Plain & Straight

Monthly Newsletter of the Pinellas County Intergroup

August 2024

Inside

Feature.....Cover
Meeting Changes.....2
Unity Meeting Speakers.....3
Events.....4
Living in Recovery.....5
District & World.....6
Anniversaries.....7
Group Contributions.....8

"Opinions expressed in Plain and Straight are not those of Alcoholics Anonymous, nor does the publication of any article imply endorsement or affiliation by the Pinellas County Intergroup or Alcoholics Anonymous."

A.A., Alcoholics Anonymous and the A.A Symbol are registered Trademarks of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc"

Editor: Pam V.

Contact

Pinellas County Intergroup
12300 Seminole Blvd. Suite 2
Largo, FL 33778

Tele: (727) 333-7118
Helpline: (727) 530-0415
centraloffice@aapinellas.org

Central Office Hours
Monday-Friday 10 am – 6 pm
EXCEPT THE FIRST CONSECUTIVE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
10AM/2PM

www.aapinellas.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

MEETINGS

July Meeting Changes

Holiday Isles - **New Meeting**: Tuesday 6:00pm Open Discussion Meeting. St. Albans Episcopal Church, 333 84th Ave, St Pete Beach, FL 33706

Holiday Isles - New Meeting: Noon Open Discussion Meeting. St. Albans Episcopal Church, 333 84th Ave, St Pete Beach, FL 33706

Sober Squad Group - **New Meeting:** Women's Meeting - Tuesday 7:00 PM - Coed Big Book Study - Thursday 7:00 PM—Paradise Lutheran Church - 10255 Paradise Blvd, Treasure Island, FL 33706

St Pete Beach YPG - New Meeting time: Friday 7:30pm-8:30pm. Alano Beach Club, Dolphin Village 4615 Gulf Boulevard, Suite 112, St. Pete Beach, FL

