Plain & Straight

Monthly Newsletter of the Pinellas County Intergroup

May 2024

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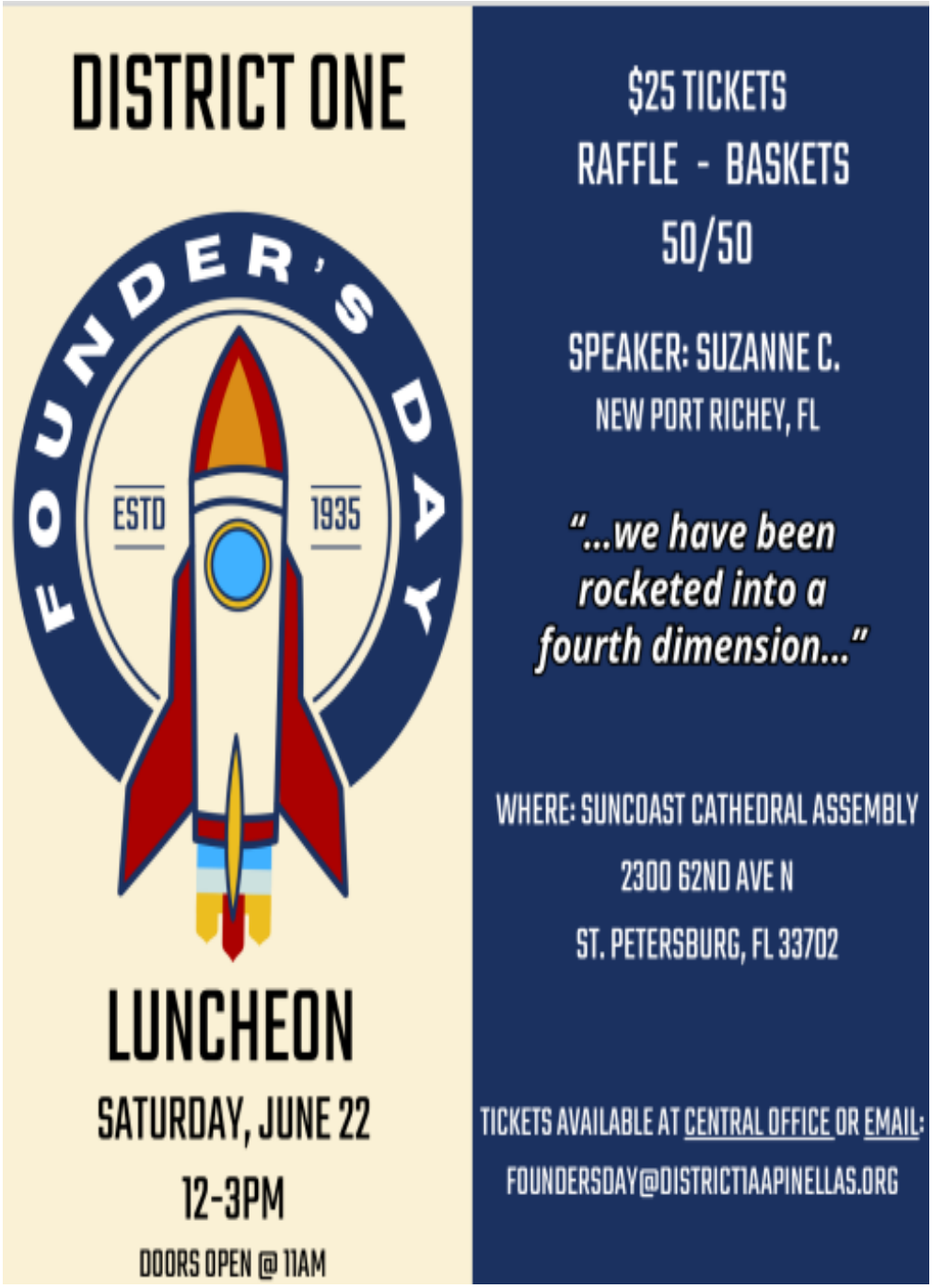
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!



