

Is It an A.A. Meeting?

We hear the admonition "**Don't drink, and go to meetings**" used to describe the approach 'beginners' in recovery should follow to pursue sobriety. Worse yet, perhaps, we next hear "**Go to ninety meetings in ninety days.**" As if anything *more* or *less* won't work!! (*This second idea originated with the Salvation Army, as the drunks they took into their fold were committed to finding a job and attending a session of their program every day for three months.*) What's missing in these admonitions is the qualifier: "**A.A.**" (meetings)! It is a sad truism that not every meeting listed in the Where and When is an **A.A.** meeting.

Also of note, the first idea sums up the entire "program" of the Washingtonians, a movement that promoted 1- abstinence and 2- sharing of "success stories" at meetings, about a hundred years before A.A. came along. Their "one-step program" attracted thousands in the first years of its existence, but the movement faded, and its members mostly died from untreated alcoholism, for the lack of a "program" which addressed "**THE PURSUIT OF SOBRIETY.**" (*It is also true that they similarly failed for lack of a 'singleness of purpose', an important part of a true A.A. meeting.*)

So how does one determine: **Is It an A.A. Meeting?** Perhaps the best "test" was put forward by Dr. Ernie Kurtz – the Author of Not God and The Spirituality of Imperfection – in a talk at the archivists' workshop in Akron, Ohio in September 1997. His five points to qualify a group and/or its meetings as true A.A follow, with quotations from Ernie (and the Big Book):

1. "You will hear the language and the vocabulary of the 12 Steps." You will hear the words: *defects, shortcomings, making amends, personal inventory, prayer and meditation. Not: complexes, repression, inner-child, co-dependency, the language of psychology and 'new-age, we are all victims' philosophy.*
2. "You will hear laughter" ... at tales of what would normally be thought of as embarrassing moments and events. Recognition of their imperfections and limitations are felt throughout the audience of recovering alcoholics, as a mirror of their own lives. The laughter covers the possible "embarrassment."
3. The "Story Style" will reflect, "*What we were like, what happened and what we are like now.*" All great spiritual philosophies have been promoted and carried forward through story telling, through relating "*experience, strength and hope.*" "*We will not regret the past, nor wish to shut the door on it.*" Regarding our past, Ernie quotes Dickens and Goethe: "*Those who have no Memory have no Hope.*"
4. There will be "Awareness and Faithfulness to A.A.'s 12 Traditions." Kurtz: "*A.A.'s twelve traditions are to the spirituality of the group what the twelve steps are to the recovery of its individual members.*"
5. There will be "the sense in the group that people are there, not because they want to be, but because they need to be." Ernie quotes the old-timer who reflects, "*I didn't come here to save my soul. I came here to save my ass. I'd been around for two years before I learned that they were connected.*"

If you can sense some or all of these points, you have probably been in a genuine A.A. meeting of a genuine A.A. group.

Step One

"We admitted we were powerless over alcohol –that our lives had become unmanageable."

Under the lash of alcoholism, we are driven to A.A., and there we discover the fatal nature of our situation. Then, and only then, do we become as open-minded to conviction and as willing to listen as the dying can be. We stand ready to do anything which will lift the merciless obsession from us.



Tradition One

"Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity."

The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it. We stay whole, or A.A. dies. Without unity, the heart of A.A. would cease to beat; our world arteries would no longer carry the life-giving grace of God; His gift to us would be spent aimlessly.

INTERGROUP LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE

www.aainpalmbeach.org

Well, South County finally has a truly functional website for the 21st century. The site contains the Where & When schedule complete with locator maps and aerial photo maps of each meeting location. Enjoy the online catalog for all your AA needs including books, pamphlets, medallions, and much more. The SCAAN is posted to the site every month with a calendar to track events near and far. You'll also find the financial statements of your South Palm Beach County Intergroup Association, Inc. posted.

