

# The Today

*Palm Beach County Intergroup Association*



February  
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

**8th Annual**

## **OLDTIMERS PANEL & SPAGHETTI DINNER**

Saturday, March 24, 2012  
at the Finland House.

301 Central Blvd Lantana

Dinner from 6:00-7:30pm

Speakers from 7:30-9:30pm



Anyone with 35 years or more sobriety is encouraged to add their name to our list of speaker candidates who wish to share their experience, strength and hope. Please contact the Intergroup office 655-5700 to be added to the list.

**Dinner tickets are \$10**

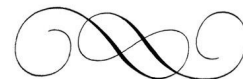
Advance tickets are recommended!

Tickets are available through your Intergroup Rep. or at the Intergroup office.

**561 - 655 - 5700**



**1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CELEBRATION**  
Food ★ Games ★ Music ★ Fun



JOIN US FOR A FUN DAY AT THE BEACH!

**Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 2012**  
12:00PM-6:00PM

**JUPITER CIVIC CENTER**  
351 Old A1A, Carlin Park, Jupiter, 33477

### TWO GUEST SPEAKERS

MEETING .... 12:30PM

MEETING .... 5:30PM

COFFEE ..... 12PM-6PM

FOOD ..... 12PM-6PM



Contributions Welcome

## **2012 / 2013 Area 15 Quarterly Meetings**

Info @ [www.area15aa.org](http://www.area15aa.org)

April 13 - 15, 2012  
Tampa, FL  
USF Embassy Suites  
Hosted By District 2

July 13 - 15, 2012  
Naples, FL  
Waldorf Astoria  
Hosted By District 20

Oct. 12 - 14, 2012  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
Marriott North  
Hosted By District 9

Jan. 11 - 13, 2013  
Sarasota, FL  
Hyatt Regency  
Hosted By District 4

April 12 - 14, 2013  
Boca Raton, FL  
Boca Marriott  
Hosted By District 8

# The Home Group

*WHO'S SITTING NEXT TO YOU?*

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I know who you are. You are "X" who attends the ABC Meeting at the XYZ Club where AAs meet in Anywhere, U.S.A.

I saw you there the other night at the eight o'clock meeting. I don't know how long you've been sober, but I know you've been coming around for a while because you spoke to a lot of people who knew you.

I wasn't one of them.

You don't know who I am. I wandered into your meeting place alone the other night, a stranger in a strange town. I got a cup of coffee, paid for it, and sat down by myself.

You didn't speak to me.

Oh, you saw me. You glanced my way, but you didn't recognize me, so you quickly averted your eyes and sought out a familiar face.

I sat there through the meeting.

It was okay, a slightly different format but basically the same kind of meeting as the one I go to at home.

The topic was gratitude. You and your friends spoke about how much AA means to you. You talked about the camaraderie in your meeting place. You said how much the people there had helped you when you first came through the door - how they extended the hand of friendship to make you feel welcome, and asked you to come back.

And I wondered where they had gone, those nice people who made your entrance so welcoming and so comfortable.

You talked about how the newcomer is the life blood of AA. I agree, but I didn't say so. In fact, I didn't share in your meeting. I signed my name in the book that was passed around, but the chairperson didn't refer to it. He only called on those people in the room whom he knew.

So who am I? You don't know, because you didn't bother to find out. Although yours was a closed meeting, you didn't even ask if I belonged there.

It might have been my first meeting. I could have been full of fear and distrust, knowing AA wouldn't work any better than anything else I'd tried, and I would have left convinced that I was right.

I might have been suicidal, grasping at one last straw, hoping someone would reach out and pull me from the pit of loathing and self-pity from which, by myself, I could find no escape.

I might have been a student with a tape recorder in my pocket, assigned to write a paper on how AA works - someone who shouldn't have been permitted to sit there at all but could have been directed to an open meeting to learn what I needed to know.

Or I could have been sent by the courts, wanting to know more, but afraid to ask.

It happens that I was none of the above.

I was just an ordinary drunk with a few years of sober living in AA who was traveling and was in need of a meeting.

My only problem that night was that I'd been alone with my own mind too long. I just needed to touch base with my AA family.

I know from past experience that I could have walked into your meeting place smiling, stuck out my hand to the first person I saw and said, "Hi. My name is - . I'm an alcoholic from - ."

If I'd felt like doing that, I probably would have been warmly welcomed. You would have asked me if I knew Old So-and-so from my state, or you might have shared a part of your drunkalog that occurred in my part of the country.

Why didn't I? I was hungry, lonely, and tired. The only thing missing was angry, but three out of four isn't a good place for me to be.

So I sat silently through your meeting, and when it was over I watched enviously as all of you gathered in small groups, talking to one another the same way we do in my home town.

You and some of your friends were planning a meeting after the meeting at a nearby coffee shop. By this time I had been silent too long to reach out to you. I stopped by the bulletin board to read the notices there, kind of hanging around without being too obvious, hoping you might ask if I wanted to join you, but you didn't.

As I walked slowly across the parking lot to my car with the out-of-state license plates you looked my way again. Our eyes met briefly and I mustered a smile. Again, you looked away.

I buckled my seat belt, started the car, and drove to the motel where I was staying.

As I lay in my bed waiting for sleep to come, I made a gratitude list. You were on it, along with your friends at the meeting place. I knew that you were there for me, and that I needed you far more than you needed me. I knew that if I had needed help, and had asked for it, you would have gladly given it. But I wondered . . . what if I hadn't been able to ask?

I know who you are.

Do you remember me?

