Plain & Straight

Monthly Newsletter of the Pinellas County Intergroup

January 2025

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

MEETINGS

NEW MEETINGS

AA Visionaries - New Meeting Starting 01/15/2024 Every night at 10Pm - Monday is Tradition Night, Tuesday- First 164, Wednesday- Living Sober, Thursday- Stories in the back, Friday- Step Meeting, Saturday- Game Night- SpinWheel Daily Reflection Sunday- Concept or Pamphlet Night

Walsingham Group - New Meeting Thursday 12:00 Noon Close Discussion. Sabala Plaza, 14100 Walsingham Road #32, Largo, 33774

Just The Black Lines - 12:30 - Closed -
Big Book Meeting
Allendale Methodist Church
3803 Haines Rd N
St. Petersburg 33703
Meeting room second floor above church office. Easy parking.

CHANGES

Spirit Group -Spirit Group has moved to Christ Presbyterian Church, 3115 Dryer Avenue Largo, Fl 33770

New Hope - Tuesday 11:30 am Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions will begin meeting again in person. St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 3747 34th Street S St Petersburg, FL 33711

CANCELLATIONS

Back Porch Lunch Bunch Friday 8 pm
No Longer Meeting

Back Porch Lunch Bunch Monday 8 pm
No Longer Meeting

MEETING CHANGES, CLOSURES AND MOVES DUE TO STORMS

See Page 8

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.

ARCHIVES

The Story of Fitz

If you read the story of the minister's son who describes receiving a drink in college and loving the effect, you learned about Fitz. He called it "the real thing!" Fitz came from a family with money and was said the be very handsome. He was a southern gentleman. He was the son of an Episcopalian minister. Alcoholism existed on his mother's side of the family. They never drank at home, but when Fitz took that first drink at college, he discovered that it removed his fear and sense of inferiority and he loved it. He attempted to enlist during World War I, but could not pass the physical. This added to his sense of inferiority. He had a good job with a large corporation until the Great Depression. Later he worked at various jobs: traveling salesman, teacher and farmer. But he couldn't stop drinking. He was drunk when his mother-in-law died, when his own mother died, when his child was born.

His wife had heard of Towns Hospital in New York. There, they told him about a group of men who were worse than he was but who didn't drink any more. Bill W asked Fitz if he believed in God. Fitz did not. Later, in his bed, the thought came: "Can all the worthwhile people I have known be wrong about God?" He took a look at his own history and suddenly a thought like a Voice came: "Who are you to say there is no God?"

Bill W worked with him. The Wilson's and Fitz's family became friends and visited one another often. Fitz's date of sobriety was October 1935. He was Bill W's third success at 12th stepping after he returned from Akron in 1935. The first was Hank Parkhurst. Fitz frequently came up for the Tuesday night meeting at the Wilson home in Brooklyn. During the writing of the Big Book, Fitz insisted that the book should express Christian doctrines and use Biblical terms and expressions. Hank and Jim Burwell opposed him. The compromise was "God as we understood Him." When the group was trying to decide on a name for the book, Fitz, because of his close proximity to Washington, was asked to go to the Library of Congress and find out how many books were called "The Way Out." There were others and it was decided to call it Alcoholics Anonymous. His sister, Agnes, came to their assistance and loaned AA $1,000 (the equivalent of nearly $12,000 today) to print the book. Fitz later started an AA group in Washington.
In World War II, Fitz at last was able to join the Army. But unfortunately, it was soon discovered he was suffering from cancer. He died October 4, 1943, eight years after he stopped drinking. Fitz is buried on the grounds of Christ Episcopal Church at Owensville, MD, where his father had once been pastor.

EVENTS
AND OPPORTUNITIES

Back to the Forties

Big Book Study

How AA Worked in the 1940's

5 - 1 Hour Classes -

Classes 1-3 Saturday, Jan 13th 2PM - 5PM
Classes 4-5 Saturday Jan 20th 2PM – 4PM

The 49ers Group (Southland Plaza)
9739 66th St. N
Pinellas Park, FL 33782

During the first decade after the publication of the Big Book, the recovery rate from alcoholism within the fellowship was 75%.