Our primary purpose is to help the suffering alcoholic, providing meeting schedules and locations, literature, and Twelfth Step calls if necessary. This connection keeps the individual AA in tune with all that's happening in South Palm Beach County and beyond. The website is just another way for us to reach out a helping hand.

Check out our easy to use online catalog. Shop for all your AA literature needs, including hard to find items like Greeting Cards and Deluxe Medallions. Surf the meeting schedules and locate them easily with detailed maps and directions. Enjoy back issues of the SCAAN.

Please visit the website and feel free to send comments and questions to us.

www.aainpalmbeach.org

Help us help

As many people know the hurricanes had a financial impact on the Intergroup's operating funds, preventing us from bolstering the prudent reserve. The Hospitals & Institutions committee has no funds for books and literature this month.

Buy your literature from Intergroup. Attend your home group business meeting. Make sure Intergroup gets their fair share. Attend Intergroup sponsored events. Join the Birthday Club. No money? Donate your time!! Thank you all for your support.

Is It Right?

Cowardice asks the question "Is it safe?" Expediency asks the question "Is it politic?" And Vanity comes along and asks the question "Is it popular?" But Conscience asks the question "Is it right?"

And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must do it because Conscience tells him it is right.
~Martin Luther King~

A.A. Announcements

Hospitals and Institutions Committee needs your old literature...any edition, any condition.

\$\$Donations gladly accepted\$\$

Have your Intergroup Representative bring books or cash to the month-end Intergroup meeting or contact the South County Intergroup office.

Oldtimers Panel and Spaghetti Dinner

Sat, Jan 29, 2004 at the American Finnish Club
(Dixie Hwy & Central in Lantana)

Dinner from 6:00-7:30 pm, Speakers from 7:30-9:00 pm
Dinner \$5 Raffle tickets \$1

Grand Prize \$500 toward vacation of your choice.
Anyone with 25yrs or more is encouraged to share their experience strength and hope.

Contact North Palm Beach Intergroup
Office @ **561-655-5700**

Intergroup Office open Saturdays!

10:00 to 3:00 for your convenience.

New Email: southcountyyaa@bellsouth.net

Web Site: www.aainpalmbeach.org

SOBERSTOCK is coming!

Sat & Sun Mar 5 & 6, 2005

Camp Keystone in Odessa FL

(map & info @ <http://www.soberstock.com/>)

AA & music festival: Speakers, Marathon meetings, bands, food & Fellowship

Open to all AA members and their families.
Reservations only!

The Florida Conference of Young

People in AA - "FCYPAA"

Bid Committee meets every Saturday at 11:00AM
@ Delray Tennis Center, 50 NW 1st Ave, Delray

Looking for Support

"Our Club" is an Alcoholics Anonymous Clubhouse located in downtown Lake Worth. They are looking for support for their meetings and have offered space in their clubhouse for meetings in need of a location.

"Our Club" in Lake Worth

#9 North "H" Street (located behind City Hall)
561-586-6920

Contact Name: Cathy K.

"An alcoholic is a man with two feet firmly planted in mid-air." The Grapevine

Intergroup Minutes, November 17, 2004

Chairperson: Rick G opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer and the 12 Traditions were read. New Group Representatives were welcomed as they introduced themselves. Rick G reiterated the new South Palm Beach County Intergroup website

www.aainpalmbeach.org is up and running. Intergroup will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov 25th and 26th for Thanksgiving, and will reopen on Saturday Nov 27th. The SPBC Intergroup Gratitude Dinner will be this Friday.

Treasurer: John S – See Report

Office Manager: Pam T – See Report

Gratitude Dinner: Stephan C reported that all is going well, and we have one ticket left.

