch at the Jupiter Lighthouse by the museum. The group has been somewhat a migrant group over the years, meeting wherever they could including the bar at McCarthy's Restaurant. The Group has stuck to it's values and the A.A. program, helping the Alcoholic who still suffers. Through it all, the group now boast meetings 60 people strong and carry's the message 7 days a week at the far end of The Porch of the Jupiter Lighthouse by the museum.

Meeting (s): Closed Discussion - The Jupiter Sunrise Group is a warm and friendly group. While it is noticeable that many of the core members know each other and share many years of history as a group, the members are willing to include the new comer and visitor, never forgetting to welcome anyone who has stopped by for a good meeting or looking for a new home group. While this is a Closed meeting and you must be an alcoholic or have a desire to quit drinking to attend, The Jupiter Sunrise Group welcomes you in with open arms and caring hearts.

(‘My name is... and I’m an alcoholic’ Continued)

and there is nothing in A.A. Conference-approved literature indicating how members should introduce themselves at A.A. meetings or whether it is necessary to do so at all. Yet, in today's A.A. environment, tense moments often follow in meetings when people don't introduce themselves as alcoholics or, conversely, over identify themselves with phrases like “I am a cross-addicted alcoholic,” or “I’m chemically dependent.” Many A.A. members feel this second case is the more concerning, threatening our unity and singleness of purpose.

“When I say at an A.A. function that ‘I’m a drug addict and an alcoholic’ or ‘I’m a cross-addicted alcoholic,’” wrote Rosemary P., a past delegate from Pittsford, New York, in an enduring article in the January 1990 Grapevine, “I am telling you that I’m a special kind of alky — my case of alcoholism is different from yours! I add an extra dimension to my disease — one that, because of our singleness of purpose, should not be addressed at an A.A. meeting. I have just cut our common bond in half and, more importantly, have diluted my own purpose for being there.” So, where did this custom of self-identification come from and how did it etch itself so indelibly into the A.A. landscape of the 21st century? Like many things in A.A., nobody is really sure just where it came from, and with only a few of the Fellowship's early-timers left, not many are able to provide plausible theories, leaving little more than speculation to go on.

However, according to an early friend of A.A., the late Henrietta Seiberling, the expression dates back to meetings of A.A.'s forerunner, the Oxford Group Movement, which had its heyday in the early 1930s. Mrs. Seiberling, a nonalcoholic who had sought spiritual help in the Oxford Group meetings, was the person who introduced Bill W. to A.A.'s other co-founder, Dr. Bob, who was then struggling to deal with his drinking by attending Oxford Group meetings in Akron. At small meetings, the members knew one another and didn't need to identify themselves. But in the large “public” meetings, where there was “witnessing” along the lines of an A.A.

talk today, personal identification became necessary. Chances are that someone at some time said, “I am an alcoholic,” but Mrs. Seiberling couldn't be sure. Nor did she remember that the phrase was used at early A.A. meetings in Akron, before publication of the Big Book.

One early New York A.A. does recall hearing the expression, however, sometime after World War II, in 1945 or 1946; and it is a matter of record that in 1947 a documentary film entitled “I Am an Alcoholic” was produced by RKO Pathe, lending further credence to the notion that the phrase was recognizable in recovery circles even then.

Growing from there, it has now become an almost obligatory part of the lexicon of recovery and, with its various alternatives and self-revelatory permutations, a somewhat controversial way of introducing oneself at meetings.

Today, there are many who feel that resolution of the conflict they feel when members introduce themselves as “addicts” or with some other categorization beyond simply “alcoholic,” lies within the Fellowship. Suggested Rosemary P., “Isn't it the responsibility of each of us to keep our program intact, to pass it on to the newcomer as it was given to us? Importantly, can we do this with patient explanation, tolerance toward differences — and more patient explanation? I believe we can, through committed sponsorship, strong home groups and active service. That way, our new members will learn how to be a part of A.A., not a fragment of it.”

Others feel it is important to be honest and reflective of “who they really are” in their introductions at meetings, while many feel it is important to separate our issues and take them individually to the programs designed to address them: Narcotics Anonymous for drug addiction; Overeaters Anonymous for addiction to food, and so on. And still others feel that it is less important how we identify ourselves, either as “addicts” or “alcoholics,” and offer an introduction at meetings simply as “a member of A.A.”

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Financial Reports

Palm Beach County Intergroup Operating Report - 3/01/2012 - 3/31/2012

Revenues:	
Literature Sales	\$4,701.30
Sales Tax	\$292.13
Tax Exempt Sales	\$7.00
Group Contributions	\$5,436.60
Spaghetti Dinner Tickets	\$4624.00
"Today" Memberships	\$12.00
Birthday Club Memberships	\$92.00
Meeting Baskets	\$48.00
Florida Roundup	\$248.85
Total Revenues:	\$15,461.88
Expenses:	
Literature Purchases	\$2,932.15
Sales Tax	\$292.69
Spaghetti Dinner	\$2,522.94
Office Salary	\$3,076.90
FICA & Unemployment Tax	\$302.79
Paychecks (monthly fee)	\$69.00
Rent & Water	\$475.00
AT&T (Internet, Phone, Website)	\$362.42
FP&L	\$98.39
East Coast Fire Equipment	\$42.00
Exterminating	\$35.00
Printing	\$405.00
Office Supplies / Postage	\$203.03
Total Expenses	\$10,817.31
Monthly Surplus / (Deficit)	\$4,644.57
Checking Account Balance	\$5,334.68
Prudent Reserve Interest	\$0.32
Transferred to Prudent Reserve	\$4,442.00
Prudent Reserve Balance	\$24,490.18
Months In Reserve	2.3

