

# INTERGROUP NEWS

February 2019

Published by Intergroup Central Office

## Step 2

This step is about **HOPE**.  
Despite their alcoholism  
recovery IS possible

If ego can be laid aside and  
allow for someone or something  
greater than you, it is possible to  
be guided in the right direction.

"**CAME**  
to believe  
**THAT A POWER**  
**GREATER THAN**  
**OURSELVES**  
**could**  
**restore**  
**us to**  
**sanity."**

There are two considerations for the Second Step of the 12 Steps of AA.

First and foremost, the Second Step is about HOPE. Rather than being resigned to a hellish downward spiral of addiction, a person comes to understand that recovery IS possible.

In other words, although the struggling addict/alcoholic has no control over THEIR compulsion, that doesn't mean that there is not a solution.

So the second consideration of this Step is that it is possible to gain strength, inspiration, and guidance from something outside of and greater than one's self – IF stubborn ego can be laid aside.

In other words, when you can temporarily make yourself subordinate to someone or something that is helping you, it is possible to be guided in the right direction. That's because alcoholism is, by its nature, a selfish behavior. It's not selfish in the moral sense. But it does focus on only meeting the needs of the self. When the self is no longer the highest priority, it's easier to stop drinking.

Some people are put off by the idea of a higher power. But AA isn't a religious organization. The higher power doesn't have to be God, or any specific interpretation of God. In fact, there's an entire AA group that's focused on secular help. It's called Secular AA. It could be fate, karma, or anything else. The point is that you need to find a source of inspiration to help you stay sober.

View the original article and graphic at <https://www.ashwoodrecovery.com/blog/12-steps-explained>

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## February Funnies



Grapevine Magazine July 1947



Grapevine Magazine September 1962

## Monthly Meetings and Upcoming Events

### Intergroup Meeting

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month 6:30 pm  
24 Hollywood Blvd. Ste 3, FWB

### Intergroup Breakfast

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month  
9:30 Fellowship 11:00 Speaker  
Amvets Post 78, 910 Valastics Ave., Valparaiso

### District 14 Corrections Meeting

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month 9:30 am  
24 Hollywood Blvd. Ste 3, FWB

### District 14 Treatment Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month 10:30 am  
24 Hollywood Blvd. Ste 3, FWB

### District 14 GSR Meeting

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month 6:30 pm  
24 Hollywood Blvd. Ste 3, FWB

### District 14 GSR Meeting

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month 6:30 pm  
24 Hollywood Blvd. Ste 3, FWB

### Gulf Coast Roundup

February 8-10, 2019  
The Island Hotel, Okaloosa Island, Florida  
[www.gulfcoastroundup.com](http://www.gulfcoastroundup.com)

### SSC Pasta Extravaganza

February 16, 2019  
Mossy Head Community Center  
[Sunshineconvention2@gmail.com](mailto:Sunshineconvention2@gmail.com)

### Sunshine Convention

May 17-19, 2019  
DeFuniak Springs, Florida  
[Sunshineconvention2@gmail.com](mailto:Sunshineconvention2@gmail.com)

### Country Roundup

April 26-28, 2019  
Chipley, Florida

## Lifeboats

### There are Lifeboats floating around our area!

I know to most they don't look like boats at all. They look more like rooms in churches or restaurants and even private homes (anyone remember Monday night ladies meeting at Margaret's?). The facilities graciously rent space for AA meetings for a small fee.

But believe me, to alcoholics and addicts seeking recovery, they are indeed Lifeboats. There are AA members within who are ready to reach out to any newcomer who is treading water in the sea of addiction and to help them into a loving, caring fellowship of recovery and a better life for them and their families.

Nearly thirty years ago I was one of those newcomers. My very first meeting was held in one of those churches. I was directed there by a therapist who, it turned out, was twelve years sober and a member of the Sparkle Group that met at the Unity Church on Mooney Road. It was not far from my house and I couldn't think of how to say no. At that first meeting, I couldn't look anyone in the eye and about the only thing I remember is being told to "keep coming back". I didn't pick up a beginner chip that night because my husband was out of town for the week and I knew I was going to drink while he was away.

But I did remember what I was told and did go back the next Sunday night. It also turned out there had been a Women in Recovery convention on the island that weekend and a group of women staying over came to the Sparkle Group meeting. After witnessing the joy, laughter and love in the room I knew I wanted what they had and climbed into the Lifeboat. I did pick up a beginner chip that night.

At the meeting the next Sunday night, not knowing that we were supposed to wait our turn to speak, when they were offering the chips at the beginning, I piped up and said "You guys need a one week chip, this has been the longest week of my life". Unknown to me, one of the ladies, Pat C., made me a paper "one week chip" and gave it to me after the meeting. That was when I truly knew I was in the right place. I have kept that paper chip with all my other chips ever since. I am sure this was God doing for me what I couldn't do for myself. I soon made the Sparkle Group my home group.