Events Chair: Ray D is planning calendar for 2005, and is requesting input. The Primary Objective is to increase the Prudent Reserve at SPBC Intergroup, and suggested that a portion of the funds raised be donated to H&I. He is requesting that Groups chose and sponsor an event. The 2nd Annual Serenity Scramble is already planned for Oct 16, 2005 at Lake Worth County Club. The events in process and planning are Tennis Tournament in late spring/early summer; Bowling night – looking for a group to volunteer; and movie screening of Bill's Story. He is looking for volunteer input for other events ie; Old Timers Meeting, Intergroup Picnic, and possibly a Sponsorship Weekend.

General Service Liaison: Jim M reported that the Palm Beach District monthly was held Sunday Nov 14th. There are still openings for Archives, Special Needs, and Grapevine Chairs. Additionally, many sub-districts even in South County need District Committee Members. Any current or former GSR is eligible to stand. A Service Fair is being planned to 2005 to improve participation and interest in General Service.

A listening device is available for the hearing impaired at meetings. We approved updates to the Book of Resolutions and Current Practices.

The next monthly District business meeting will be Sunday Dec 12th at 5:45pm at the Triangle Club in West Palm.

Group Information Chair: Christine H had a meeting with the Broward Intergroup to learn how to improve upon this position.

Institutions Chair: Charlie O stated that his committee brought meetings to DAF, 14 meetings to Detox, 3 meetings to SCMH Ctr, 3 meetings to Fair Oaks, 1 meeting to Pathways, 3 meetings to Watershed, 1 meeting to Hospital. Just under 30 meetings this month. H&I is \$375 in the hole, and needs money to buy books. They distribute 100+ books per month, and this takes \$\$\$.

Public Information Chair: Bill J. need to keep literature flowing into hospitals, etc.

SCAAN Editor: York L is stepping down due to a business transfer out of state. David R will be the new SCAAN Editor.

Speaker Exchange Chair: Barbara McG got a request for a Steps and Traditions Speaker; and word is getting out about our Speaker Exchange.

Special Needs Chair: Jerry W – New Committee. Has taken 8 meetings to homes; and the volunteers are great, but need more exposure to women's meetings.

Where & When Chair: Al A stated that the second week in December is the deadline for changes in new Where & When. All meetings will appear on the website as well; in addition to directions and maps to the meetings. "Our Club" in Lake Worth has asked for exposure and support, and Al will be adding their meetings to our next printing.

Telephone Relay Chair: Albert M is our new Chairperson. He requested groups volunteer to take the phones after January. He plans to research and possibly change the phone system to a newer, cheaper system.

Rick G reminded us about the Alca-Thon Christmas and New Years; and hopes to see us at the Gratitude Dinner. The next Intergroup meeting will be Dec 29th.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

October 2004: Office Manager Report

The biggest news for October was the First Annual Serenity Scramble on Oct 10th at Lake Worth Golf Club. I want to thank the chairperson Ray D and all the volunteers who assisted him in making this a very special event enjoyed by all who attended; and on behalf of the SPBC Intergroup office, I am very grateful for the profits which were donated to this office.

We have 20 golf towels left from this tournament, which can be purchased for \$7 each.

Our sales during October were over \$4000, which shows a very promising increase in activity here at Intergroup. However, the profit margins for AA literature is quite low, so it will take some time before we'll see the positive results from this growth. I want to thank all of you who support South Palm Beach County Intergroup by purchasing not only AA literature, but anniversary cards, gifts and recovery literature as well. Please spread the word to others that we have items appropriate for anniversary and holiday gifts, so they can shop here and help support our Intergroup.

I will have 2005 Grapevine Calendars available for sale by December 1st, so keep us on your holiday shopping list.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam T.

October 2004 Daily Office Activities Log

Meeting Inquiries:

Boca	128
Delray/Boynton	181
Lake Worth/Lantana	70
Total Meeting Inquiries	379

Intergroup Inquiries/Business (Including Serenity Scramble and Gratitude Dinner calls)

12 Step Requests:	11
Sales:	191
Visitors:	164
Other: AI Anon	56
GA	1
Special Needs	2
H&I	1
Speaker Exchange	2

Total Activity September **949**

OVERHEARD AT MEETINGS:

Spontaneous Wisdom of Alcoholics Anonymous Members

Ö When you dance with a gorilla, it's the gorilla who decides when to stop.