Today, the recovery rate from alcoholism is much less but the Big Book is the same today as it was in the beginning.

What has changed?

Discover how old-time AA worked in the 1940's
Take a journey through the 12 steps in 5 one hour classes
Right out of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous

Bring your Big Book and highlighter / Bring your Sponsor / Bring a Newcomer

HELPLINE Training for volunteers - Jan 20th

This is a very special class with a 911 trainer with PowerPoint presentation on emergency calls -

WHAT TO SAY IN CRISIS CALL AND WHAT NOT TO SAY

- TECHNIQUES USED FOR CALMING A CALLER
- MENTAL HEALTH
- SUICIDE
- ANGER ETC

Time: 10-1 (lunch included)
WALSINGHAM Group
Sabala Plaza
14100 Walsingham Rd
Largo Florida,33774
UNIT 32

Serenity Seekers of Dunedin meets on ZOOM at 6:30pm Fridays; ZOOM 7pm Saturdays; 7pm Tuesdays ZOOM & in person at 455 Scotland St. See aapinellas.org for ZOOM info. Spoke on 12/2. 56 in attendance. Basket $89.

Lisa "We'd love to see you in person or on our ZOOM meetings"

'Wayne SD 9/2020 "Serenity Seekers made sure I got a book. I can look back and see where I was wrong with the 10th Step. I need that sponsor to hold me accountable."

Linda "Thank God for Serenity Seekers and online meetings. I was full of shame and remorse."

Downtown ity Group meets Wednesdays at 7:30pm at Universalist Unitarian Church at 100 Mirror Lake Dr North in Downtown St. Petersburg. Spoke on 12/09. Basket $60.

Angie SD 3/15/17 "Don't give up until the miracle happens. Forever grateful for this program."

Glenn SD 7/7/17 "I started going to AA everyday after work, and started feeling better, very grateful, joyous and free today."

David 1/7/07 "Drank myself into AA. Now I'm grateful & sincere to be in the program of recovery. Grateful to God, family, and my former wife for getting me into AA."

Blind Pass Group meets daily at 5:30pm, etc. 7815 Blind Pass Rd St. Pete Beach, above the coin laundry. Spoke on 12/16.

Josie SD 6/8/23 "I was unhappy sober because I had no God. Now that I have God in my life, I am a grateful alcoholic."

Ashley SD 1/6/22 "Get up, pray, meditate, and call another alcoholic."

Jeff SD 1/1/99 "When the idea that I could drink like a normal person was smashed, I became willing."

Attitude Adjustment meets at 7am Monday thru Saturday at Grace Church at 1812 HIghland Ave in Clearwater. Spoke on 12/23. 91 in attendance. Basket $96.

Phillip SD 2/27/98 "We try to adjust our attitude early in the morning."

Kevin SD 4/20/23 "First I had to accept what I was, and the things that I did, and then I had to forgive, and the first person I have to forgive is myself before I can have self love and look in the mirror and say I am an ok person."

Eva SD 3/13/22 "Attitude Adjustment made me feel warm. Because of this program, I'm free. You have to come from your heart and not from your head."

Rico SD 8/15/22 "I just became a citizen. I'm 51-52. There's a way to get out of this addiction, and I look forward to getting up and going to Attitude Adjustment. I feel like I'm a little kid in class,

Back Porch Lunch Bunch meets daily morning noon and night at 2480 East Bay Drive #30 in Largo. Spoke on 12/30. Basket $76.

Ron SD 2/5/81 "If you stay in AA, you will have a great life. If you go into the woods 5 miles, you gotta go 5 miles to get out."

Chris SD 6/18/08 "I wouldn't have done the steps if I wasn't suffering. Nothing has changed, but I feel different. That's God doing for you, what I could not do for myself."

Roger SD 11/12/90 "If you get nothing out of what I said, just remember this...USE FLOSS!"

Upcoming Groups Speaking :

01/06	Off Your Chest Men's Meeting
01/13	Live and Let Live Group of Tpa
01/20	Open Door Group
01/27	Living Sober Group
02/03	Koinonia
02/10	Available
02/17	San Martin Group
02/24	Available
03/02	4th Dimension

LIVING IN RECOVERY

Understanding Tradition 1
"Our common welfare should come first, personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity."