AA Meditation Group is now a Big Book & Literature Meeting

Emotional Sobriety - Sunday 10:am meeting Canceled

Holiday Isles - Tuesday 6:30 Women's Meeting is Canceled

ARCHIVES

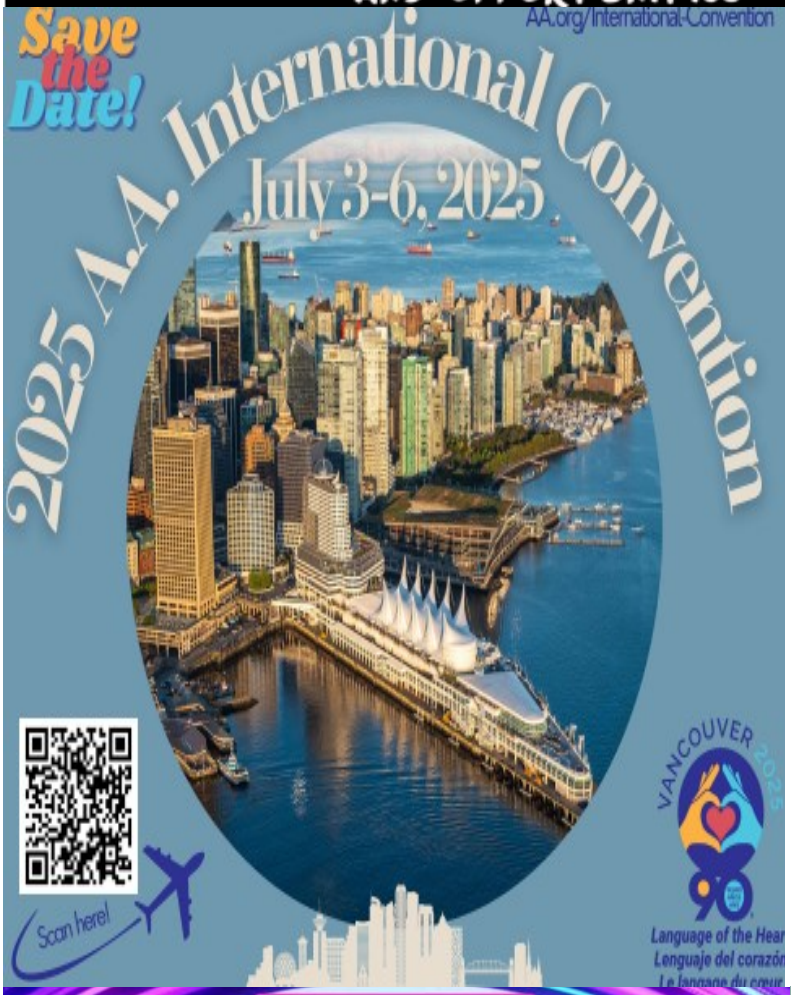
Twenty Four Hours a Day Book

Richmond Walker was born in Boston on August 2, 1892 to a wealthy and politically influential family. By age 22, his drinking had sadly destroyed a promising business career. In 1939, he joined the Oxford Group where he managed to stay sober for almost two years. He went back to heavy drinking in 1941 and continued until May of 1942 when he was encouraged to attend an AA meeting. He joined the AA group in Boston, started by Paddy K., and attained permanent sobriety. For some years, he traveled back and forth between Boston, MA and Daytona Beach, FL. In the early 1940s, AA had published the Big Book and a few pamphlets. Meanwhile, many groups began publishing additional material for AA members, referred to as can openers. When Richmond was a few years sober in AA and a member of the South Shore AA group in Quincy, MA - they printed 2,000 copies of For Drunks Only. This was authored by Richmond in 1945. At that time, AA membership was around 13,000 and 900 AA groups were established. That same year, Richmond sent a copy of his book to his friend Bill W. inscribed For Bill W. with gratitude from Richmond W. In 1946, Richmond offered For Drunks Only for publication by AA but, it was declined. In March 1946, 6,000 more copies of For Drunks Only were printed by the Quincy Group and sold for 25 cents each. Richmond made Daytona Beach his primary residence in 1948. At the request of the AA group there, he took the little cards he was carrying in his pockets, containing useful prayers and meditations, and printed them up in book form titling it Twenty-Four Hours a Day. It rapidly became an important book for early people in the program, second only to the Big Book. In 1953, at the age of 61, Richmond offered Twenty-Four Hours A Day to New York for publication, but was again declined. At that time, New York was barely able to scrape together enough money to publish the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, whose first printing was in April of 1953. So, Richmond printed and sold the book himself. In 1954, Patrick Butler, of Hazelden, offered to officially publish Twenty-Four Hours A Day and Richmond agreed. They sold close to 5,000 the 1st year. It was referred to as "the little black book "and was never conference approved by AA.

In 2012, Richmond Walker's original working "draft" manuscript of Twenty-Four Hours a Day was published in book form by Hazelden, titled "Making the Little Black Book". This capitalized on Hazelden's success of the AA working manuscript book titled "The Book That Started It All". After the book deal, Walker had no further dealings with Hazelden. Today, Twenty-Four Hours a Day has sold over eight million copies in 30 countries.

With love and service from Leslie B., the archives liaison to the Plain and Straight. Archives service is more than an activity. It is a means by which we collect, preserve and share the rich and meaningful heritage of our fellowship. Visit our dedicated website at district1archives.org to learn more about the Pinellas County Archives Committee.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



PCI Talent Show
Performers Information

- There will be 20 performer spots available. They will be filled on a first come first serve basis. We will sign up 3 others to be placed on standby.
- All performers will be required to purchase a $15 event ticket, ASAP. Be mindful that tickets may sell out prior to the event date. If your act is a duet or group, all performers will need a ticket. Tickets may be purchased at the Intergroup office either in person or over the phone.
- Musicians will be given 7-minute spots. (including set up) & may only use carry on instruments requiring minimal set up.
- Vocalists using prerecorded music sources must work with audio chair for assistance.
- Comedians, poets, magicians and other such performers will be given 5-minute spots. Skits are welcome provided they are kept to 5 minutes & require minimal set up.
- All acts MUST be present at the venue by 6:30 on show night, for roll call & instructions.
- Performers will be giving updates via group text or emails but are encouraged to get involved with the events planning committee as well.
- Finally, keep your act appropriate. Remember, we are sober

Pinellas County Intergroup Inc. (aapinellas.org)https://aapinellas.org/talent-show-contestant-entry-page/

Set Aside Group meets in Tampa at Alpha Club in Drew Park Thursdays at 7:30pm. Spoke on 7/6. 59 in attendance. Basket $53. "Every week, God runs it, and we hear what we need to hear."

Anthony S. SD 1/5/21 - Through the sponsorship brotherhood and taking suggestions like get active in AA, the Steps, and FCYPAA, and any service commitments, all the gifts of recovery start to happen. " reconnected with my biological father, and that relationship really started to heal, because I was sober, and in recovery, and I said we can work on this together, and I found my half sister. Now I can be the friend that I always wanted to be.

