

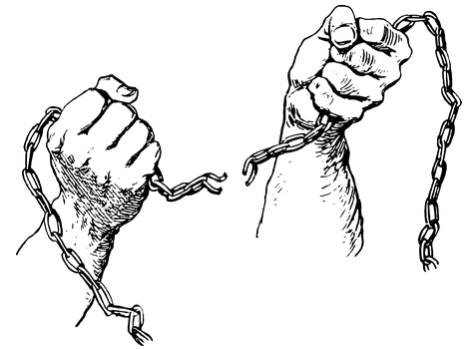


# NATURE COAST JOURNAL

MARCH 2023

## CARRYING THE MESSAGE OF SOBRIETY, HOPE & FREEDOM TO AA IN JAILS & PRISONS; “THE PINK CAN”

At many meetings here in Citrus County you may find a “pink can” that is used to collect “spare change” money which is used to purchase AA materials for people incarcerated in prisons and jails. As far as we know, the pink can originated in California in the mid-1950s. Demand for AA literature was increasing as prison outreach spread. Someone came up with the idea of placing a brightly colored (pink, green, blue) can on the group literature table intended to collect “spare change” that would purchase AA literature for distribution in prisons. To be clear, the pink can was never intended to divert funds from the group’s normal 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions. The pink can practice has spread throughout Canada and North America.



*continued on page two*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- The Pink Can
- General Service Pre-Convention Workshop
- Freedom House Eating/Speaking Meeting
- St. Patty’s Day Celebration @Club Recovery
- New OUTDOOR Meeting
- Technology
- The Play: Bill W. and Dr. Bob

### NEW MEETINGS

Monday, Big Book 7 pm at First Christian Church, 2018 Colonade St., Inverness

Every Day 8 am Crystal River Group, Serenity Club, 455 S. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River

Saturday 8 pm, Speaker Meeting, Crystal River Group, Serenity Club, 455 S. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River

**HOTLINE: 352-621-0599**

*continued from page one*

It is important to understand that AA literature is an important tool in carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic who is incarcerated. In many institutions regulations allow only 1 meeting a week and in many instances, attendance is limited. Many who would like to attend simply do not have the opportunity to attend as many meetings as they would like or to even attend any meeting at all! As a result, AA literature is often the only means available to the incarcerated individual to learn about the AA message. Another way AA reaches those behind bars is through the Corrections Correspondence program (for more information on the program go to [aa.org](http://aa.org) and find Pamphlet F-26 "Corrections Correspondence — a special kind of A.A. Service"). In sum, AA established its presence in jails and prisons early in its history and continues to carry its message in those institutions in person, by literature, and by letter.

### **HOW DID AA GET STARTED IN PRISONS?**

The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous first appeared in 1939 and in 1941 Clinton Duffy, the warden of San Quentin Prison in California, introduced AA into his prison. Duffy

recognized that there was a strong relation between alcohol use and crime. Duffy also recognized that his institution was not adequately addressing the problem of alcoholism and he looked to the young program of AA for help.

Duffy described his impressions of AA at a prison meeting as follows:

"Into the room comes a group of outsiders--smiling, happy, well-dressed men, some of whom had motored from distances as great as 100 miles from the prison. One by one, these men told the inmates, in words that only real alcoholics could use and understand, of their experiences with the program which was being studied.

The Chinese say a picture is worth one thousand words. That was a picture. For the inmates it meant a new vision or real help when they needed it most, BEFORE the first drink, for these men were not preaching something out of books. They were pouring out their hearts and souls. They were not preaching. They were assuring and reassuring."

Today studies confirm that alcohol plays a large role in criminal activity. Alcohol causes loss of inhibition, affects our ability to make good judgments, and makes us more

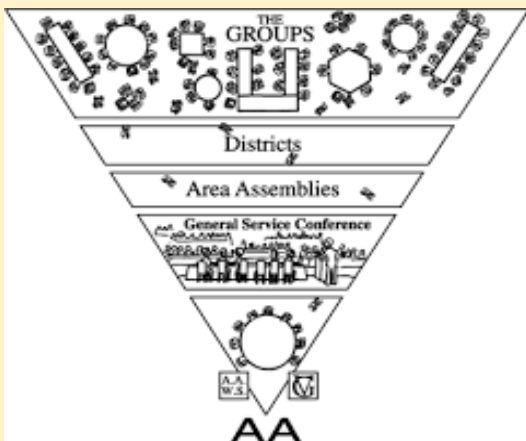
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## **GENERAL SERVICE PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP**

Hosted by Districts 7a, 7b, 13, 17 & 28

Come join us for a day filled with food, fun, and information.

