

PBC INTERGROUP
May 14, 2014

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
Start time: 6:15 p.m.

Open Meeting ----- Serenity Prayer ----- Read 12 Traditions

Attendance: 56

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

Introduction of new reps: Intergroup Representatives: Justin L – Good Guys; Ginny D – Central Group; Gary C – Hope on Haverhill; Ed H – Lantana Group; Dennis C – Friends of Bill W; Sean O – End of the Road; Terri T – Table Talk; Katie R – Young People in the Solution; John F – We all Have to Start Somewhere; Judi A – West Side Group. Alternate representative: Vicki – Tues Women's Step.

Chairperson: Gary B: I want to thank everyone who stood for committee service positions for the next year. We have 3 positions on the agenda tonight that are available for service. Mark will present 2 motions concerning the finances of your Intergroup. Steve will discuss the progress of our summer event and Deb will present the proposal that the Ad-Hoc Committee has developed concerning the newcomer (new rep) packet. I have been advised that a radio anonymity break recently occurred. I do not have the exact circumstances regarding this situation however the Chairperson of General Service District 8, Area 15 Chairperson, and our Area 15 Delegate are looking into the situation and when there is accurate information and a resolution then I will inform this body of the details. Please be mindful of our public relations policy regarding anonymity at the level of press, radio and film, and it is inferred concerning electronic media. The PI/CPC Committee of General Service District 8 had distributed some guidelines that have been put on the table for everyone's review. Please share them with your group. I will ask Deb and Roger to include them as an attachment to your minutes this month. Again thank you for your service. In Love and Service, Gary B., PCB Intergroup Chairperson

Alternate Chair: Steve H – The next event is the annual picnic and this year's event will be Sat., Aug 9th at John Prince Park at the Central Drive facility. We can accommodate up to 500 people at this site without fear of being cited. We plan to set up a committee to plan and organize this year's event. The goal should always be to make this a memorable event and the hope would be not to go into the red. Some great ideas were being suggested and all are welcome to participate

and contribute. My phone number is 302-528-8434 (preferred method of contact). The idea of a Chili cook off is appealing and will help offset food costs. We are planning on having two prizes for the Chili cook off entries; one a People's Choice (popular prize) and one a Critic's Choice (expert judges). Of course we will have the return of the volleyball tournament as it was a popular event. Indian Bob has offered to help with the event and brings a lot of good ideas as well as service and other opportunities to help promote the event. We also discussed printing additional flyers to be distributed by the south county liaison with a cordial invitation to our brothers & sisters in the south County to attend as this year's picnic will be closer and centrally located for all of Palm Beach County. There are plans for a committee and that chair is out of town but it should be meeting last next week. Any questions or input are welcome and can be directed to me via call or text. Thanks for keeping me sober by keeping me busy. Much love & blessings – Steve H

Treasurer: Mark H. – The intergroup had a surplus for the month of March of \$739.91. Overall our financial position is strong. Thank you for all of the individual and group contributions that make our mission possible.
Love and Service, Mark H, Treasurer

Secretary: Deb M. – Thank you to all who have provided their reports; please get them to me by no later than tomorrow evening so that I may give them to Roger & Gary timely.

Ad Hoc Committee Report: Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation for Intergroup New Representative information/packet. The Ad Hoc Committee was created to facilitate information to be passed to new Intergroup Representatives and Alternate Representatives suggests the following to accomplish this purpose.

“It is suggested that all new representatives and alternate representatives go to the Palm Beach County Intergroup website (aa-palmbeachcounty.org) and view the Home page, tab “About Intergroup” and read the by-laws – all of which are on the website. If you don't have access to a computer or the website, let us know and we will provide a hard copy packet that contains this useful information.”

The hard copy packet will include the brochure Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix, hard copies of those pages from the website suggested to view i.e., Welcome to the Palm Beach County Intergroup, Intergroup Information Brochure, Where to send Group Contributions, Opportunities for Service.

Suggestions from the body are welcome. If there are no suggestions we will entertain a Motion to have the above approved and voted.

