Plain & Straight

Monthly Newsletter of the Pinellas County Intergroup

February 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

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Central Office Hours
Monday-Friday 10 am – 6 pm

www.aapinellas.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

MEETINGS

Changes

Just The Black Lines—Tuesday 12:30pm Allendale Methodist Church, 3803 Haines Rd N, St Petersburg, FL, 33703. Closed Big Book Study

Nooners - Wednesday, 12:00pm is no longer a Joe and Charlie meeting and is a Open Big Book.

New

Downtown Serenity Sisters - Downtown Serenity Sisters is adding a meeting on Fridays at 12:15 PM. Radius Church 165 13th St N, St. Petersburg, FL 33705. Meeting details: 12&12, Discussion, Open, Women Newcomer friendly! Please enter building using exterior stairwell.

Cancelled

Holiday isles - NOON meeting Is no longer Meeting

Holiday isles - Friday 7p Meeting Is no longer Meeting

ARCHIVES

Father Ralph S. Pfau, also known as Father John Doe, was the author of Sobriety Without End, Sobriety and Beyond and the Golden Book series. He is believed to have been the first Roman Catholic priest to enter Alcoholics Anonymous. He took his first drink about a year after his ordination. By 1941, he was sufficiently worried about his drinking to consider discussing option to stop drinking with someone. He learned about AA when calling on a parishioner who was thought to be dying but, was just passed out from alcohol and drugs. Pfau noticed a copy of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous* on the shelf. He borrowed the book and read it. He also found and read pamphlets on AA left by a member in the church. He eventually called the person whose name was on the brochures, Doherty Sheerin, who introduced Pfau to the program. That was November 10, 1941, Pfau's 37th birthday, his sobriety date. For many years he doubted the validity of his priesthood. He had not chosen it. His mother wanted him to be a priest from the day he was born and would frequently introduce her little boy by saying "This is Ralph. He's going to be a priest." During the worst periods of his alcoholism, he continued to doubt the validity of his ordination. But he eventually came to believe that, though he had not selected the priesthood, he was chosen for it. Those who knew Father Ralph best saw the evidence of his devotion to the cause of Christ, and to the sick alcoholic in whom he always saw Christ. Bill Wilson told him that as a Catholic priest and an alcoholic, he would be very be instrumental in helping alcoholics. He emphasized that whatever the priest did, someone will find a way to criticize you. He told him "You must take the criticism, no matter how unjustified, with tolerance and forbearance and - remember - resentments can lead to trouble, so you must work hard not to harbor them. Don't ever let anything bother you. I have taken criticism from unexpected sources many times since we began this program, and so will you. Just let it roll off your back like water off a duck's, and you'll be all right." Father Ralph obviously had great affection for Bill Wilson. In 1948 he founded the National Clergy Conference on Alcoholism, an organization devoted to the problems of priests, and directed it for many years. Its publications, especially "Alcoholism Source Book for Priests," made a deep impact on the American Catholic Hierarchy.

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

Our 21th Year

Steps To Sobriety

Feb. 23,24,2024

With **Sheldon F.**

LAS VEGAS

Place On The Inter Coastal
Calvary Episcopal Church
1615 1st Street
Indian Rocks Beach
Florida,

Work Shop Starts
Fri. 7 PM
Sat. 9 AM

Door Prizes
Raffle's
Food

www.stepstosobriety.com

Pre registration By 2/15/2024 $25.00
Registration After 2/15/2024 $30.00
Contact Warren 727-365-0661
Mike 727-460-2683
Make Checks Out to: Steps To Sobriety
Mail To: 3001 Karen Ave, Largo Fl.33774
Room Max 150 People

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Name: _____ Phone_____
Address:_____
City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____
Email: _____

The Sobriety Through Action Group presents...

Here Are The Steps We Took

Beginners Series

An in-depth journey through all 12 steps from those who have done them and are enjoying the gifts of living them. Each session will be hosted by a guest speaker and will wrap up with a 50/50 raffle.

