Plain & Straight

Monthly Newsletter of the Pinellas County Intergroup

October 2024

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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

September Meeting Changes

Koala Tuesday Meeting has Moved to 2102 22nd Ave S. St Petersburg FL 33713. Thursday Meeting has Closed.

ST. Pete Group/Morning Meeting New Meeting M-F. 7:30 AM. Trinity Lutheran Church, 401 5th St. N, St Pete FL. Open Discussion.

Serenity By The Sea Meeting is Canceled 517 Crystal Beach Ave Crystal Beach FL 34683

OLDSMAR GROUP Thursday 9:00 Am meeting is now. Discussion, Literature, Open , Speaker, Step Study and Joe and Charlie Big Book Study (audio with accompanying study guide)

Strange Paradox 12:00 noon Meeting now meets 5 days a week. Monday Ask It Basket, Tuesday As Bill Sees It, Wednesday Daily Reflections, Thursday 12 & 12, Friday Big Book

Good Orderly Direction At the Warehouse is now a Joe McQ. "The Steps We Took" step study.

No More Isolation Is held Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday 6:00PM Taylor Park 1100 8th Ave SW, Largo, FL 33770, Shelter 1

Park Rats New Meeting Sunday 10:00AM Eagle Lake Park, 1800 Keene Rd Largo Fl. Open, Discussion

DUNEDIN SUNSET MEETING Now meet at 6:00PM

DUNEDIN BEACH MEETING Now meet at 6:00PM

Blind Pass Woman's SAW Is Now A Open Women's Child-Friendly, Discussion, Literature, Grapevine-In Person and Zoom-Last Monday of month is an Anniversary/Speakermeeting

See Page 8 for Meeting closures and changes due to Hurricane Helene

ARCHIVES

Rockefeller Dinner 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.

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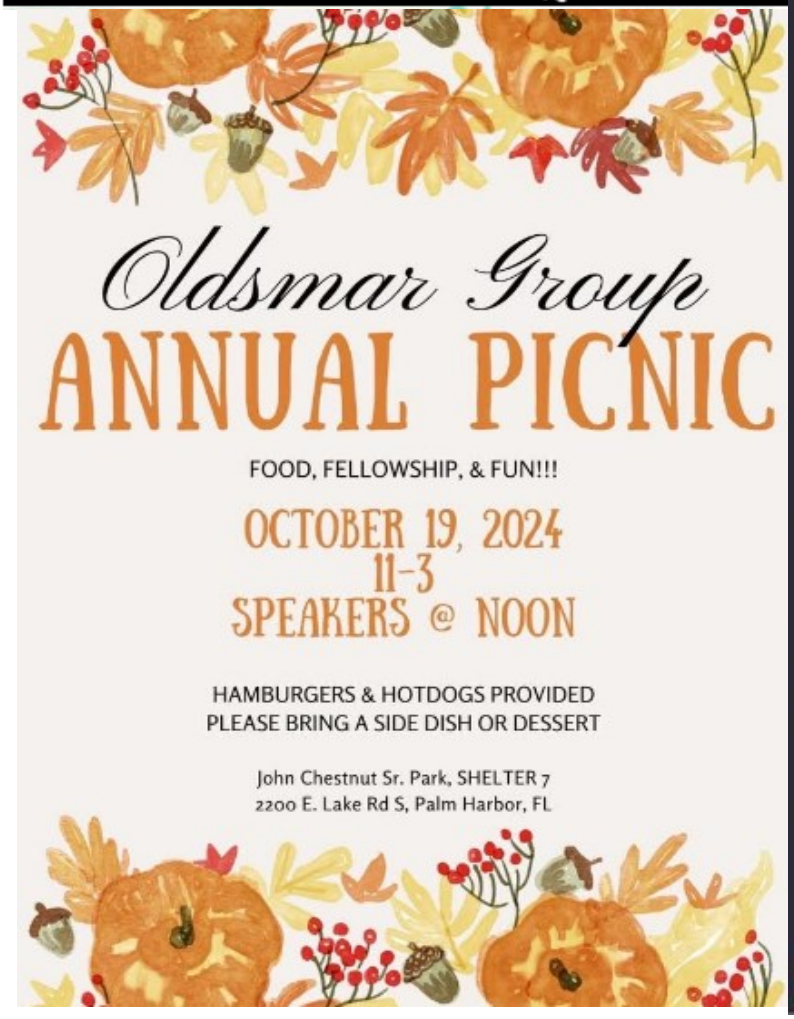
With love and service from Leslie B., the archives liaison to the Plain and Straight. Archives service is more than an activity. It is a means by which we collect, preserve and share the rich and meaningful heritage of our fellowship. Visit our dedicated website at district1archives.org to learn more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