MEETINGS

Wonderful Program—Sunday, 7:00 PM Has Moved to Wesley United Methodist Church 301 37th Ave N, St Petersburg, 33704

ABE'S PLACE— LOG CABIN 5390 SEMINOLE BLVD SEMINOLE, FL 33772 MONDAY,

New Meeting —THURSDAY, 9AM - OPEN BIG BOOK

AA Morning Meditation —New Meeting — Wednesday 7:00 AM North Shore Park on the beach, 1301 N Shore Dr NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33704

Always meets on the Beach.

Walsingham Group - New Meeting— Saturday 10:00 AM. Sabela Plaza, 14100 Walsingham Rd, Ste 32, Largo, FL, 33774. Closed Daily Reflections

Weaver Park Sunset meeting - Meeting Time change to 7:00 pm

Dunedin Causeway Sunset meeting —Meeting Time change to 7:00 pm

San Martin—Thursday 7:00 Pm meeting - is a 12 step & 12 tradition meeting

New Freedom & New Happiness

That meets Fridays morning at 10:00 at Freedom Lake Park in Pinellas Park has Canceled their Meeting.

ARCHIVES

Rockefeller Dinner on AA, February 8, 1940

An event that raised A.A.'s profile and respectability occurred on Feb. 8, 1940. This was when John D. Rockefeller Jr. gave a dinner for Alcoholics Anonymous in New York City. His son, Nelson, played host to a group of seventy-five guests, although 400 were invited, who were business associates of his father.

One of the speakers, Dr. Fosdick, Reverend at NY's Riverside Church, said: "And now comes a movement, an astonishingly and pertinent movement, where men who have been drinking, who have faced the hopelessness of the situation, who have felt that they never could get well, have found resources and strength. And, there is not a thing about alcoholics they do not know…. "I suspect that if it is wisely handled — and it seems to be in wise and prudent hands — there are doors of opportunity ahead of this project that may surpass our capacities to imagine."

This dinner received widespread and favorable press coverage, including Time magazine in its issue of Feb. 19, 1940. The reporter wrote: "No cocktails were served, for several guests were members of 'Alcoholics Anonymous,' a widespread, publicity-shy group of one-time guzzlers who have changed." At the start of the evening, a few of the 75 financiers assembled seemed leery. They wondered if this was another of his prohibition efforts. It was rather an event to raise awareness. Bill W., co-founder of AA spoke of the fellowship of the past year and may be the first to give a speech on how it was "now" with recovery and fellowship meetings in the AA program. He spoke of how many people had straightened themselves out reading the book and were forming new meetings. When the last question was answered, the group was told that AA must be self-supporting and therefore no donations would be collected.

Bill W. was disappointed as he felt this was a financial opportunity. Fate managed this outcome as AA needed to survive on self-funded donations and independence (no corporate structure). How wonderful it all turned out as the Traditions of AA have proven best for AA.

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

Starting April 6th

NEW SATURDAY Daily Reflections Meeting @ 10 a.m.

WALSINGHAM GROUP

14100 WALSINGHAM RD
SUITE 32
LARGO, FL 33774

Sabala Plaza-next to Werk's Barber Shop

The After Work Bunch

Is hosting the
25th Annual
Picnic in the Park

Sunday May 19th
Philippi Park
Pavilion #2

Be there early
Meeting at 11:00
Lunch at 12:30

Join us!
Food, Fun, Friends & Karaoke!
50/50 Raffle

Please Bring a Covered Dish
Salad, Desert, Water
But please leave the dog at home!

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.

ONEBLOOD-BLOOD DRIVE	THURSDAY	MAY 2nd
MONTHLY CAR WASH	SATURDAY	MAY 11th
YARD SALE	SATURDAY	MAY 11th
SERENITY CLUB BOARD MEETING	TUESDAY	MAY 14th
MONTHLY BAKE SALE	SATURDAY	MAY 18th
MEMORIAL DAY BBQ	MONDAY	MAY 27th

FLYERS FOR ALL EVENTS ARE LOCATED IN THE COFFEE BAR

No More Isolation Group returns March 10 @ 6pm

TAYLOR PARK SHELTER ONE

ENTER 8TH AVENUE FROM CLEARWATER-LARGO ROAD DUE TO CONSTRUCTION ON 8TH AVENUE SW WHICH PROHIBITS ENTRY FROM INDIAN ROCKS ROAD

Sunday through Thursday

Saturday Night Unity Spoke on 4/6. 42 in attendance. Basket $54.