Where: The Warehouse Club

2024 Main St. Dunedin, FL 34698

When: Saturday February 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and Sunday, Feb 25th

9:30am – 11:45am

Suggested Donation: $25 - This cost is to help cover the venue, materials, handouts, and light refreshments. Any proceeds will be donated to InterGroup.

Please join us on the journey to a spiritual awakening!

Register & donate using the QR above or this link: https://bit.ly/12stepseries

For questions or more information please contact:

Stephen G. 404-319-9257, Tom E. 727-370-2301, OR Austin O. 727-506-0850

The Pinellas County Jail has given the green light to provide Spanish language meetings to those in custody. We are in need of Spanish speakers to provide these meetings on an ongoing basis through the Corrections Committee. One year of sobriety is required, and clearance must be granted through the Sherriff's Department. If you are interested in participating in this service commitment, or know of others who may be interested, please contact the Accessibilities Committee at accessibilities@district1aapinellas.org. Together we can make a difference for this underserved community.

Off Your Chest Men's Group meets at 7:30pm on Thursdays at Oakhurst Church at 13400 Park Blvd North in Seminole. Spoke on 1/6. 82 in Attendance. Basket $89.

Larry SD 4/22/01 "It's not all gloom and doom, misery is optional."

Texas Mike SD 4/30/90 "My whole sobriety has been like 'what an experience!"

Fred Jones—"I always use my last name. I called a funeral home and asked for John. They said we have 3. Ever since then, I use my last name." "This past year, I got my 21 year medallion. Norman Clancy told me that you need to have something to do every day, and you need to have a to-do list, and you need to leave one thing for a reason to way up for or to get up for."

Live and Let Live Group meets at 8pm on Wed, Fri, Sun; Thur 7:30. The Portico at 1001 N. Florida Ave in Tampa. Spoke on 1/13. Basket $95.

Chris SD 10/21/17 "Recovery has given me a positive life. I work in a rehab and love to see people grow."

Michael SD 11/19/89 "When I drank, the dark side started to come out. This program saved my life. Today, I'm part of the effort of changing the world."

Open Door Group meets at 7:30p Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri at St. Jerome's Church at 10895 Hamlin Blvd in Largo. Spoke on 1/20. 76 in attendance. Basket $95.

Chris SD 2/9/23—"I didn't want to be a drunk dad." "I woke up and there were holes in the wall. I can never ever drink safely again."

"The most important thing that was given to me was my faith in a Higher Power."

Ann SD 8/2822—""I've had a lot of sponsors, and I'm grateful for every one of them that spent time with me." "I'm starting to see more clearly what the layers were."

Living Sober Group meets at 8p Wed at Oakhurst Church at 13400 Park Blvd North in Seminole at 8p. Spoke on 1/27/24. 71 in attendance. Basket $82.

John SD 9/11/00 "AA gave me a format for living, that I never got earlier in life."

Ray 1/29/08 "I drank too much, couldn't stop drinking, and that day, I couldn't lie to myself any longer."

Mallory SD 3/15/19 "I don't think that we are supportive enough to our families of origin."

"Only because of the Steps, I can look at things factually."

Andrew SD 10/13/94 "A guy said, "Show me a drunk with an ego, and I'll show you a dead man."

Jay SD 7/11/18 "There's a Chapter called Into Action, not into feeling, not into thinking." "Fireman Norm said AA is the best thing that happened to me, that I never wanted to happen."

Mary SD 8/12/04 "Married 42 years, I am a dual member. AA & Ala-non. My hubby and I both study both literature, because we're married to alcoholics."

Upcoming Groups Speaking:

02/03 Koinonia
02/10 Attitude Adjustment
02/17 San Martin Group
02/24 Attitude Adjustment
03/02 4th Dimension
03/09 Primary Purpose Group
03/16 Our Common Problem
03/23
03/30
04/06
04/13 Attitude Adjustment

Tradition Two " *- 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."*

Following the Second Tradition

Given the very nature of the Second Tradition, it is impossible for one to embrace it alone. It takes co-operation with your group, especially with those who hold leadership positions. These people must be willing to lead by example, performing service work when necessary and demonstrating the core principles of sobriety so that others may benefit from the example that has been set. Anyone who is not prepared to conduct themselves accordingly is not in tune with the Second Tradition.