Ö A self sponsored person is a good example of unskilled labor.

Ö Your vision will become clear only when you look into your heart. Who looks outside, dreams. Who looks inside, awakens.
~Carl Jung~

Ö Some days the best I can do is the one word prayer:
"Help!"

Ö Everybody makes mistakes. Fools repeat them, the weak excuse them, only the wise admit and profit from them.

Send your favorites to SCAAN Editor

INTERGROUP COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- Chairperson, Rick G.
- Vice-chair, Diane S.
- Treasurer, John S.
- Secretary, Nancey P.
- Office Manager, Pam T.
- Events Chair, Ray D.
- General Service Liaison, Jim M.
- Group Information, Christine H.
- Intergroup Dinner, Stephan C.
- Institutions, Charlie O.
- Public Information, Bill J.
- SCAAN Editor, David R.
- Speaker Exchange, Barbara McG.
- Special Needs, Jerry W.
- Telephone/12 Step List, Albert M.
- Where & When/Internet Liaison, Al A.

Farewell my A.A. family. Thank you for keeping me sober today. I am so grateful for each and every one of you. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. I am off to KY but will keep you all in my heart. In love and service, York Lambrecht

BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS ●●●BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Ray F., Delray Steps and Traditions
December 18.....10 years

Michele H., Lantana Group
January 1.....14 years

Tom T., Just For Now
November 31.....10 years

Congratulations
 Celebrants
 Thank you for
 your contributions

Birthday Club • Birthday Club • Birthday Club

If you or your group is celebrating an A.A. anniversary and would like to be added to the list of celebrants, fill out the form below and mail to Intergroup Office. Support your Intergroup with a donation of \$1.00 or more per year to help them help the sick and suffering alcoholics in South Palm Beach County.

Name _____

Address _____

HELP US

Home Group _____

Sobriety Date _____

HELP OTHERS

Donation \$ _____

Clip & mail to Intergroup Office/75 NE 6th Ave, Suite 208/Delray Beach, FL 33483

Birthday Club • Birthday Club • Birthday Club

Telephone Relay

Thank you to the following groups who have volunteered their time:

October-Easy Does It, November-Spiritual Awakenings
December-Young at Heart, January-Boca Boyz

Will your group do service work? Will you?

If you or your group would like to volunteer please contact the South County Intergroup Office:

561-276-4581 or email southcountyaa@bellsouth.net

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Dec31- Alka-thon**
Jan 1 Central House 12:00 noon
 Meetings every even hour, non-stop, for 36 straight hours
- Jan 9* **District 8**
 Triangle Club
 5:00~5:30 GSR/DCM Sharing
 5:45~ Business Meeting
- Jan 26* **Institutions Committee**
Public Information Committee
Telephone Relay Committee
 Central House 6:30~7:00
- Jan 26* **Intergroup Meeting**
 Central House 7:00~8:15
- Jan 29* **Oldtimers Panel/Spaghetti Dinner**
 American Finnish Club
 (Dixie Hwy & Central in Lantana)
 6:00 Dinner, 7:30 Speakers
 North Palm Beach Intergroup
 Office @ 561-655-5700
- 2005 International AA Women's Conf.**
Feb10- Las Vegas, NV
Feb13 Information: www.iaawc.org
- Feb10-* **Spacecoast Round Up**
 13 Holiday Inn Oceanfront Resort
 Melbourne, FL – Contact:
 321.724.2247 or @aaspacecoast.org
- Mar 5-* **Soberstock**
 6 Camp Keystone in Odessa FL
 info @ <http://www.soberstock.com/>
- Jun30-* **International Convention**
Jul 3 Toronto, Canada
 AA 70th Anniversary
 Information: www.aa.org