EVENTS
AND OPPORTUNITIES



INTERESTED IN SERVING AS AN INTERGROUP OFFICER OR COMMITTEE CHAIR?

Elections will be held on October 21st. Contact the nominating committee for more info!

https://aapinellas.org/volunteer-for-aa-pinellas-intergroup/

Positions Available

- Chair: Five years sobriety, 1-year Intergroup experience
- Vice-Chair: Five years sobriety, 1 year Intergroup or General Service experience
- Secretary: Five years sobriety, 1 year Intergroup or General Service experience
- Helpline: Two years sobriety, 1 year Intergroup or General Service experience
- Plain & Straight: Two years sobriety, 1 year Intergroup or General Service experience
- Unity: Two years sobriety, 1 year Intergroup or General Service experience
- Where & When: One year sobriety, 1 year Intergroup or General Service experience
- Treasurer: Five years sobriety, 1 year Intergroup or General Service experience
- Website: Two years sobriety, 1 year Intergroup or General Service experience
- Technology: One year sobriety, 1 year Intergroup or General Service experience
- Rules: Five years sobriety, 2 years Intergroup or General Service experience
- Finance: Two years sobriety, 1 year Intergroup or General Service experience

Feelings Group meets daily at 10am at Serenity Club of Clearwater at 631 Turner Street. Spoke on 8/31. 61 in attendance. Basket $64.

Dane SD 2/4/13 "What's the difference between E.T. and men? E.T. phones home."

Jerry SD 11/21/89 "Meetings are what make the man and woman."

The Central Group meets Mondays at 7:30pm at Central Christian Church at 6161 22nd Ave N, in St. Pete. Spoke on 9/7

Amanda SD 2/2/15 "I'm so grateful to be connected in recovery with AA. I was given great spiritual morals growing up that have helped me in the program. The people in AA have become my family."

John SD 6/10/90 "I was amazed to how many nice things I could acquire while not drinking."

2250 Group meets morning, noon, and night at 3125 5th Ave N, in St. Pete. Spoke on 9/14. 70 in attendance. Basket $71.

Marissa SD 8/2/22 "I kept doing the same things and wondering why I wouldn't get it. If nothing changes, nothing changes."

Terry SD 8/2/20 "They said you will have 2 sources: God is the source. AA is the solution, and AA will work through other people.

Amanda 12/16/17 "We are in Alcoholics Anonymous, not Well Peoples Anonymous. I sponsor other people, and we go all around town, and conventions and retreats. Even when I had decided God wasn't real, God was keeping me alive, and wants me to be sober."

Weaver Park Dunedin Sunset Group Spoke on 9/21.

Dan SD 7/4/14 "I have a sponsor, and he knows he's my sponsor, and I sponsor men. These things are important to me, like the pause, and the quietness and serenity...One Day at a Time."

Linsi SD 2/10/23 "I owned my own everything, and so I didn't think anything was wrong with me. Today I have the relationship I need w/ a HP. Working these steps, I am able to see there was a HP when I didn't believe, and I found one of my own."

Serenity Club Sunday Big Book Study Group meets at 8pm at 631 Turner Street.