Presented by Deb M, Ad Hoc Committee Chair

Registrar: Roger B. – The minutes and agenda were e-mailed to the database upon receipt from the Chair, as per the By-Laws of PBC Intergroup. The database was updated after the last Intergroup Meeting. Any new Group Reps, Alternate Reps, or newly elected Committee Chairs/Officers, please complete a yellow information card and hand to the Secretary. Thanks, Roger B. – Intergroup Registrar

Office Manager: Ed B – In case you didn't see it on the website or hear about it at a meeting, the 75th anniversary edition of the Big Book is here. We received our first order of 100 copies on April 10th, which was the actual publication date of the first edition in 1939. The book sells for \$12.00 and it will be available from AAWS through the International Convention, July 2015. Another new item in the AAWS catalogue is the large print abridged edition of the Big Book; which is to say there are no stories. It is a large print version of the pocket Big Book. And it sells for \$7.00. As a reminder, if you need to contact the Intergroup Office on Saturdays or after 5 PM, please use: 561.655.6431. This number is not forwarded to the Phone Volunteers when the Office closes. For your convenience, there are some homemade business cards on the front and side tables with all the information for contacting the Intergroup Office. The Intergroup Office will be closed Monday, May 26th for Memorial Day. Total Office Activity for April was 788. This was 13 more than last month, and 88 more than last year. The Intergroup Office is open Monday through Friday from 9 to 5, and on Saturday from 9:30 to 1:30. In love & service, Ed B

General Service/Intergroup Liaison: Doug L – No District meeting due to Mother's Day – double report next month.

South County Intergroup Liaison: Jenn - attended South County Intergroup meeting on April 30th 2014, chairperson, Ed T, opened with prayer, minutes, and traditions were read. New reps were introduced and welcomed. He announced the need for a chairperson for their Serenity Scramble and also for a Where and When chair. The various committees gave their reports. They shared about their success on the picnic, selling 350 tickets. There was a motion brought up. A motion was made to amend the intergroup bylaw according to the recommendation bylaw committee. Motion was seconded. Several points were made. In conclusion, 14 in favor, 17 opposed, motion was not passed. And meeting ended with Lord's Prayer. In Love and Service, Jenn K

Archives Committee Liaison: Greg – has not met with the District Archives chair as yet.

Committee Reports:

Public Information: Vacant

12 Step List: Scott M – read the report for Matthew S. who is out of town. Hi, I'm an alcoholic named Matt and the new 12 step list committee chair. I have reviewed the list and have made one addition this past month. If you know of anyone looking to volunteer for 12 step calls please let me know so I can reach out and get them on the list. I am looking forward to helping. Thank you for letting me be of service. - Matthew S.

Phone Volunteer Committee: Troy – The hotline is in good shape – all positions filled. There is someone who wants to rotate out. See Try about it. He will update the volunteer list. He has Memorial Day weekend covered.

TODAY: Randy - The May issue of the Today is before you. You can have the Today delivered to your email. Simply send an email to registrar@aa-palmbeachcounty.org with "Please send Today to my email" in the subject line. The May issue is full of exciting events coming in the next couple of months like the Big Book, Step Study workshop The Good Morning Group, The Resentment Workshop Sponsored by the Living Sober Group, did I mention the New 75th anniversary issue of the Big Book coming available and the usual monthly financial reports, Birthday Club celebrants and a request from committee chairs for volunteers. We printed 650 copies this month. You are encouraged to take and pass them out at your home group instead of leaving them on a table with the other literature. That way they actually get read I have found. The Today can also be read online as a pdf file at: www.aa-palmbeachcounty.org click on resources and Today then select the month you would like to read. Please take the Today back to your group and implore members to become a part of Palm Beach County Intergroup. Also, all Groups are encouraged to submit group activities to the Today. Please remember that all group activity submissions ought to be at least 2 months in advance of the event. I am the temporary editor of the Today As I will be replaced by Rosemary T. as of next month. I will be happy, however, to support the Rosemary as much and for as long as she needs.

Birthday Club: Ed W – Ed stated what a pleasure serving Intergroup has been for the past 4 years. A new job make it unable for him to continue this service (however he will still make Chili for the picnic) and we will send Ed off with much

thanks and appreciate for his hard work and sense of humor. Good luck Ed!
Thanks for all your assist and good humor!