As far as how the group is actually to be run so that no one considers themselves to be "in charge," the answer is generally quite simple. Many groups follow very parliamentary procedures, holding a business meeting every month during which they vote on any pressing issues that might be facing the group. The primary leader of this fellowship can be the GSR (General Service Representative), but they do not technically have any more say in things than anybody else. All they essentially do is run the business meetings. If they try to step outside of these bounds, they have failed to follow the Second Tradition.

In order to truly follow Tradition Two, you must do a little personal reflection. Due to the presence of spirituality in the Second Tradition, it is vital that anybody who takes a leadership position in AA has made an effort to reflect upon their spiritual beliefs. Without these in place, one cannot lead what is most certainly a spiritual program. Whatever it takes to reach a personal understanding of spirituality—something you will discover while working Step Two—you must undergo this process if you wish to fulfill a functional role in your homegroup.

Aside from spirituality, the primary component of the Second Tradition which you must strive to understand is the concept of group consciousness. If you have been in recovery for some time, this will not be too difficult. This is especially true if you attend your meetings within a relatively close-knit home group. If this is the case, then you should already have a fair idea regarding the wants and needs of those in your recovery community. You should know what they want to see out of the group, and will be able to address these matters in business meetings.

Those who are new to recovery may not be prepared to take a service position, but this does not mean that their opinion is not worth anything. Newcomers have a different way of looking at things. The old-timers may sometimes lose touch with the newcomers' perspective, so it is good to voice your opinion and let people know how the group has come across in your eyes. Not only might this stand a chance at resulting in changes that suit you, but it might be enlightening for some of those who were there before you as well.

Above all, try to maintain a sense of humility in all dealings with the group. As long as you are able to voice your thoughts while bearing in mind that group consciousness does not depend upon your opinion alone, you should do well at embracing the Second Tradition and providing valuable insight to your group. In this way, you will become a part of the fate that defines the group. Or to put it in religious terms, God will speak through you as through everybody else within your recovery community. But whether you believe this or not is irrelevant—becoming involved is never a bad thing, and will almost certainly help you to remain sober. This, more than anything else, should be your primary goal.

Written by: Justin Kunst

Attention

Upcoming EVENTS

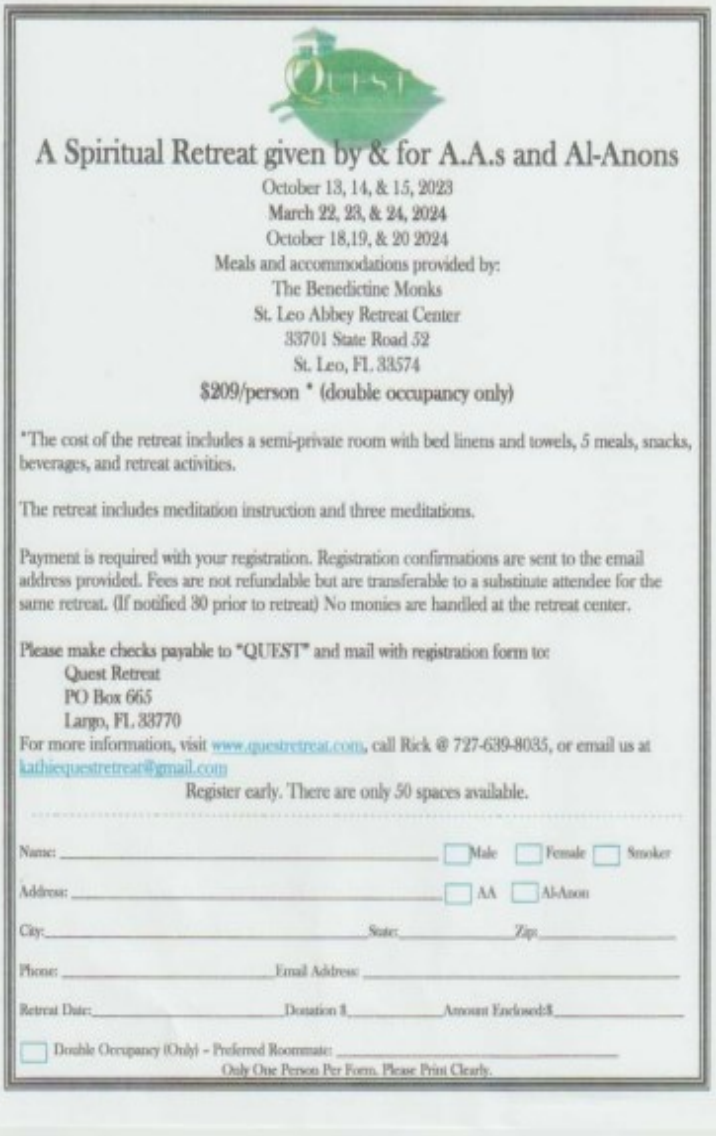
THE SERENITY CLUB
631 Turner Street
Clearwater, FL 33756