The main principle of Tradition 1 is unity. As the Twelve Steps lay the spiritual path of recovery for individual members, the Twelve Traditions provide the principles that keep the group healthy and grounded. This is best exemplified by Tradition 1, which states:

"Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. AA must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward."

The underlying principle is simple: if the group is drawn into controversy or becomes dominated by individuals, the unity of the group will be jeopardized. This is especially true of members who feel sidelined or minimized—these individuals are most likely to drift away or leave the program altogether.
When people first try to recover from addiction, they often attempt to do so alone. While some people are successful, this approach means that people are less supported and more likely to feel isolated in their recovery.

By building a connection with the group, people are better able to reach their individual goals while still benefiting from the cohesiveness of a unified group. Such unity benefits both individuals and the group as a whole.

Dissension and Agreement

The aim of Tradition 1 is to ensure cohesion while honoring all voices in an open dialogue. Both AA and Al-Anon are structured to provide a platform for everyone, even those with minority views. As a group prepares to make a decision, all sides must be given an opportunity to speak without judgment or derision.

With that being said, all members of the group must be willing to accept the majority opinion and work together to put any decision into action. This helps prevent the divisiveness that can undermine not only the group but each member of the group.

A free exchange of ideas is considered healthy so long as all members are committed to protecting the tenets of Tradition One.

Applying Tradition 1 to Your Life

Newcomers to a 12-step group will often place their entire focus on the Twelve Steps and pay less mind to the Twelve Traditions. In some ways, it's entirely understandable. As an individual, you want to reach your goal of sobriety. But unless you embrace the Twelve Traditions, your journey can become rudderless as you place "self" over others.

In the end, the Twelve Traditions provide the foundation by which individuals can navigate the Twelve Steps. Both are meant to provide you with the framework by which to live your life, not just stop drinking.

The underlying concept of Tradition 1 is that being of service to other people can help promote sobriety. One way to incorporate this concept into your own life is to work on doing things for others, even as you accept help toward your recovery.

Some ways to foster this sense of unity include
- participating in your 12-step group
- sharing your experiences
- encouraging others in their progress

You can also implement these practices within your own family unit. Instead of placing your own needs at the forefront, make sure each family member is seen and heard. Work on reaching consensus within the family unit.

Each person may not get exactly what they want, but working together ensures that each person's needs are respected.

————————————————————

Article—**By Buddy T**

Attention

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

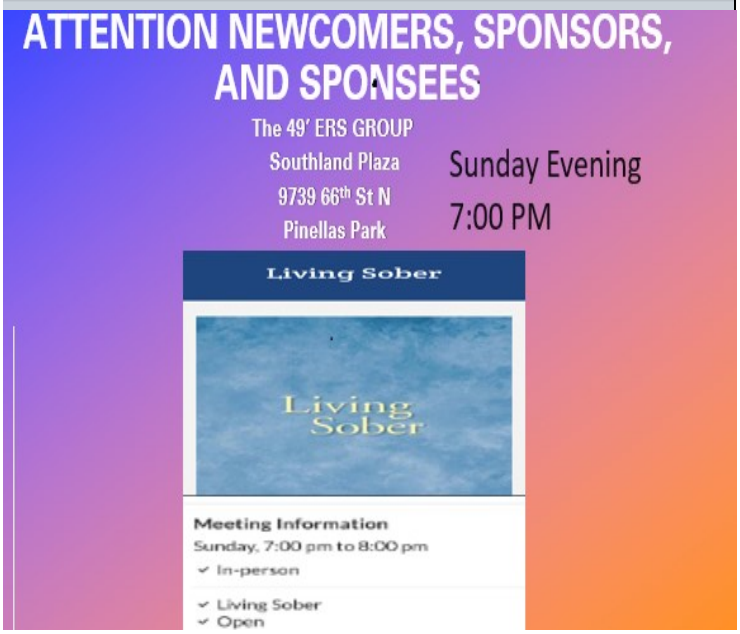
Upcoming EVENTS

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.