Rebecca SD 4/7/10 "I had a hard time understanding God. I learned You don't have to understand God, because he understands you, and he knows the path I had to journey through, but he was with me the whole time.

Brian B. SD 10/31/21 "It is not possible to combat madness and insanity with logic and reason."

Attitude Adjustment meets at 7am Monday thru Saturday at1812 N. Highland Ave in Clearwater. Spoke on 4/13. 68 in attendance. Basket $79.

Jo SD 4/23/01 "In the beginning, it was a fairy tale life. It was King alcohol. The wicked witch's curse of denial was a hard one to break. Don't stagnate in the past."

"Today I don't wanna be numb and dumb. Is it odd, or is it God?"

Chris SD 12/1/18 "Step meetings, service work, the steps, and 4th and 5th Step work for me, and I have been at the same job now for several years."

Florence SD 12/6/98

"I came in because my family wanted me to. I joined a group, and everything my sponsor told me, I would do the opposite. As long as I did what my sponsor said, my life would get better."

"I start my day off at 7am, and I go to a meeting at night to end my day."

"My friendships and the people in this room, I can share anything, and I'm not gonna be judged. They will say is there anything I can do to help?"

At the End of the Rainbow Women's meets Saturdays at 9am & 10am; Thursdays at 6:45pm at 2021 Nebraska Ave (Presbyterian Church of Palm Harbor) Spoke on 4/20. Basket $103.

Eileen SD 5/24/09

"People from my past were in AA, and I started hanging out with them. AA became my life. AA loves me for who I am! I'm about getting extra help if I need it. I'm so filled with gratitude for AA. Today I have a drama free life, which is nice!"

Laura SD 1/25/09 "They call me pink cloud Laura, because I'm always happy. I found peace and serenity in the AA rooms."

On Awakening Group meets at 6:00 am Fridays at Prince of Peace Church at 455 Missouri Ave across from Largo High School. Spoke on 4/27. 59 in attendance. Basket $72.

Todd SD 4/25/12 "Make no mistake, this thing is a gift, and if you get this gift, I want you to give it away." "St. Louis Cardinals try outs-I got home at 4am, showered and went to try outs. I thought I would love nothing greater than baseball, but I guess alcohol was."

Pete SD 1/19/07 "When I did my forth step, I realized I first built a wall, then a fence outside that wall. Then a mote, and then an electric fence outside the mote. In the past year, the fences started coming down." "My great grand sponsor was one of the first 100. The only thing I had for entertainment was the Big Book. January 19th, it's my birthday, it's the day I was reborn.

Upcoming Groups Speaking:

5/4/24 Sobriety Through Action Group
5/11/24 New Beginnings Women
5/18/24 Progress not Perfection
5/25/24 —Available—
6/1/24 Attitude Adjustment
6/8/24 A Power Greater Than Ourselves
6/15/24 Serenity at 7
6/22/24 —Available—

LIVING IN RECOVERY

Tradition Five—Each group has but one primary purpose — to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Every newcomer learns (some of us the hard way) that the business of staying sober must have top priority. If we fail at that, we can't succeed at anything else. The Fifth Tradition tells us that groups should remember *their* "one primary purpose."

Often unthinking enthusiasm puts a group off the main track. One, for instance, offered an "expanded AA program" that included helping newcomers to find jobs. Tradition Five doesn't frown on the individual AA who tells another about a good opening. But when the group turns itself into an employment agency, newcomers may get confused about *their* primary purpose. AA's function is to help them get sober–then they can find work for themselves.

Using discretion, a member may lend a few dollars needed for a meal or a hotel room or may even invite a broke alcoholic to be a temporary houseguest. But the AA group is not a friendly finance company, not a welfare department, and not a housing bureau.