Website Committee: Randy - Since the last business meeting Trish brought everything up to date and made the handoff to me. She has been very helpful with simple written instructions that even I could understand and when I didn't understand she talked me through it. Thanks to Trish for her years of service as the webmaster and her help and availability to me in taking over.

I have made the following updates and changes:

- Posted Meeting List Bringing it current
- Updated Announcement & Events page including the announcement about the New 75th anniversary issue of the Big Book coming available.

Group Contact Committee: Jim H. - newly appointed Group Contact chairman. My report is as follows: I am in need of people to handle the Juno, Jupiter and Tequesta areas of the county. I will handle the lower part of the West Palm Beach area. I thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Bridging the Gap Committee: Sheila – No report submitted.

Where & When Committee: Roger - Meeting changes were updated on the Where & When database and forwarded to the Website Committee. Transition meeting was held with new Where & When Chairman. If anyone is aware of any group meeting changes, please let us know through the Intergroup Office or email via the website. Thanks, Roger B. Where & When Committee

Institutions Committee: Chris H - Your Institutions Committee currently brings 95 meetings a week to 38 facilities. We had a good response to our on-going need for new volunteers this month with eleven new volunteers! There are still plenty of opportunities for all interested in this rewarding service work. We have a new volunteer, Lynda H, handling processing of clearance applications with the PBC Sheriff's Dept. The Institutions Committee is considering changing its main fundraiser, the Big Book Ball from a Halloween Party to a sober New Year's Eve Celebration. Any comments or suggestions from the AA community are most welcome. Plan to attend our regular meeting at the Triangle Club the 1st Sunday each month: new member orientation 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. Yours love and service, Chris H

Unfinished Business: **Elections:** Public Information – no one stood; “TODAY” Editor – Rosemary, Birthday Club- Linda R.

New Business:

FIRST MOTION: A disbursement of \$3,000 of excess funds be contributed to AAWS (Alcoholics Anonymous World Service). PASSED

SECOND MOTION: That we reimburse an additional \$1,000 per year to increase the annual reimbursement of health care to our employee. This additional reimbursement will be reconsidered annually to allow us to consider our financial position. In subsequent years this additional reimbursement will be considered by the Advisory Committee in conjunction with our annual consideration of salary. If approved this motion would take effect as of January 1, 2014. PASSED

Upcoming Events: The summer picnic – more information next meeting after the planning committee meets.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:55 p.m.

Service Material from the General Service Office

ANONYMITY ONLINE

"In my belief, the entire future of our fellowship hangs upon this vital principle. If we continue to be filled with the spirit and practice of anonymity, no shoal or reef can wreck us. If we forget this principle, the lid to Pandora's box will be off and the spirits of Money, Power, and Prestige will be loosed among us. . . . I am positive that A.A.'s anonymity is the key to long-time survival."
A.A. Comes of Age, pp. 131-132

Modern communication in A.A. is flowing from one alcoholic to another in ways that are high-tech, relatively open-ended and evolving quickly. Protecting anonymity is a major concern for members, who are accessing the Internet in ever-growing numbers. In 2013 the General Service Conference affirmed ". . . that the Internet, social media and all forms of public communications are implicit in the last phrase of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven, which reads: ' . . . at the level of press, radio and films.'"

At this level, according to Bill W., ". . . anonymity—100 percent anonymity—was the only possible answer. Here, principles would have to come before personalities, without exception."
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 187

General Principles

"When appearing on radio, television, film or on the Internet as A.A. members, we refrain from showing our faces or revealing our last names. In printed articles, on Web sites or e-mail, we are identified by our first names and last initials only." "The A.A. Group – Where it All Begins," p. 8

"When using digital media, A.A. members are responsible for their own anonymity and that of others. When we post, text, or blog, we should assume that we are publishing at the public level. When we break our anonymity in these forums, we may inadvertently break the anonymity of others."
"Understanding Anonymity," p. 5

A.A. Web Sites

"We observe all A.A.'s principles and Traditions on our Web sites. As anonymity is the 'spiritual foundation of all our Traditions,' we practice anonymity on A.A. Web sites at all times. An A.A. Web site is a public medium, which has the potential for reaching the broadest possible audience and, therefore, requires the same safeguards that we use at the level of press, radio and film."
Frequently Asked Questions about A.A. Web Sites, p. 2

Social Networking Web Sites

". . . social networking Web sites are public in nature. Though users create accounts and utilize usernames and passwords, once on the site, it is a public medium where A.A. members and non-A.A.s mingle.