Fran D., New Orleans, Louisiana

## ◆ 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 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**

# Financial Reports

## Palm Beach County Intergroup Operating Report – 1/01/2012 - 1/31/2012

Revenues:	
Literature Sales	\$4,620.45
Sales Tax	\$281.46
New Year's Alcolthon	\$451.58
Group Contributions	\$3,219.10
Spaghetti Dinner Tickets	\$200.00
Jupiter/Tequesta Groups Dinner	\$318.60
Birthday Club Memberships	45.00
Meeting Baskets	\$50.55
<b>Total Revenues:</b>	<b>\$9,186.74</b>
Expenses:	
Literature Purchases	\$2,215.19
Sales Tax	\$205.27
New Year's Alcolthon	\$95.27
Office Salary	\$2,461.52
FICA & Unemployment Tax	\$242.22
Paychecks (monthly fee)	\$69.00
Liability/Property Insurance (annual)	\$1,509.75
Rent & Water	\$475.00
AT&T (Internet, Phone, Website)	\$330.93
FP&L	\$90.14
Exterminating	\$35.00
Printing	\$155.00
Grapevine Subscription	\$48.60
Office Supplies / Postage	\$185.62
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,118.51</b>
<b>Monthly Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$1,068.23</b>
<b>Checking Account Balance</b>	<b>\$2,821.14</b>
Prudent Reserve Interest	\$0.34
Transferred to Prudent Reserve	\$0.00
<b>Prudent Reserve Balance</b>	<b>\$20,047.52</b>

## Palm Beach County Intergroup Institutions Committee Operating Report – 1/01/2012 - 1/31/2012

Beginning Balance	\$9,800.69
Income:	
Group Contributions	
After Hours Group	\$135.34
Days End Group	\$90.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$225.34</b>
Expenses:	
Where & When	\$0.00
Big Books	\$1,246.00
Printing	\$0.00
Rent	\$120.00
Big Book Ball	\$0.00
Bank Charge	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,366.00</b>
<b>Monthly Profit/Loss</b>	<b>(\$1,140.66)</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$8,660.03</b>

### Office Activity in January

- 12 Step Requests – 3
- Other information - 48
- Bridging The Gap - 1
- Institutions – 0
- Request for meeting info – 210
- Public Information – 1
- Visitors – 229
- AA Emails – 201
- **Total Activity - 693**

### Website Visits in January

- 1st time visits – 2240
- Return visits – 451
- **Total Visitors – 2691**

# Tomorrow

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

**March 7th:** PBC Intergroup Committee Chair Meeting 6:15pm @ Intergroup Office. All are welcome to attend.

**March 11th:** General Service, District 8 Meeting 5:00pm @ Triangle Club.

**March 14th:** PBC Intergroup Business Meeting 6:15pm @ Intergroup Office.

**March 24th:** PBCI Annual Spaghetti Dinner with Old-Timer Speaker panel @ Finland House, Lantana, FL 6pm - 9pm

**April 13th - 15th:** South Florida Area 15 General Service Quarterly Assembly, Tamp, FL hosted by District 2 More info @ [www.area15aa.org](http://www.area15aa.org)

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

**August 1st - 5th:** 56th Florida State Convention @ Innisbrook Golf & Spa Resort Palm Harbor. More info: [www.56.flstateconvention.com](http://www.56.flstateconvention.com).

**August 17 - 19:** 17th Annual SE Woman To Woman Conference. Delray Beach Marriott. Info @ [www.southeastwomantowoman.com](http://www.southeastwomantowoman.com)

**November 9th - 11th:** Southeast Regional Forum @ Boca Raton Marriot. FREE! More info @ [www.area15aa.org](http://www.area15aa.org)

## PBC Intergroup Committee Chair Elections

Elections for PBC Intergroup Service Committee Chairs is set for the March 14th Intergroup business meeting beginning at 6:15pm.

The new Committee Chairs will be seated in May and are 1 year service commitments. If you would like to serve for any position please attend the March Intergroup meeting.



# BIRTHDAY CLUB

## ★ January Celebrants ★

Beverly R. 30 Years	Barry B. 27 Years
Larry M. 23 Years	Quentin B. 22 Years
Michelle H. 21 Years	Thomas S. 21 Years
Henry M. 16 Years	Steve Y. 15 Years
Michael G. 11 Years	Kevin S. 9 Years

## ★ February Celebrants ★

Claudia M. 26 Years	Pamela B. 24 Years
Dennis C. 10 Years	Angie S. 5 Years
Carol Ann W. 4 Years	Matthew I. 4 Years
Andy B. 4 Years	

### 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](mailto: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.



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\$6.00 per year

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Mail to: Palm Beach County Intergroup Association  
1371 Okeechobee Rd, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

# STEPS • TRADITIONS • CONCEPTS

Step 2: Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

"... Then I woke up. I had to admit that A.A. showed results, prodigious results. I saw that my attitude regarding these had been anything but scientific. It wasn't A.A. that had the closed mind, it was me. The minute I stopped arguing, I could begin to see and feel. Right there, Step Two gently and very gradually began to infiltrate my life. I can't say upon what occasion or upon what day I came to believe in a Power greater than myself, but I certainly have that belief now. To acquire it, I had only to stop fighting and practice the rest of A.A.'s program as enthusiastically as I could." 12x12 pg.27

**Tradition 2: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.**

1. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?
2. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibility?
3. Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?
4. Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?
5. Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?
6. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

**Concept 2: The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.**

- Do we have an understanding of the history of the General Service Conference (the "Conference")?
- What is a Conference Advisory Action? Does our home group's G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate report back to the group on the highlights of the Conference and Conference Advisory Actions?
- Is our group meeting its wider Seventh Tradition responsibilities?