Jodi SD 6/7/14 - I learned that religion and spirituality are two different things, and it's like making a new friend, and I can be responsible, and I can be a good friend. I realized in my 4th and 5th Step that I am not a victim, and I allowed myself to tell myself a narrative. I'm on my 6th Step again, and yes, I have to work on this, but I also have the facets of the assets. " get to work with women, with the Steps, and I get to be their cheerleader, and my sponsees save my life because they help me more than I ever helped them. Today I feel so fulfilled because I learned self-sufficiency, and now I have a man and getting married in a year, and I learned to respect myself, and through that, to love myself, and I don't believe in co-incidences. I think that it was fate."

A Power Greater Than Ourselves meets at 7pm Mondays off McMullen Booth Road at Community Church.
Spoke on 7/13. 55 in attendance. Basket $66.

Paul SD 12/31/95 - If alcoholism is a hereditary disease, I'd like to thank my mom. I remember a slogan in my teens- this will never happen to me, and if you play with fire, you're gonna get burned. I thought all it was is not drinking...for the first 8 years, I was a dry drunk. If you isolate, you have no friends and no problems. When I use the tools of AA, when I take the suggestions, they work, and I'm still here.

John - A real alcoholic like me, I either have to have alcohol or I have to have this program. I knew I needed the 2nd Step, because I knew I was crazy, because I was always looking for someone else to take the blame. Step 2 was important for me, because my thoughts were crazy, ego, and the way I treated others; stubbornness; anger turned to rage. I drank regardless of the consequence. Steps 6 & 7-that's the meat of this program. I have to find the problem that plagues us.

Walsingham Group meets daily at 7pm, at Sabala Plaza, and most mornings. Spoke on 7/20. 69 in attendance. Basket $79.

Deborah SD 5/28/95 - Moved to Florida 10 months ago, from NY, and they were so friendly and welcoming, and I got involved with my home group, and you guys are my normal family. I always thought everyone else was the problem. My friends would ask if I remember what I said or did last night. It was too embarrassing for them to tell me. I saw Step One, and I saw how my life was unmanageable. I was unmanageable, and the good part was that I could learn how to not be like that. There's challenges in your life, in this program, but you don't have to drink over it.

Continued on Page 8

Embracing Tradition Eight

"Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers."

How to Apply the Eighth Tradition

Unless we happen to work with the General Service Board, there aren't many ways to practice the Eighth Tradition as written. But we may still learn some valuable principles.

Don't hesitate to recognize your own needs

Note that the early groups' initial decision not to employ special workers arose largely from fear. They were so afraid of conflating money with spirituality that they ignored their own needs. Naturally, this served only to enhance those needs until there remained no other option.

We must never ignore our needs out of fear. When we find ourselves afraid, we should talk to our sponsors and other trusted individuals. Consult those whose decision-making has always proved sound. If they tell you to go ahead and face your fears, you should listen to them. The benefits may outweigh the drawbacks more than you imagined.

Rules aren't always black and white

The Eighth Tradition also teaches us that rules sometimes have exceptions. This idea might worry us at first, after all, one of our chief problems in substance abuse was our tendency to make exceptions for ourselves when it was unacceptable to do so.

Think of the need to make amends in Step Nine. Say for example we wish to make amends to a former drug dealer, a sponsor may tell us that this is not the best idea. Even though we're supposed to make amends to *all* we have harmed, it's not too difficult to see why there would be an exception in this case. Reconsider when upholding a principle may put our well-being at risk.

Although another of A.A.'s principles is to maintain self-sufficiency, the Eighth Tradition reminds us that we must still ask for help every once in a while. Because if we don't learn to ask for help when we need it the most, we may jeopardize far more than our sobriety alone.

To each their own interpretation

Finally, the Eighth Tradition teaches us that we shouldn't always enforce our own principles on others. Toward the end of the chapter on Tradition Eight, the 12&12 states:

"We see that we have no right or need to discourage A.A.'s who wish to work as individuals in these wider fields. It would be actually antisocial were we to forbid them. We cannot declare A.A. such a closed corporation that we keep our knowledge and experience top secret. If an A.A. member acting as a citizen can become a better researcher, educator, personnel officer, then why not? Everybody gains, and we have lost nothing. True, some of the projects to which A.A.'s have attached themselves have been ill-conceived, but that makes not the slightest difference with the principle involved."

At the end of the day, we must learn to stay in our own lane. The Eighth Tradition teaches us that people should not prohibit anyone from performing work that may help others. Our own personal reservations should not dictate anyone else's behaviors–especially at the cost of helping others.