"As long as individuals do not identify themselves as A.A. members, there is no conflict of interest. However, someone using their full name and/or a likeness, such as a full-face photograph, would be contrary to the spirit of the Eleventh Tradition, which states in the Long Form that, ' . . . our [last] names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed or publicly printed.'"
A.A. Guidelines – Internet, p.1 2

Internet Streaming and Web Conferencing

“Many technological options are possible and, presumably, more are being developed each day. Yet . . . it is important not to let the speed of technological development pressure a committee [or an A.A. group] into a quick solution as opposed to a well-thought-out A.A.-oriented decision. Of course, all decisions must include careful consideration of any situations where an A.A. member’s anonymity could be compromised at the public level.”
A.A. Guidelines – Internet, p. 4

E-Mail

“When using e-mail it is necessary to consider the anonymity of the recipients of messages. Sending messages to multiple recipients that disclose the e-mail addresses of everyone on the addressee list is a potential break of someone else’s anonymity. Therefore, it is a good idea to obtain a recipient’s explicit permission before using his or her e-mail address for A.A. correspondence, especially if it is a workplace e-mail address. When sending A.A. mail to multiple recipients who wish to remain anonymous, use can be made of the BCC (Blind Courtesy Copy) option available on most computers.” A.A. Guidelines – Internet, p. 3

More Reflections on Anonymity

“Anonymity has two attributes essential to our individual and collective survival; the spiritual and the practical.

“On the spiritual level, anonymity demands the greatest discipline of which we are capable; on the practical level anonymity has brought protection for the newcomer, respect and support of the world outside, and security from those of us who would use A.A. for sick and selfish purposes.”
Bill’s Last Message

“. . . anonymity is real humility at work. It is an all-pervading spiritual quality which today keynotes A.A. life everywhere. Moved by the spirit of anonymity, we try to give up our natural desires for personal distinction as A.A. members both among fellow alcoholics and before the general public. As we lay aside these very human aspirations, we believe that each of us takes part in the weaving of a protective mantle which covers our whole Society and under which we may grow and work in unity.” *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 187

“A vast communications net now covers the earth, even to its remotest reaches. Granting all its huge public benefits, this limitless world forum is nevertheless a hunting ground for all those who would seek money, acclaim and power at the expense of society in general. . . . “Therefore nothing can matter more to the future welfare of AA *than the manner in which we use this colossus of communication*. Used unselfishly and well, the results can surpass our present imagination. Should we handle this great instrument badly, we shall be shattered by the ego demands of our own people—often with the best of intention on their part. Against all this, the *sacrificial spirit* of AA’s anonymity at the top public level is literally our shield and our buckler. Here again we must be confident that love of AA, and of God, will always carry the day.” “Freedom Under God: The Choice Is Ours” Bill W., *AA Grapevine*, November 1960

**Palm Beach County Intergroup
Operating Report
04/01/2014 - 04/30/2014**

Opening Balance Checking: **\$ 18,543.09**

Revenues:

Literature Sales	\$ 6,037.32
Sales Tax	355.76
Tax Exempt Sales	47.62
Group Contributions	4,154.97
Birthday Club Memberships	70.00
Meeting Baskets	86.45
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Total Revenues: **\$ 10,752.12**

Expenses:

Literature Purchases	\$ 5,093.16
Sales Tax	257.40
Office Salary	2,746.16
FICA & Unemployment Tax	210.08
Paychex(monthly fee)	77.00
Health Insurance	125.00
Rent & Water	475.00
AT&T (Internet, Phone, Website)	293.58
FP&L	93.67
East Coast Fire Equipment	42.00
Exterminating	35.00
Printing	231.00
Office Supplies / Postage	333.16
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Total Expenses **\$ 10,012.21**