Palm Beach County Intergroup Institutions Committee Operating Report - 3/01/2012 - 3/31/2012

Beginning Balance	\$8,660.03
Income:	
Group Contributions	
Love, Faith & Life	\$15.00
Sweet Serenity	\$10.00
Lunch Bunch	\$250.00
Total Income	\$275.00
Expenses:	
Bank Charge	\$5.00
Where & When	\$0.00
Big Books	\$1,246.00
Printing	\$19.43
Rent	\$120.00
Total Expenses	\$1,390.43
Monthly Profit/Loss	-\$1,115.43
Ending Balance	\$7,544.60

Office Activity in March

- 12 Step Requests - 4
- Other information - 48
- Bridging The Gap - 0
- Institutions - 0
- Request for meeting info - 177
- Public Information - 1
- Visitors - 277
- AA Emails - 194
- **Total Activity - 701**

Website Visits in March

- 1st time visits - 1,813
- Return visits - 383
- **Total Visitors - 2,196**

◆ BRIDGING THE GAP ◆ A TEMPORARY CONTACT PROGRAM

If you are in a correctional/treatment facility, give us a call. Getting back into the "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 following number.

You will be put in touch with the Bridging The Gap coordinator and a volunteer will contact you.

(561) 655 - 5700

Tomorrow

April 13th - 15th: South Florida Area 15 General Service Quarterly Assembly, Tamp, FL hosted by District 2 More info @ www.area15aa.org

April 15th: South Palm Beach County Intergroup 28th Annual Picnic. John Prince Park, Tickets \$10 Info: SPBC Intergroup 561-276-4581

April 20-22: Spring Into Sobriety Women's Conference *Location:* The Helmsley Sandcastle Resort Lido Key, Sarasota For more info: www.sisconference.com

May 2nd: PBC Intergroup Committee Chair Meeting 6:15pm @ Intergroup Office. All are welcome to attend.

May 6th: Institutions Committee Meeting @ Triangle Club (4:30pm - Orientation) 5:00pm Committee Meeting.

May 9th: PBC Intergroup Business Meeting 6:15pm @ Intergroup Office.

May 13th: General Service, District 8 Meeting 5:00pm @ Triangle Club.

June 16th: District 8 Founders' Day Dinner. Saturday June 16th, 2012 at the Finland House, 301 Central Blvd. Lantana, FL. Tickets are \$10.00, meeting is free. Desserts are appreciated. Doors open at 6 PM. Dinner is at 7 PM. Speakers at 8 PM. For more information contact Cheryl L : aafoundersday2012@gmail.com.

August 1st - 5th: 56th Florida State Convention @ Innisbrook Golf & Spa Resort Palm Harbor. More info: www.56.flstateconvention.com.

August 17 - 19: 17th Annual SE Woman To Woman Conference. Delray Beach Marriott. Info @ www.southeastwomantowoman.com

November 9th - 11th: Southeast Regional Forum @ Boca Raton Marriot. FREE! More info @ www.area15aa.org

BIRTHDAY CLUB

✦ **March Celebrants** ✦

Giff D.	47 Years	Terri M	33 Years
Brian E.	30 Years	Barbara E.	21 Years
Bruce M.	19 Years	Kimberly L.	6 Years
Sandie F.	4 Years	Josh M.	4 Years
Matt S.	4 Years	Daniel P.	3 Years
Rick T.	1 Year		

✦ **April Celebrants** ✦

Frances H.	50 Years	Artie B.	45 Years
Mary Kay B.	27 Years	Jack A.	21 Years
Yves C.	14 Years	Bonnie C.	5 Years
Kit N.	3 Years	Bryan P.	2 Years
Bonnie M.	2 Years	Carol G.	1 Year
Blanca T	1 Years	Michael K.	1 Year
Lucinda B.	1 Year		

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 contribution.
(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.

Subscribe to The 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

STEPS • TRADITIONS • CONCEPTS

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 AA as a whole.

1. Do I insist that there are only a few *right* ways of doing things in AA?
2. Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of Loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?
3. Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?
4. Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?
5. Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths—his lengths, not mine—to stay sober?
6. Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?

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.

- ◆ Do we understand the spiritual principles underlying the "Right of Participation"?
- ◆ What does "in reasonable proportion" mean? Do we understand when it is appropriate for A.A. paid staff to have a vote at the General Service Conference or in our local service structure?
- ◆ Do we expect that, because we are A.A. members, we should be allowed to vote at any group, even if we are not active members of that group?

(‘My name is... and I’m an alcoholic’ Continued)

Finding a balance among these approaches is an ongoing exercise in humility, trust and acceptance within the Fellowship, as members seek to be inclusive yet cognizant of the singular bonds of alcoholism that keep us all connected.

As expressed in the Big Book, in the Chapter "Into Action," "We have entered the world of the Spirit. Our next function is to grow in understanding and effectiveness. This is not an overnight matter. It should continue for our lifetime. Continue to watch for selfishness, dishonesty, resentment, and fear. When these crop up, we ask God at once to remove them. We discuss them with someone immediately and make amends quickly if we have harmed anyone. Then we resolutely turn our thoughts to someone we can help. Love and tolerance of others is our code."