Another Lifeboat is floating on Beal Parkway, across from Gatlin Lumber. It looks like a grey building with a lot of cars parked around it, with people hanging out on the porch. The only way to identify it are signs that read "52 Beal" and "Alano Club" in the windows. To its members it is simply called "The Clubhouse."

I heard about the meetings at The Clubhouse early in sobriety and decided to give it a try. The day I went it was raining. . . hard. I pulled into the parking lot and was sitting in my car, filled with fear, trying to decide if I should go in. Suddenly a gray haired man with an umbrella appeared at my window. I rolled the window down and he invited me into the meeting. I later learned his name was Leo S., or, as he called himself, "the REAL alcoholic".

I have learned many important messages from Clubhouse meetings. I had led a rather sheltered life, growing up in segregated Virginia, living overseas for a few years during high school, attending a small college, marriage and a move to Fort Walton Beach. In this Lifeboat I learned the true meaning of the Big Book phrase that says "we are people who would not usually mix" and, to my surprise, many of my most important life lessons came from them. I often get a laugh at meetings when I mention I had never met anyone with a tattoo until I came into AA.


I remember a huge biker guy sitting across the table at a meeting in my early recovery. I mean leather, chains and tattoos, the whole nine yards. The topic was anger. I'm thinking "This should be interesting". But when it was his turn to share, I learned that when he experienced anger he would not act out, nor drink but get out his journal and write about it!

And there was the time a fellow shared that when he was 12 years sober he decided to join his fellow golfers for a beer after their round. He had a beer and nothing bad happened so he tried it again the next day. Still nothing bad happened. The third day after drinking with his buddies he woke up in Dallas! This was the first time I learned about relapse and how alcoholism is a progressive disease. His story gave me a healthy fear relapse.

When I think of the Lifeboats I often think of the lyric in the Aretha Franklin song that goes "When my soul was in the lost and found you came along to claim me"

It is hard to express how important my home group and 52 Beal Lifeboats have been to me during my thirty years of recovery. I am sure they helped save my life and my marriage. I grew up there and hope that by continuing to attend weekly meetings I have contributed to the rescue of other alcoholics and addicts who were still struggling. I love the meetings at the Clubhouse because that is where I often see a newcomer hurting from this disease and that helps me remember what it was like for me because, as "Marble Man" Gene used to say, "I have a disease that tells me I don't have a disease". I don't ever want to forget!

Linda L.  
Sparkle Group



# Intergroup Breakfast

**1st Sunday of every month**

9:30AM - Fellowship Breakfast

11:00AM - Speaker Meeting

Amvets Post 78  
910 Valastics Ave.  
Valparaiso, FL

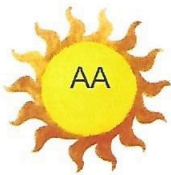
Become a star member of  
**DISTRICT 14**  
**PI/CPC COMMITTEE**

*Public Information/Cooperation with  
Professionals Community*

To distribute AA literature to designated locations  
Participate in raising awareness to Public  
Holding AA awareness panels when requested

*First Meeting to be announced  
soon! Please email Lisa N.-  
committee chair.*

[lisamn63@gmail.com](mailto:lisamn63@gmail.com)  
573-356-3010



**FEBRUARY 16, 2019**



# **SUNSHINE CONVENTION PASTA EXTRAVAGANZA 2.0**

**AT THE MOSSY HEAD COMMUNITY CENTER**

**DOORS OPEN 5PM**

**FINE DINING 530P**

**SPEAKERS 6PM**

**CHRIS AND BAILEY R  
OF DEFUNIAK SPRINGS**

**COME AND HEAR OUR  
YOUNGSTERS IN RECOVERY**



**MEAL**

**\$8.00 EACH  
OR  
\$15.00 COUPLE**

**RAFFLES  
&  
RAFFLES**



**FROG**

**DOOR PRIZE**

**ROMANTIC  
DINNER FOR TWO  
AT RNR**



# 48<sup>TH</sup> GULF COAST ROUNDUP February 8, 9, and 10, 2019



On the Gulf Coast of Okaloosa Island at **“The Island”** (formerly Ramada Plaza Beach Resort) .....  
1500 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE (Hwy 98E.), Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548, 850-243-9161 or 1-800-874-8962  
**Hotel reservations must be made by Jan 7<sup>th</sup> to ensure these rates, and please state Gulf Coast Roundup.**  
Standard \$69/night    Courtyard \$79/night    Poolside \$99/night    Gulf Front \$109/night (**“Yes..it’s only \$109..!!”**)