Monthly Surplus / (Deficit) **\$ 739.91**

Closing Balance Checking: **\$ 19,283.00**

Opening Balance Prudent Reserve: **\$ 17,759.64**

Prudent Reserve Interest **0.45**

Closing Balance Prudent Reserve: **\$ 17,760.09**

**Palm Beach County Intergroup
Operating Report
4/01/2014 - 4/30/2014**

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Calendar YTD</u>
Revenues:		
Literature Sales	\$ 6,037.32	\$ 20,510.07
Sales Tax	355.76	1,227.13
Tax Exempt Sales	47.62	557.12
Group Contributions	4,154.97	18,475.22
New Year's Alcothon	-	709.60
Potluck Dinner	-	40.00
Old Timers' Meeting	-	405.00
"Today" Membership	-	6.00
Birthday Club Memberships	70.00	348.90
Meeting Baskets	86.45	261.57
Florida Rondup	-	507.69
Total Revenues:	\$ 10,752.12	\$ 43,048.30
Expenses:		
Literature Purchases	\$ 5,093.16	\$ 16,808.22
Sales Tax	257.40	1,145.10
Alcothon Expenses	-	195.73
Old Timers' Meeting	-	887.76
Office Salary	2,746.16	11,671.18
FICA & Unemployment Tax	210.08	940.03
Paychex(monthly fee)	77.00	308.00
Health Insurance	125.00	500.00
Liability Insurance (annual)	-	1,875.57
Rent & Water	475.00	1,900.00
AT&T (Internet, Phone, Website)	293.58	1,174.32
FP&L	93.67	356.39
East Coast Fire Equipment	42.00	42.00
Exterminating	35.00	140.00
Repairs & Maintenance	-	37.70
Printing	231.00	924.00
Costco Membership	-	55.00
Office Supplies / Postage	333.16	1,041.24
Total Expenses	\$ 10,012.21	\$ 40,002.24
Monthly Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ 739.91	\$ 3,046.06

**Palm Beach County Intergroup
Operating Report
April 30, 2014**

	<u>This Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Revenues:			
Literature Sales	\$ 6,037.32	\$ 5,346.80	\$ 690.52
Sales Tax	355.76	320.17	35.59
Tax Exempt Sales	47.62	-	47.62
Group Contributions	4,154.97	4,619.41	(464.44)
Old Timers' Meeting	-	210.00	(210.00)
"Today" Subscriptions	-	12.00	(12.00)
Birthday Club Memberships	70.00	38.00	32.00
Meeting Baskets	86.45	70.00	16.45
Total Revenues:	\$ 10,752.12	\$ 10,616.38	\$ 135.74
Expenses:			
Literature Purchases	\$ 5,093.16	\$ 3,736.32	\$ 1,356.84
Sales Tax	257.40	257.54	(0.14)
Old Timers' Meeting	-	(24.90)	24.90
Office Salary	2,746.16	2,615.40	130.76
FICA & Unemployment Tax	210.08	200.08	10.00
Paychex (Monthly Fee)	77.00	72.00	5.00
Health Insurance	125.00	-	125.00
Rent & Water	475.00	475.00	-
AT&T (Internet, Phone, Website)	293.58	263.88	29.70
AT&T U-verse Upgrade	-	139.00	(139.00)
East Coast Fire Equipment	42.00	42.00	-
FP&L	93.67	118.96	(25.29)
Exterminating	35.00	35.00	-
Repairs & Mainenance	-	26.86	(26.86)
Printing	231.00	226.00	5.00
Office Supplies / Postage	333.16	248.04	85.12
Total Expenses	\$ 10,012.21	\$ 8,431.18	\$ 1,581.03
Monthly Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 739.91	\$ 2,185.20	\$ (1,445.29)
Checking Account Balance	\$ 19,283.00	\$ 14,614.41	\$ 4,668.59
Prudent Reserve Balance	\$ 17,760.09	\$ 17,539.48	\$ 220.61

Office Activity for April, 2014

Requests for meetings info:	175
12th Step requests:	2
BTG:	-
Other information:	80
Public Information requests:	-
Institutions Meeting requests:	-
Visitors:	305
Emails:	<u>226</u>
Total Activity:	788