Alka-thon 2004 Schedule

- December 31**
 Noon.....Happy Hour-Boca
 2 PM.....Language of the Heart
 4 PM.....S.O.S.- Boca
 6 PM.....Inner Voice Candle Light
 8 PM.....Downtown Delray Group
 10 PM.....Saturday With Bill W.
- January 1**
 Midnight.....Downtown Group-Boynton
 2 AM.....Sunny Isles
 4 AM.....Central House
 6 AM.....Central House
 8 AM.....N. Boca Steps & Traditions
 10 AM.....Women In Recovery
 Noon.....W. Boca Friendship Group
 2 PM.....Today Not Tomorrow
 4 PM.....Just Do It
 6 PM.....Boca Sat. Nite Live @ 5
 8 PM.....Easy Does It
 10 PM.....Boynton Beach Men's
- January 2**
 Midnight.....Just For Now

**SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY INTERGROUP
FINANCIAL REPORT ~ NOVEMBER 2004, YEAR-TO-DATE**

I NCOME	NOVEMBER	YEAR-TO DATE
BIRTHDAY CLUB	84	642
GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS	2072	26,523
LITERATURE SALES	2,604	36,605
FUND RAISING (OLD TIMERS MEETING)	0	133
FUND RAISING (ALCATHON)	0	856
FUND RAISING (SERENITY SCRAMBLE)	0	7,231
FUND RAISING (GRATITUDE DINNER)	18,632	18,632
TOTAL INCOME	\$23,392	\$90,622
EXPENSES		
ADVERTISING	212	588
BANK SERVICE CHARGE	16	162
ELECTRIC	69	779
EMPLOYEE EXPENSES	1,766	20,396
INSURANCE (LIABILITY)	75	803
INSURANCE (EMPLOYEE HEALTH)	0	4,525
LICENSES & PERMITS	0	61
LITERATURE (BOOKS,CHIPS,MEDALLIONS, ETC)	448	24,215
OFFICE EXPENSES	330	2,472
OFFICE REPAIRS	0	444
PRINTING (SCAAN / WHERE & WHEN)	270	3,148
RENT	617	6,556
TELEPHONE (OFFICE & CELL)	216	2,833
FUND RAISING (SERENITY SCRAMBLE)	0	4,895
FUND RAISING (GRATITUDE DINNER)	12,270	12,270
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$16,289	\$84,147
INCOME MINUS EXPENSES	\$7,103	\$6,474
PRUDENT RESERVE BALANCE 11/30/04	\$ 4,335	
OPERATING ACCOUNT BALANCE 11/30/04	\$ 5,478	

GRATITUDE DINNER	
BALANCE 11/30/04	\$ 6,362
THANK YOU STEPHAN AND EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED	

HOSPITAL & INSTUTIONS	
BALANCE 9/30/04	\$ (374.70)
GROUP DONATIONS	173.00
INTERGROUP DONATION	100.00
PERSONAL DONATIONS	325.00
EXPENSES	0.00
BALANCE 10/31/04	\$ 223.20
THANK YOU	

SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY INTERGROUP
75 NE 6 AVENUE ~ SUITE 208 ~ DELRAY BEACH, FL 33483
PHONE - 276-4581 ~ email southcountyyaa@bellsouth.net
OFFICE HOURS ~ MONDAY ~ FRIDAY 9am to 5pm ~ SATURDAY 10am to 3pm

SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY INTERGROUP ~ 2004 GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