SERENITY CLUB BOARD MEETING	TUESDAY	JANUARY 9th
MONTHLY CAR WASH	SATURDAY	JANUARY 13th
MONTHLY BAKE SALE	SATURDAY	JANUARY 20th



November Anniversaries

Seminole Group

Kenny	34
Tom C.	4
Tom E.	2

New Women for Sobriety REBOS

Norma	32
Michelle	16
April	7

High Noon Daily

Pat (IC) K	9
Courtlan R	26
Michel J	2

December Anniversaries

Seminole Group

Coleman	1
Chris R.	2
Alan G.	9

Ozona

Peter	3
Tiffany	1
Bob H	26
Jen	1
Dianne H	13

Forty Niners Group

Pat B	4
Ron B	2
Boyd	3
Gina	10
Patti	2
Jonathan	1
Steven G	2
Cathy B	19
Pam V	8
Jason B	3
Kimberly L	1
Caroll	41

Progress Not Perfection

Kathleen S	9
Elana G	14
Colleen H	28

High Noon Daily

Beverly G	47
Mike J	1
Don C	1

After Work Bunch

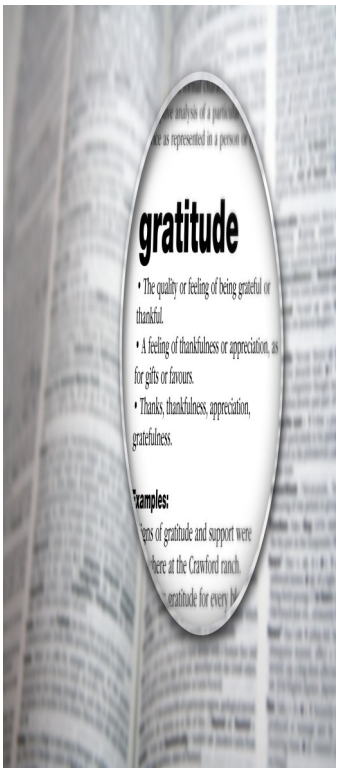
Claire D	31
Jimmie K	30
Bill H	23
Van L	17
Donna C	16
Lee M	14
Jodi O	13
Terri A	12
Chris W	6
Kathleen K	6
Chuck M	2

2250

Patti E	43
Molly M	17
Jennifer K	15
Jessica B	7
Nick D	7
Amanda E	7
Angela B	3
Steve M	3
Nicole L	1
Justine A	1
Cora W	16

GOYA

Glenn S	6
Pam V	8
Barb G	10
Bella F	14
Phyllis C	16
Robert L	24



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

DECEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Name	Amount
A New Start	50.00
AA By The Sea Group	60.00
After Work Bunch	198.90
Bring Your Demons	100.00
Feelings Group	119.13
Free Spirits	75.00
Ladies' Beach Serenity Group	35.00
Ladies' Beach Serenity Group	35.00
Maximo Point	100.00
New Women For Sobriety	40.00
Off Your Chest	110.00
Recovery Road	50.00
Serenity Seekers Group	253.53
Step Up To The Plate	142.00
Sunday Brunch	110.00
Walsingham Group	20.00
Wheel Of Recovery	104.03
Women Stepping Up Group	70.00
TOTAL	1,672.59

District 1 Area 15 Committees

- **Accessibilities** 3rd Thursday at 5:30pm
  ID: 656 169 2020
  PW: Access / **Email**: A15D1Accessibilities@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: A15D1Corrections@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: A15D1Events@district1aapinellas.org
- **Finance** -2nd Thurs 7 PM
  ID: 942 7155 2569
  PW: money / Email: A15D1Finance@district1aapinellas.org
- **Grapevine** - 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm
  ID: 366 773 4074
  PW: 606200 / Email: AA Grapevine Committee Chair
- **Literature** - 2nd Sunday 2 PM
  ID: 366 304 9072
  PW: 781652 / Email: Literature@district1aapinellas.org
- **PI/CPC** - Last Monday 6 PM
  ID: 578 1170 306
  No PW / Email: A15D1PICPC@district1aapinellas.org
- **Website** - Last Saturday 9:30 AM
  ID: 858 0444 8765
  PW: 061035 Direct Link: Website Committee Meeting
  Email: A15D1TechChair@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#: 82512980017
  Password: 425320- Email: Treatment@district1aapinellas.org