Mike SD 9/7/04 "I pushed people and family away my drinking. Working the steps helped to get rid of my resentments and fear."

Cindy SD 6/2/22 "I honestly appreciate everyone that has helped and watched me get sober. I'm a proud and dignified woman now."

AA Upcoming Groups Speaking

10/5/24	Nooner's—Warehouse Club
10/12/24	Living Sober
10/19/24	In To Action
10/26/24	Attitude Adjustment

Sign up to have your Home Group participate at the Unity Meeting:
Intergroup Unity Meeting Sign-Up Sheet
Intergroup Unity Meeting Sign-Up Sheet | Pinellas County Intergroup Inc. (aapinellas.org)

Embracing Tradition Ten

"Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy."

This means that you'll never see AA as an organization comment on political issues. The organization won't take a stance on religion, either. Even though AA might promote abstinence as the most effective form of recovery, the organization would never speak out in support of bringing back prohibition.

Tradition Ten doesn't promote this silence as a way of saying that we shouldn't *care* about these issues. But no fight, even one in which we believe quite deeply, is worth potential harm to the organization. And if the public sees AA as an outspoken organization, they might be distracted from the primary purpose of such groups. This hurts not only the groups but also the individuals who refuse to seek help because of political bias. If groups observe the Tenth Tradition and simply don't say anything to cause such bias, they avoid the issue altogether. In many ways, the Tenth Tradition extends into our need for anonymity in the program.

Depending upon what meetings you attend, you'll likely hear a bit of political or religious discourse. Not necessarily *during* the meeting—although some people do slip these things into their shares—but almost definitely either before or after the meeting. These are, after all, things that people care about quite deeply. Sometimes, the conversations will be civil. At other times, they may turn into heated arguments. Many members will find this troubling, although others might not care as much. They'll figure that each party knew what they were getting themselves into when the conversation began.

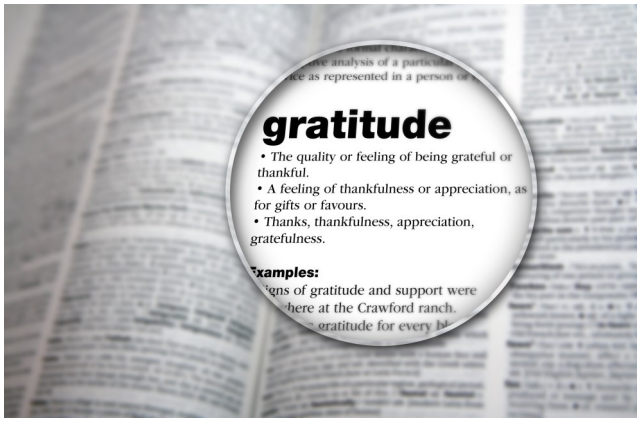
The primary problem with this justification is that it disregards the group as a whole. We might figure these arguments are okay because we know how to tune them out. But what about the newcomer, who is currently looking for little more than a safe place to come and talk about their substance abuse problem? To them, these arguments give the groups an appearance of instability. When they see a group's members self-righteously taking up arms against one another over deeply held beliefs, they might not feel so comfortable talking about their history of drinking or drug abuse. Because in their mind, this group is simply a place where you go to argue and get berated.

Following the Tenth Tradition

Arguments happen. The Tenth Tradition cannot prevent this. But the key here is to avoid controversial issues, things that might distract from the purpose of recovery. If we can at least focus on simply helping others achieve sobriety, our arguments will be much more respectful. And even then, we should do our best to keep them limited.
As for that matter of arguing before and after meetings, the 12&12 says very little. This is why AA members are left to interpret the matter on their own. It might be suggested that a bit of lively debate can be good for a person now and then, as long as it remains civil. But we must be careful regarding when and where we choose to enter such debates. As suggested earlier, we might avoid doing it in front of the newcomers. This means that we should only really approach controversial issues when speaking to someone we know, in a group where we can tell who is new and who is not. Otherwise, save it for another time.