Written by: Justin Kunst

Attention

Upcoming EVENTS

THE SERENITY CLUB
631 Turner Street
Clearwater, FL 33756

THE COFFEE BAR ATTENDANTS ARE VOLUNTEERS.
THEY VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME TO SERVE

- **MEMBERSHIP DUES** -The Serenity Club is owned & operated by its members. Participate in the operations of the club. Be a club member!
- **RENOVATION FUNDRAISER** - Please help –donate in the can located in the coffee bar.
- **BOOK FUNDRAISER** – Located in the coffee bar. Donate or purchase gently used books.
- **CAN DRIVE** - Please donate any aluminum cans in the designated containers.

MONTHLY CAR WASH	SATURDAY	AUGUST 10th
SERENITY CLUB BOARD MEETING	TUESDAY	AUGUST 13th
ONEBLOOD BLOOD DRIVE	TUESDAY	AUGUST 20th
MONTHLY BAKE SALE	SATURDAY	AUGUST 24th

FLYERS FOR ALL EVENTS ARE LOCATED IN THE COFFEE BAR

Join the NEW World-Famous 49ers Tradition's Meeting Starting July 24th Wednesday – 8:00 P.M. 9739-9741 66th St N Pinellas Park FL 33782

District 1 Area 15 Committees

- **Accessibilities** 3rd Thursday at 5:30pm
  ID: 656 169 2020
  PW: Access / ***Email:*** Accessibilities@district1aapinellas.org
- **Archives** 3rd Saturday 10 AM (district1archives.org)
  2250 Group 3125 5th Ave. N., St. Pete
  Email: Archives@district1aapinellas.org
- **Corrections** 2nd Monday 6:30 PM
  ID: 945 8397 1275
  PW: 906131 / **Email:** Corrections@district1aapinellas.org
- **Current Practices** 1st Thursday 7PM
  ID: 815 7788 6954
  PW: CurrPrac **Direct Link:** Current Practices Committee Meeting
- **Events**- Second and Fourth Mondays at 6:30pm
  Panera Bread
  10801 Starkey Rd
  Largo, FL 33777 / Email: Events@district1aapinellas.org
- **Finance** -2nd Thurs 7 PM
  ID: 942 7155 2569
  PW: money / **Email:** Finance@district1aapinellas.org
- **Grapevine** - 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm
  ID: 366 773 4074
  PW: 606200 / **Email:** Grapevine@district1aapinellas.org
- **Literature** - 2nd Sunday 6:00 – 7:00 PM
  ID: 366 304 9072
  PW: 781652 / **Email:** Literature@district1aapinellas.org
- **PI/CPC** - Last Monday 6 PM
  ID: 578 1170 306
  No PW / **Email:** PICPC@district1aapinellas.org
- **Technology** - Last Saturday 9:30 AM
  ID: 858 0444 8765
  PW: 061035
  Email: TechChair@district1aapinellas.org
- **Treatment** - Last Thursday of the Month at 5:30 PM
  Where:
  Allendale United Methodist Church
  3803 Haines Rd N
  St Pete 33703
  Virtual:
  Meeting ID#: 912 7833 4392
  Password: treatment2- **Email**: Treatment@district1aapinellas.org