Pre-conference offers AA members the opportunity to learn about and provide feedback to our Area Delegate on agenda items to be discussed at the General Service Conference, held annually in April in New York. Make sure your voice is heard! Come see how the business of AA is done.



**SATURDAY APRIL 8, 2023  
11 AM TO 1 PM**

**DUNNELLO PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

**20641 CHESTNUT STREET,  
DUNNELLO 34431**

**LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED**

## **FREEDOM HOUSE GROUP**

**15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
EATING/SPEAKING  
MEETING**

**April 11, 2023**



**Food 5:30 to 6:30; Meeting at 7:00  
Sandwich platter provided.  
Please bring a side dish if you are  
able.**

**RIVER OF LIFE CHURCH**

**2872 WEST DUNNELLO ROAD, DUNNELLO, FL 34433**

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inclined to violent behavior. These studies indicate that perhaps as many as 25% of incarcerated individuals either abused or were dependent on alcohol before being incarcerated. A 2016 survey by the Department of Justice found that among state and federal prisoners 30% reported drinking alcohol at the time of the offense for which they were serving time.

Prison work by AA volunteers has grown and is supported and organized in the AA service structure from the local groups to the General Service Office on a nation-wide basis. Volunteers do their part in by going into institutions, corresponding with inmates, and by tossing their spare change into the pink can. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions about any of these programs, you can email [news@ncintergroup.com](mailto:news@ncintergroup.com).

*Bill K., JOURNAL Editor*



**Club Recovery**  
**St. Patty's Celebration**  
*Sponsored by Heading Home Group*  
**Saturday, March 18**  
**1PM – 5PM**  
**Holiday Food & Speakers**  
**Side dishes welcome!**  
**2500 N Anvil Ct,**  
**Hernando, FL 34442**

## **TELL US ABOUT YOUR GROUP**



The JOURNAL wants to run articles about AA groups in the Citrus County area, Your story may focus on how it got started, the people you meet and listen to there, (NO NAMES, please!) where it is held, or anything you find interesting about it.

Submit it to:

[news@ncintergroup.com](mailto:news@ncintergroup.com)

## **Big Book Step Study Wednesdays at Noon Hernando Beach & Community Park; East Orange Drive, Hernando**

Near the intersection of Routes 486 & 41 at the far end of the park. This is an OUTDOOR meeting.



**There's a new way for NCI to communicate with you.  
We're creating an Intergroup Email List.**

To subscribe: send a blank email (nothing in the subject line and nothing in the body of the email) to: [eventinfo-subscribe@ncintergroup.com](mailto:eventinfo-subscribe@ncintergroup.com)

To unsubscribe: send a blank email (nothing in the subject line and nothing in the body of the email) to: [eventinfo-unsubscribe@ncintergroup.com](mailto:eventinfo-unsubscribe@ncintergroup.com)

To share something with the group, type the word Announcement in the subject line of the email, attach the document to the email/or type the information into the email, and send the email to: [eventinfo@ncintergroup.com](mailto:eventinfo@ncintergroup.com)

**ON THE WATER Speaker Meeting!** “The

Drunken Sailors Group” On the Water Speaker Meeting will be held in Tiger Tail Bay. It begins two hours before sunset on the third Saturday of the month. Please have fenders if you plan to moor or raft-up together. Arrive early, bring food, drinks and adhere to all watercraft regulations. (Remember FWC and Sheriffs have jurisdiction at all times; respect is mandatory if we encounter them.) If we are not directly in the bay, we may be in a cove area at: N 28 46.926 by W 82 38.791. We plan to see how well this goes for a few months. As there is a learning curve, we expect challenges. We will give it a go before committing to it all year long. March 18 at 5:40pm, April 15 at 5:56pm and May 20 at 6:49pm. Give a drunk a ride if you have a boat. Questions, suggestions or to volunteer your boat or services, send an email to: [daleeman@yahoo.com](mailto:daleeman@yahoo.com) with “The Drunken Sailors Group” in the subject line.



**12 Step Opportunity**

Call Renee at 352-621-0599 to sign up to answer the **HOTLINE**  
To watch the eyes of men and women open with wonder as they move from darkness into light, to see their lives quickly fill with new purpose and meaning... these things are the substance of what we receive as we carry A.A.'s message to the next alcoholic. 12 and 12, pg. 110

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Crystal River Group, Serenity Club announces this anniversary.

*March 21 Shirley M. 41 years*

Women's Friendship Group announces this anniversary.