	NOV	YTD		NOV	YTD		NOV	YTD
BOCA RATON			Wed Night Beginners		0	Depression & The Alcoholic		0
Happy Hour	63	663	We're Just Beginners		0	Double Digit Gang		150
Journey to Freedom		50	Just Do It		167	Young At Heart		200
Saturday with Bill W		100	Mon Night Step & Tradition		0	DELRAY BEACH		
Boca Friendly		500	First Things First		0	Central House		617
N Boca Step & Tradition		200	Last Chance Candlelight		0	Young People w/Solution		60
Sat Night Live @ Five	127	744	Sober Friday Night		0	Westside Delray	375	769
Prime Time Sunset Step		0	Spiritual Candlelight		0	Beach Meeting (Tues)		0
Women Living Sober		0	West Boca Serenity		35	Delray Step & Tradition		379
Keep It Simple		0	WEST BOCA RATON			Wine Into Water		260
We Agnostics		95	West Boca Beginners		200	Monday Night Miracles		0
Women's BB Study		0	Boca Boyz	25	46	New Beginning		0
Spiritual Awakening		43	Sunday Night Speaker		175	Five Time Losers	50	275
Sobriety On Sunday		1,179	9 th Chapter		0	One Paragraph At A Time		0
Boca AA Study		118	Friendship Group	50	150	Oceanside Step	27	227
Lets Do Lunch		0	BOYNTON BEACH			Sunday Night Men's		0
Lunch Bunch	60	1,485	Boynton Beach Group	400	677	Open Your Heart		0
Today Not Tomorrow	98	123	Downtown Group	40	110	Delray Recovery - DAF		45
Women In Recovery		493	Sat Boynton Beach BBSS		0	Language Of The Heart		501
Step Into The Solution		0	North Delray Step		0	Bridge Back To Life		0
Big Book Adventure		801	Boynton Beach Men's		400	LAKE WORTH		
B.A.S.I.C.S.		0	Friday Night Special		105	Wednesday Nite Women's		0
By The Book		0	Saturday Evening Post		0	Saturday Sobriety		20
Men On-Track		1,030	West Boynton		0	LANTANA		
Men's Boca Central		400	Neighborhood		0	Sunny Isles		732
Inner Voice Candlelight		0	Re-Entry Group		146	Grapevine Group		0
Easy Does It		391	KISS Group		0	Lake Worth Serenity		0
Road To Recovery		100	We Are Not Saints		244	Recovery First		0
Boca Men's / St Gregory		65	Experience, Strength, Hope		0	Lantana Group, Monday		0
Boca Men's Recovery		20	Line By Line		0	Lantana Group, Thurs		0
Boca Women's		2	Safe Harbor		100	Serenity On The Beach		200
We Believers	44	263	DELRAY BEACH			Cardinal Lane		49
Just For Now		1,225	Sunrise(at the Beach)7am	242	1,042	Women's 4 th Dimension		0
Steps & Traditions		0	Beach At Atlantic 7am		800	ANONYMOUS	90	260
123 Step Group	100	800	CROSSROADS CLUB			INTERGROUP 7 TRADIT	42	436
BOCA PINES CLUB			One Day At A Time		636	FCYPAA		50
Sobriety For Breakfast		75	Sober Solutions		0	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	2,072	\$26,523
Sunday Serenity		50	Big Book Study		0			
Morning Medicine		300	Living Sober Women		254			
Saturday Beginners		376	Downtown Delray 10am		137			
Sunday Morning Spiritual		0	Serenity On Saturday		42			
12 O'clock High		95	Midday Miracles		1,203			
Something Old, New...		0	Serenity Hour		1,644			
Living Sober		0	Women's Step By Step		130			
Sober Sunset		0	East Delray Men's	138	268			
Peace Of Mind	100	200	Second Chance Women's		194			
Step & Tradition		0	Thank God Its Friday		200			
Romance & Finance		225	4 th Step Workshop		0			
Singleness of Purpose		0	Sobriety In The Wind		341			
Primary Purpose		0						

**ATTENTION ALL GROUPS – Please check your group contributions and if you have any questions please call or email Intergroup and Pam will help you.
Phone 276-4581 or email southcountyyaa@bellsouth.net**