The Tenth Tradition might speak to recovery groups, but it really applies to our lives in general. When we argue needlessly, we run the risk of developing an emotional disturbance that might otherwise be easily avoided. There's nothing wrong with forming an opinion on controversial issues. Even voicing that opinion—in the appropriate forum—is okay from time to time. But don't get too caught up in arguing for the sake of arguing. It's not good for your sobriety, and might even damage your social life as a whole. Politics and religion are important—but there are always other things to discuss.

Written by: Justin Kunst



Attention

Upcoming EVENTS

THE SERENITY CLUB
631 Turner Street
Clearwater, FL 33756

October

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	OCTOBER 8th
MONTHLY CAR WASH	SATURDAY	OCTOBER 12th
MONTHLY BAKE SALE	SATURDAY	OCTOBER 19th
ONEBLOOD BLOOD DRIVE	MONDAY	OCTOBER 28TH
HALLOWEEN DANCE	FRIDAY	NOVEMBER 1ST

FLYERS FOR ALL EVENTS ARE LOCATED IN THE COFFEE BAR

The Forty Niners Group

9739 66th St North
Pinellas Park FL 33782

Friday Night Lite – 7:00 PM – Open Discussion
First Step Meeting
Led by David L

All are welcome!

Anniversaries

September

Ladies Beach Serenity Group

Ruthie	20

Women Stepping Up

Bobbie	10

Sunrise Sunset

Charles	1
Dawn L	23
Peter	1
Alicia	2
Bridget	2
Billy T	26
Don V	37
Kathy C	48

Free Spirits

Oleg B	35
Peggy H	18
Dawn L	23

Monday Night Step Sisters

Tracy R	8

Our Common Problem

Diane S	31

Get Lit

Bill	16

A work in Progress

Mickey	44
Jack	41
Eileen	5

Design For Living

John P	8
Russ	32

Koinania

Pat	43

Beach Bunch

Roger S	27

Progress Not Perfection

Candy	20
Teresa G	4
Kat B	10

What Now

Jose's	1

Backporch Breakfast Bunch

Mitch	3
Lynn	4
Bill S	6
Russ H	32
Anthony R	35

Saturday Night Bonfire Group

Patrick H	17
Dottie S	10
Matt C	1

Recovery Road

Jen W	5
Jim B	18

St Pete group

Ray M	33
Scott G	29
Big Mike	20
Mark T	10
Jim W	8
Abdiel	1

New Beginnings Women's Meeting

Karen S	11
LuAnne Y	1
Cathy D	10

Ozona

Tim Tom	39
Pierce	2
John H	1
Tom C	44
Gary T	3
Jack C	42

Attitude Adjustment

Johnsson	41
Steve G	19

2250

Jason N	43
Roger D	42
Suzi B	13
Tim W	8
Whitney S	5
Crystal S	4
Gladys M	3
John D	2
Shantel P	3
Alysia Q	2
Nole K	1
Lauren G	1
Rob H	1

Spirit Group

Bob K	24
Elaine D	41
Karen S	11
Mojo	6
Sue D	7

Forty Niners Group

Joe R	1
Mike C	2
Richelle	5
Joni P	35
Martin	4
Anastacia B	3

After Work Bunch

Jan G	46
Mary L	36
Betty C	26
Sheila G	26
Dave F	14
Jon S	8
Janice H	3

Gratitude

Angela S	35
Cameyne K	9
James B	2
Martha H	15
Diane J	39
Carol S	34

The Open Door

Tim	5
Nancy	3
Carlos	21
Liz	34
Joe T	34

GOYA

Michele S	1
Karin S	2
Charlene M	3
Dave H	5
Shannon R	5
Susan M	11
Amanda G	12
Jim P	17
Barbara M	23