Even when acting on their own, as individual members, AA lay people certainly shouldn't award themselves honorary medical degrees and hand out diagnosis and prescriptions and amateur analysis of other people's neuroses. Exactly because this personal failing is so common, the AA group in all its dealings should be extra careful to emphasize that it is not invading the medical field. Through the personal experiences of its members, it is qualified to carry only one message: how an alcoholic can recover in AA. That's all.

Yet one group felt itself equipped to set up an "*alcoholism* information center." The temptation is understandable; it was even stronger at the time this Tradition was written because public ignorance about alcoholism as an illness was more widespread that it is now. Since then, other agencies have sprung up to assume the task of educating the general public on alcoholism. That is not AA's purpose, but these agencies also are trying to help the active alcoholic. They are our friends–and Tradition Six marks the boundaries of the relationship...

Tradition Five Discussion Questions

- Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the limitations of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
- Am I willing to twelfth step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?
- Does our group carry the message effectively? Could we do anything to make it clearer?
- Do I know exactly what the message is?
- Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfil our primary purpose?
- Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?
- Do I understand how a group is defined?

Twelve Traditions Study - Tradition 5

Attention

Ft. Desoto Picnic 2024—Prayer Circle

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.

April Anniversaries

March

Spirit Group

Chris B	22
Jamie C	1
Jim S	1
Mickey W	3
Monica S	48
Sarah	12
Toni P	2

East Lake Group

Steve C.	20
Gene D.	36
Donna M.	5

New Beginnings Women's Meeting

Anne M	14
Mallory M	5
Judi M	1

April

Ladies Beach Serenity Group

Suzanne B	22

Gratitude Group

Hilary F	29

Saturday Night Bonfire

Leanna W	3

St Pete group

Chris	1
Heather H	2
Lynne	4
Dave D	33
Dylan	2
Marty	9

High Noon Daily

Ann K	35
Geri L	14
Mike Z	11
Tom S	1

Women's Stepping Up

Mickey S.	11
Grace B.	8
Emily M.	10

Under The Trees

Ben R	17

Ozona

Sean W	2
Dennis	36
Vicki	1
Rob	1
Daria	10
Mason	48
Beth	14
Sterling	14

Our Common Problem

Billy	30

After Work Bunch

Howard O	32
Patt M	23
John Sc	13
Mike C	2
Sean W	2
Page P	1
Paul H	1
Tina B	1

Progress Not Perfection

Jennifer	35

Attitude Adjustment

Wally	29
Ken	12
Earl	2
Rick	2
Martin	38
Kevin	1
Tom	13
Jo	23
Cory	9
Christy	28

Beach Bunch

Kelly	2
Suzanne	22

2250

David J	39
Sally B	32
Bob D	26
Tim P	23
Angela C	22
Brenda R	17
Randi M	6
Mike R	4
Nikki C	2
Emily B	1

Walsingham

Paul	32
Christine	1

By the Book

Jimmy	30

Forty Niners Group

Mark M	39
Doug	5
Tom D	7
Arthur B	30
Jeff	36
Anthony	34
Laura I	13

New Beginnings Women's Meeting

Fran T	1
Janet E	8
Joanne P	3
Linda K	9
Martha P	22
Marty S	37

GOYA

Donnell T	2
Stephanie H	5
Annie M	8
Rebecca	14
Karen H	14
David B	19
Rosie W	22
Eddie R	42
Dawn S	45

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

Contributions April

Name	Amount
2250 Group	100.00
A New Start	50.00
A Work In Progress Group	40.00
After Work Bunch	274.19
Beach Bunch Group	150.00
Eastlake Group	374.00
Free Spirits	75.00
High Noon Daily	150.00
Holiday Isles Group	150.00
Ladies' Beach Serenity Group	35.00
New Beginnings Women's Group	450.00
New Freedom / New Happiness	154.32
Our Common Problem Group	75.00
Primary Purpose	124.20
Progress Not Perfection Group	80.00
Real Happy Hour Group	50.00
Saturday Morning Men's Step (SH)	188.01
Sunrise Sunset Group	50.00
Sunset Beach Group	385.00
Walsingham Group	20.00
Total	$2,974.72

Ft. Desoto Picnic Banner Contest 2024