Anniversaries

Missed June Anniversaries

2250

Lee R 6

Russel R 11

New Women for Sobriety

Livia 1

Abby 1

Progress Not Perfection

Jessica D. 8

July Anniversaries

Feelings Group

Billy J. 26

Ann W. 1

Kristy J. 1

Ladies Beach Serenity Group

Murph 24

Jannie 39

Beacon

Clayton C 4

Sunrise Sunset

Murph 24

Chris V 17

Gigi P 30

Ron S 24

Chris D 10

Blind Pass group

Big Willy 4

Sandy 54

Shari 4

Eileen 30

Paulie 17

Amy 44

Brian 2

Brian D 32

Holiday Isles

Christel A. 8

Todd A. 23

Gigi 30

Kelly L. 3

Kitchen Table

Larissa H. 5

Jimmy P. 41

Free Spirits

Novie L. 29

Nile B. 35

Roger H. 15

Sunrise Sunset

Kelly L 3

Bill W 5

Chris V 17

Murph 24

Steven 33

Peggy L 7

Chris D 10

Ron S 24

Jane A 29

Sallie 29

Gigi P 30

After Work Bunch

Kevin T 40

Andy K 38

Nile B 35

Jonny K 28

Richard M 22

Lanette R 16

Billie Jo 10

Keith J 4

Petra M 3

Barbara D 2

Jewell H 2

Lydia R 2

Jack T 2

Sober Squad

Ginny 30

Patti 22

Celeste 21

Kelly 3

Koinania

Jim B 34

Shirley M 47

Primary Purpose

Josh 2

Joel 24

Progress Not Perfection

Christine W 20

Jeanne D 32

Allison O. 8

Under The Trees

Nancy L 2

Recovery Road

David P 15

Kristine D 2

Get Lit

Meghan D 13

Seminole Group

Keith S 6

Spirit Group

Alex N 3

Deb P 37

Jim P 41

Joanne B 21

Kris L 7

At the End of the Rainbow

Norma C 6

Sherry L. 35

Robin R 3

Tami F 13

Karen D 14

1-2-1

Eric 2

Bobby 8

Beach Bunch

Hilary 38

Cheri 9

Forty Niners Group

Danielle 5

Jerry B 22

Terence H 18

David L 17

Carri R 1

Sarah 2

Jessica B 3

Robbie P 1

Nikki M 6

Alex N 3

2250

Bob P 36

Pete C 34

Mark J 32

Carol M 31

Carl W 26

Anthony W 14

Brian H 6

Judy J 5

Kerri R 3

Jessica B 3

Tommy J 2

Chad G 2

Click this box to contribute using PayPal, debit, or credit

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

Send checks to: Pinellas County Intergroup 12300 Seminole Blvd., Suite #2 Largo, FL 33778

July Contributions

Countryside Group	120.00
On Awakening	60.00
Holiday Isles Group	150.00
Experience Strength & Hope	65.00
No More Isolation	200.00
At The End Of The Rainbow	199.31
Primary Purpose	181.00
Clearwater Group/301	105.00
At The End Of The Rainbow	102.57
Free Spirits	75.00
Sunrise Sunset Group	50.00
Walsingham Group	20.00
Seminole Group	150.00
Serenity Seekers Group	103.49
The God Stuff	100.00
Spirit Group	410.00
Dunedin Sunset at Weaver Park	321.00
Dunedin Sunset at Weaver Park	304.50
Saturday Morning Men's Step (SH)	213.00
TGIS Women's Meeting	200.00
Forty Niners Group	125.00
Feelings Group	114.01
Free Spirits	75.00
Home Group	62.50
Into Action	50.00
Ladies' Beach Serenity Group	35.00
Early Risers	135.00
High Noon Daily	150.00
Peace Group	10.00
New Freedom / New Happiness	186.50
Keep It Simple Group	143.00
Treasure Island Steppers	100.00
Meeting Under The Trees	300.00
Ain't Misbehavin' Group	145.00
2250 Group	100.00
A New Start	50.00
Total	**$4,910.88**

Rick P. SD 1/5/91 - Born in the middle of 5 kids, I've been legally blind my whole life, and I learned to isolate at a young age. Prayed for knowledge of his will for us, and the power to carry it out. If I want to change, I'm going to have to do the work. These things are gifts. I'm happily married for 28 years now. I never lost the desire to going to meetings. I pray every day. When and where He sees fit.

Experience, Strength and Hope Speakers meet at Palm Lake Christian Church on Wednesdays at 7pm. Babysitting Available.. Spoke on 7/27/24. 69 in attendance. Basket $76. "If you want to get into service, we are always looking for new homies!"

David SD 4/19/19 - My mom slid a thing under my door about a Christian Rehabilitation Program-18 months. Whatever I had to do to get away from myself-my second surrender. I had to wait 3 days, so I called my sponsor, and he came and took me to every meeting in the area. If you talk to people in AA, you will always get fed. If it's not a practical amount of effort, it's probably not God's will. AA has turned me into a person I didn't know I was capable of being. I'm a good father, boss, husband...well you'd have to ask her.

Noel SD 7/28/94 - I just did a H.A.L.T. assessment. (Hungry-Angry-Lonely-Tired). It wasn't until I stumbled upon AA from an ACOA meeting and then an Al-Anon...My first AA meeting was a district eating meeting with 300 people, and we sat in the back and read How it Works. I was so poor, that I couldn't afford rehab, so I would just go to AA meeting all day. I didn't know that life would continue after alcohol. My face hurt so much because these old guys were so funny that they made me laugh so much, that they made my face hurt. Hang out with the winners, the old timers, but not just the ones that have the most time...the ones that have the most fun.

August Unity Commitments:

8/3/24 Attitude Adjustment

8/10/24 San Martin Group

8/17/24 —Available—

8/24/24 Oldsmar Group

8/31/24 —Available—

Intergroup Meeting Sign up Link:

https://aapinellas.org/intergroup-unity-meeting-sign-up-sheet/