Our website for updates: [www.GulfCoastRoundup.com](http://www.GulfCoastRoundup.com)    Send questions to [ChipBowdren54@gmail.com](mailto:ChipBowdren54@gmail.com)  
or Text them to 850-865-1660

**Scheduled speakers:**

- 4:30 Fri:    Mike K. (AA) Destin, FL
- 8:00 Fri:    Patty K (ALAnon) Cypress, TX
- Right after our Speaker..”Movie Nite w/ Popcorn”
- 10:00 Sat:    Tim E. (AA) Dothan, AL
- 2:00 Sat:    Workshop: “to be announced”
- 4:00 Sat:    Cathy B. (AA) Penrose, NC
- 8:00 Sat:    Tom M. (AA) Waynesville, NC
- 9:40 Sat:    **Terry Stokes..the Amazing Hypnotist...!!**
- 9:30 Sun:    Mike B. (AA) Penrose, NC

**VOICE: John Van E. (Montgomery, AL)**

**SATURDAY NITE SPECIAL SHOW FROM TERRY STOKES...THE HYPNOTIST...!!**

You are invited to spend the weekend on the beach with us to enjoy the fellowship our roundup provides. Meeting Room holds 350 people on the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor of the **“The Island Resort.”** This spectacular view also has the famous and very large hospitality area with plenty of tables and chairs, Food Items, snacks, coffee, and soft drinks, to accommodate fellowship between events. The beautiful Gulf Beach on the South...with the Choctawhatchee Bay to the North will be the backdrop for this wonderful conference...!! Enjoy Heated Swimming Pool and Exercise facility...(and yes...we have requested our famous Dolphins to appear again..!!)

**Recording of the entire conference by Jerry and Jill W. of MasterCopy Tapes, Inc**

\$25 registration fee per person includes admission to all meetings and events. Alateens admission is free.

**PRE-REGISTRATION Payments by PayPal (go to website) or mail check...OR at the door with cash or check**

Register at [www.GulfCoastRoundup.com](http://www.GulfCoastRoundup.com) or use form below

### Gulf Coast Roundup – February 8-10, 2019 – Registration

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) on Badge(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Gulf Coast Roundup

Mail to: **Martin Maitlin, 1 Brighton CT NE, FWB, FL 32547**

Care group is 37 years old!

February 27, 2019

Westminster Towers

40 se Windham Ave, Ft Walton beach



6: 00 PM pot luck meal and fellowship

7: 00 pm (open) meeting

The group is serving pulled pork sandwiches with coleslaw

Please bring a dish to share!

Please park in visitor spaces or across the street wheelchair accessible

Contact Judy C. 974-0890 for more information



# Country Round-Up

(24<sup>th</sup> Annual)

"Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of Life."



## April 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> 2019

For more information call: 334-372-7979; 850-769-1929

E-mail: [chipleycountryroundup@hotmail.com](mailto:chipleycountryroundup@hotmail.com) Mail: PO Box 677, Chipley, FL 32428

Ag Center 1424 Jackson Avenue (Hwy 90) Chipley, FL

Registration \$20.00 per person (By Fri. 4/19/19)

\$25.00 at the door

Children 12 and under \$5.00

**Saturday evening meal  
is included in  
registration**

**Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> - - - - - Registration Opens at 12 noon Friday**

- 4:00 pm Open Discussion Meeting
- 6:30 -7:30 pm. "Pickin & Grinnin"
- 8:00 pm. Speaker TBA
- Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**
- 6:00 am. Ag center opens
- 7:00 am. Early Bird OD Meeting on Bleachers
- 9:00 am. Speaker TBA
- 10:30 am. Old Timers Panel ~ Theme TBA
- 1:00 pm. Workshop ~ Topic TBA
- 2:30 pm. Al-Anon ~ Speaker TBA
- 4:00 pm. "Pickin & Grinnin"
- 5:30 Meal
- 6:30 Raffle
- 8:00 pm Speaker TBA
- 50/50 to follow speaker
- Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**
- 6:00 am. Ag center opens
- 7:00 am. Early Bird OD Meeting on Bleachers
- 9:00 am. Speaker TBA

**Speakers:**

Lyle P. AA of Stockbridge, GA  
 Lisa W. AA of Pensacola, FL  
 Joan P. Alanon of Ft. Walton Beach, FL  
 Holly D. AA of Jacksonville, FL  
 Bob B. AA of Albany, GA

\* Super 8 \*  
@850-638-8530

\* Days Inn \*  
@850-415-6484

**Early Reservations Required.  
Mention Country-Round-Up  
For special rate**



\*\*Schedule subject to changes

**"Pickin & Grinnin" -Throughout the weekend ya'll come join in.  
 Bring your noise makers to join in.  
 Donations of snacks and \*\*baked goods would be greatly appreciated.**