February

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	FEBRUARY 10th
SUPER BOWL PARTY	SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 11th
SERENITY CLUB BOARD MEETING	TUESDAY	FEBRUARY 13TH
MONTHLY BAKE SALE	SATURDAY	FEBRUARY 17th
VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE	SATURDAY	FEBRUARY 17TH
MARTY MORRISON CELEBRATION OF LIFE	SATURDAY	FEBRUARY 24TH



QUEST

A Spiritual Retreat given by & for A.A.s and Al-Anons

October 13, 14, & 15, 2023
March 22, 23, & 24, 2024
October 18,19, & 20 2024
Meals and accommodations provided by:
The Benedictine Monks
St. Leo Abbey Retreat Center
33701 State Road 52
St. Leo, FL 33574
$209/person * (double occupancy only)

*The cost of the retreat includes a semi-private room with bed linens and towels, 5 meals, snacks, beverages, and retreat activities.

The retreat includes meditation instruction and three meditations.

Payment is required with your registration. Registration confirmations are sent to the email address provided. Fees are not refundable but are transferable to a substitute attendee for the same retreat. (If notified 30 prior to retreat) No monies are handled at the retreat center.

Please make checks payable to "QUEST" and mail with registration form to:
Quest Retreat
PO Box 665
Largo, FL 33770
For more information, visit www.questretreat.com, call Rick @ 727-639-8035, or email us at kathiequestretreat@gmail.com
Register early. There are only 50 spaces available.

Name: _____ Male Female Smoker
Address: _____ AA Al-Anon
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email Address: _____
Retreat Date: _____ Donation $ _____ Amount Enclosed:$ _____
Double Occupancy (Only) - Preferred Roommate: _____
Only One Person Per Form. Please Print Clearly.

Open Treatment Committee Positions

1 - Secretary and Alt - 3-year sobriety 1-year committee experience
2 - Tech Chair and Alt - 1-year sobriety, Exp with Zoom and Outlook 6-months committee experience
3 - Alternate facility coordinators - 1-year sobriety 6-months committee experience
If interested come to Allendale United Methodist Church in St Petersburg, room 109 on the last Thursday of the month at 5:30 PM

For questions contact Rob V - 727-215-3303

Raffle baskets needed for the

79th Annual InterGroup Anniversary Gala

The Gala is being held on Saturday, March 2, 2024.

To have your baskets picked up, call or text
Kelly (727) 851-3112 or
Megan (727) 543-3574

Baskets can be dropped off at Intergroup's Central Office at 12300 Seminole Blvd.

If you are bringing your baskets to the Gala, please have them there by 5:30pm.

We look forward to seeing you there!

DECEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

Free Spirits

Woodie S. 41
Cynthia H. 37
Hannah H. 5

JANUARY

ANNIVERSARIES

Blind Pass Group

Jeff K 25
John P 28
Steve R 1
Kevin K 5
Mary M 1
Matt B

Seminole Group

Stephen G 2

High Noon Daily

Debbie M 40
Bruce W 39
Angie L 36
Dan S 16

Sunrise Sunset

Michelle P 1
Mary Lou 6
Lou S 23
Peter H 23
Heidi 11
Larry W 12
Chrissy C 38

Ozona

Norine 35
Sean 3
Nicky J 31
Donny 33
Connie 7
Art D 45
Clint 23
Meg 1
Ryan 7
Mark S 1
Joanie 4
Chris 20

Walsingham

Pat G 1
Doris G 10
Gene 2
Z 2
Heather 1
Hannah 1
Rick 33
Kelly 33

Sunrise Sunset

Kerri 5
Sally 21

Our Common Problem

Steve 9

2250

Thadine F 34
Tina P 6
Jenn H 2
Troy T 2

Under The Trees

Steve F 28

Twelve steps tranquil minds

Judy 36

Recovery Road

Jordana E 2
Jenna H 3
Fran C 33

St Pete group

Brad e 4
Dom m 5
Karina 2
Kerry 4
Meghan 1
Bill p 1

Beach Bunch

Linda 35
Eve 34
Paula 18

Koinonia

Donna W. 32

Forty Niners Group

Billy Joe 41
Christine 11
Hope 56
Tiara 3
Sally 35
Ted 17
Frank 32
Bart 1
PS 17
Johnny W 1
Jack K 45
John M 3
Lenny 10
Lou S 23

Attitude Adjustment

Andy 14
Dan F 6
Stephen 2

Walsingham

Branham 13
Lisa 1

Holiday Isles

Donna G 3
Brenda 1
Tina 27
Teri 16
Claire W 6
Deb F 1

GOYA

Deborah L 3
Pittsburg Ed 8
Shawn G 15
Dick T 15
Wayne M 20
Tom Mc 22

After Work Bunch

Alicia F 45
Michael D 39
Juan B 32
Cate C 27
Carmine N 14
Cheryl M 14
Rebecca S 14
Jamie L 5

Spirit Group

Chris H 22
Claudette N 45
Jean E 40
Linda H 5
Link 36
Marge L 31
Tom H 34
Vicki D 38

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

JANUARY CONTRIBUTIONS	
2250 Group	100.00
3rd Tradition Group	100.43
A New Start	50.00
A Safe Place	200.00
A Work In Progress Group	90.00
A Work In Progress Group	40.00
AA By The Sea Group	60.00
AS U R	101.28
At The End Of The Rainbow	145.08
Beach Bunch Group	150.00
Blind Pass Group	133.80
Bring Your Demons	175.00
Central Group	200.00
Clearwater Group/301	210.00
Countryside Group	100.00
DOWNTOWN SERENITY SISTERS	68.75
Eastlake Group	200.00
Forty Niners Group	237.50
Forty Niners Group	225.00
Free Spirits	75.00
Go After Your Sobriety	750.00
High Noon Daily	150.00
Humility Group	300.00
Living Sober	225.00
Meeting Under The Trees	250.00
New Beginnings Womens Group	318.00
New Freedom / New Happiness	341.92
Our Common Problem Group	75.00
Primary Purpose	486.40
Progress Not Perfection Group	60.00
Recovery Road	71.00
Recovery Road	46.00
Saturday Morning Men's Step (SH)	216.33
Seminole Group	140.00
Sunrise Sunset Group	50.00
Sunset Beach Group	420.00
The 11th Step	810.00
The God Stuff	125.00
Under The Oak Tree	80.00
Walsingham Group	20.00
Wheel Of Recovery	128.00
Womens Daily Reflections	85.80
TOTAL	**7,810.29**

Treatment Committee Book Drive

The treatment committee is asking groups to collect new and used books and literature to donate to our non-profit treatment facilities. Contact Sami at 727-506-1091 to make arrangements for delivery of collected books.