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

September Contributions

New Beginnings Women's Group	245.00
New Freedom / New Happiness	194.50
Recovery Road	151.00
Ladies' Beach Serenity Group	70.00
Living Sober	50.00
Experience Strength & Hope	193.00
AA By The Sea Group	150.00
Blind Pass Group	150.00
Sunrise Sunset Group	80.00
Free Spirits	75.00
Serenity By The Sea	51.00
Into Action	50.00
Walsingham Group	20.00
Progress Not Perfection Group	200.00
Good Orderly Direction	75.00
Serenity Back to the 40's	100.00
A New Start	50.00
Go After Your Sobriety	1,000.00
Humility Group	593.00
Sunset Beach Meeting	358.00
TOTAL	**$3,855.50**

I am responsible.
When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

Meeting	Location	Address	Status
Sunrise	Alano Beach Club, Dolphin Village Suite 112	4615 Gulf Blvd #112, St Pete Beach, FL 33706	Closed
Sunset	Alano Beach Club, Dolphin Village Suite 112	4615 Gulf Blvd #112, St Pete Beach, FL 33706	Closed
Beach Bunch	City Hall	1507 Bay Palm Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785	Closed
TS A BEAUTIFUL DAY	Alano Beach Club, Dolphin Village Suite 112	4615 Gulf Blvd #112, St Pete Beach, FL 33706	Closed
HOLIDAY ISLES	St. Albans Episcopal Church	333 84th Ave, St Pete Beach, FL 33706	Closed
BEGINNERS MEETING	St. Albans Episcopal Church	333 84th Ave, St Pete Beach, FL 33706	Closed
NEW BEGINNINGS WOMANS NEWCOMERS MEETING	Church of the Isles moved to Christ Presbyterian Church	moved to 3115 Dryer Ave, Largo, FL 33770, USA	Moved
NEW BEGINNINGS WOMEN'S MEETING	Church of the Isles moved to Christ Presbyterian Church	moved to 3115 Dryer Ave, Largo, FL 33770, USA	Moved
WOMAN'S BIG BOOK STUDY	Church of the Isles moved to Christ Presbyterian Church	moved to 3115 Dryer Ave, Largo, FL 33770, USA	Moved
INDIAN ROCKS BEACH GROUP	Church of the Isles	200 24th Ave N, Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785,	Closed
Sober Squad Group	Paradise Lutheran Church	10255 Paradise Blvd, Treasure Island, FL 33706	Closed
TREASURE ISLAND STEPPERS Hybrid	Alano Beach Club, Dolphin Village Suite 112	4615 Gulf Blvd #112, St Pete Beach, FL 33706	Closed
HEALING HEARTS WOMEN'S GROUP	Alano Beach Club, Dolphin Village Suite 112	4615 Gulf Blvd #112, St Pete Beach, FL 33706	Closed
ST PETE BEACH PRIMARY PURPOSE	Alano Beach Club, Dolphin Village Suite 112	4615 Gulf Blvd #112, St Pete Beach, FL 33706	Closed
ST PETE BEACH YPG	Alano Beach Club, Dolphin Village Suite 112 has Moved	Moved to 1235 26th Ave N, St Petersburg Fl	Moved
BATMAN'S MEN'S MEETING	City Hall	1507 Bay Palm Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785	Closed
SURFSIDE	Church by the Sea Moved to The Log Cabin	Moved to 5400 Seminole Blvd, Seminole, FL 33772	Moved
LADIES BEACH SERENITY MEETING	Church by the Sea Moved to The Log Cabin	Moved to 5400 Seminole Blvd, Seminole, FL 33772	Moved
Saturday Night Box	Calvary Episcopal Church	1615 1st St, Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785, USA	Closed
HONESTY GROUP	St. Thomas Episcopal Church Moved to Allendale United Methodist Church	Moved to 3803 Haines Rd N, St. Petersburg, FL 33703	Moved
A NEW START	Ozona Community Church	610 Pennsylvania Ave, Palm Harbor, FL 34683,	Closed