**Registration Badges are required for entry to all functions. Ag Center closes at 11:00pm Fri and Saturday evenings.**

Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Name : \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Badge to Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Badge to Read: \_\_\_\_\_  
 AA: \_\_\_ Al-Anon: \_\_\_ Alateen: \_\_\_ AA: \_\_\_ Al-Anon: \_\_\_ Alateen: \_\_\_

**Make checks payable to & mail Registration form to: Country Round-up, PO Box 677, Chipley, FL 32428**

Would you like to include funds for a sponsorship registration?  
 Yes  
  
 Sponsorship Registrations are included

9th, Annual



ALL MEALS PROVIDED

# Sunshine Convention

GREAT FELLOWSHIP

## "Three Pertinent Ideas"

Friday, May 17 to Sunday, May 19, 2019

Defuniak Springs Civic Center - 361 North 10th, Street, Defuniak Spgs., FL. 32435

Featuring Wonderful A.A. and Al-Anon Speakers

Friday:=      4:00 p.m.    AA TEXT BOOK  
                   6:00 p.m.    LINDA J. AFG of Santa Rosa Beach, FL..  
                   8:00 p.m.    JOHN V. AA of Dothan, AL..

Saturday:=    10:00 a.m.    JILL W. AA of Jacksonville, FL..  
                   1:00 p.m.    SPEAKERS PANEL  
                   3:00 p.m.    MARY BETH S. AFG of Crestview, FL.  
                   6:00 p.m.    DAVE P.. AA of Jacksonville, FL.  
                   8:00 p.m.    POLLY P. AA of Jacksonville, FL.

Sunday:=      10:00 a.m.    CLINT J. AA of Santa Rosa Beach, FL..

VOICE:- CHRIS R.

RECORDER: JILL & JERRY WILLS

SATURDAY DINNER "FISH FRY"  
BY LARRY B.

"Seating limited"

**Hotel: Econo Lodge (850-520-4691)**  
**90 Business Park Rd.. DFS, FL.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT SUZIE B. (850-758-1321)**  
**OR GO TO [Sunshineconvention2@gmail.com](mailto:Sunshineconvention2@gmail.com)**

**Mail Registration with CHECK or MONEY ORDER TO:-**

**SUNSHINE CONVENTION, P.O. BOX 456, DEFUNIAK SPRINGS, FL. 32435**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AA \_\_\_\_\_ AL-ANON \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Badge \_\_\_\_\_ AA \_\_\_\_\_ AL-ANON \_\_\_\_\_

**"Pre-Registration till May 10, 2019 @ \$30.00"**  
**Registrations after and at the door @ \$35.00**

**DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**TOTAL AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

## January Intergroup Committee Minutes

Tradition 2: 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.

Tradition 9: AA, as such, ought never be organized, but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

In Attendance:

Deborah K.-Mossyhead Community Group	Lisa N. -Busters
Lynn B. -Sparkle Group	Bob McC. -DCM
AAaron M. -Faith Group	Scott C Young at Heart
Sarah P. -Baker Group	Diana C. Rule 62
Todd A. -Miracle Group	Wes P. -InterGroup Chair
Jill.R. -Care Group	Bob G. -Treasurer
Jimmy Mc. -Weekenders	Judy C. Office Coordinator
Johnnie C. -Secretary	

Meeting opened with Serenity Prayer, Traditions 2 & 9.  
December 2018 minutes read and accepted.  
Treasurer report given by Bob G. and accepted.  
Book Fund report given by Scott C. and accepted.  
Office Coordinator report given by Judy C. and accepted.

Scott has file for 'Meeting in a Pocket' pamphlet and will send to the printer. Scott asked about book donations for Alkathon raffle. Wes stated they are donated by the Book Fund to Intergroup.

Mac came in and cleaned office windows. Thanks to Mac.

Judy made a new schedule design that was shown and discussed for input. She has added the second Chance Group back onto the schedule. Bob G. has 6 surplus reams of paper to donate to the office. Thank you Bob.

The 12 step list has been updated and is current. There are open shifts to man the desk.

Wes asked Bob about Intergroup functions expense and if it is offset by sponsored activities income.

P.I./C.P.C. Chair Lisa N. asked about changing that committee's meeting time to same day as GSR meeting, an hour earlier. Lisa also asked



*We want to hear from you!*

If you would like to be featured in our newsletter please send your submissions to [aaintergroupfwb@gmail.com](mailto:aaintergroupfwb@gmail.com)

*\*Content submitted may edited\**

24 Hollywood SW, Suite 3, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548  
(850) 244-2421 • [aaintergroupfwb@gmail.com](mailto:aaintergroupfwb@gmail.com) • [www.fortwaltonbeachaa.org](http://www.fortwaltonbeachaa.org)