*March 2 Linda G. 43 years*

Monday Nite Men's Group at Shepherd of the Hills Church celebrates these anniversaries.

*Howard W. 30 years*

*Rick T. 42 years*



Let us know about your group's sobriety anniversaries. Send the information to [news@ncintergroup.com](mailto:news@ncintergroup.com).

## TECHNOLOGY CORNER

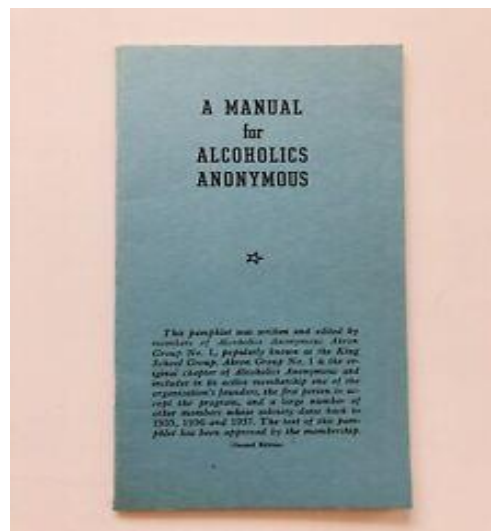
Do you have any cool web pages that we AAs can appreciate? Send the info to me and I will publish them here in the Journal. Email to [news@ncintergroup.com](mailto:news@ncintergroup.com). – Bill K., JOURNAL Editor

**GRAPEVINE articles are available at no cost at [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org).** Just click on the ARCHIVES tab located at the top center of the home page. The search options allow you to search issues back to the beginning in 1944.

**NATURE COAST INTERGROUP WEBSITE ([ncintergroup.com](http://ncintergroup.com))** has access to all JOURNALS, Bylaws and NCI Minutes. Press the NEWS tab.

**DISTRICT 28 WEBSITE ([aadistrict28.org](http://aadistrict28.org))** click tabs: ARCHIVES, AA HISTORY, PDF FILES, AKRON MANUAL

(More on the Akron Manual next month!)



**Nature Coast Intergroup and District 28 Business Meetings are held on the first Sunday of the Month at 4:30 pm at Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church  
2540 West Norvell Bryant Highway, Lecanto, FL 34461**

***Dist. 28 Meeting is at 5:45pm***

## The Play: Bill W. and Dr. Bob

The play will be at the Valerie for two weekends, March 24-26, and March 31 - April 2 at the Valerie Theater in Inverness. See info below for tickets.

In keeping with the traditions, we are not affiliated with Alcoholics Anonymous; however, we would like to extend an invitation to AA friends and families.



## BILL W. and Dr. BOB

Alcohol had them both down for keeps. Their friendship saved them - and began a recovery revolution.

One alcoholic talking to another sparked a solution for billions.  
This is how it began.

**LIVE ON STAGE!!!** At The Valerie Theatre March 24-26 and March 31-April 2, 2023  
207 Courthouse Square | Inverness, FL 34450 | [www.valerietheatre.org](http://www.valerietheatre.org) | 352-341-7850  
Tickets are \$20 (all taxes and fees included) | Available online, over the phone, or at the box office (T-F, 12-6pm)



**AA Disclaimer**  
With respect to the Traditions of AA, performance of this work does not imply affiliation with nor approval or endorsement from Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.



## MUSICIANS



If you have at least one year of sobriety, and play a musical instrument, contact:

**QUENTIN B. CELL: 561-386-0843**  
**EMAIL: [quentinl@earthlink.net](mailto:quentinl@earthlink.net)**

## WOMEN NEEDED TO CARRY THE MESSAGE

Female AA volunteers are needed to bring the AA message to women inmates at the Citrus County Jail. Please email your name and phone number to [news@ncintergroup.com](mailto:news@ncintergroup.com).

## 7<sup>th</sup> TRADITION

For District and Intergroup contributions,  
please write your group number on the check.

Make check payable to “District 28” and mail to:  
District 28, PO Box 640914, Beverly Hills, FL 34464

Make check payable to “Nature Coast Intergroup” and mail to:  
Nature Coast Intergroup, PO Box 2634, Crystal River, FL 34423

For Area contributions, please write  
“District 28” and your group number on the check.

Make check payable to “NFAC Treasurer” and mail to:  
North Florida Area Conference, PO Box 630, Jacksonville, FL 32205-9998

For GSO contributions, please write  
“District 28” and your group number on the check.

Make check payable to “General Service Board” and mail to:  
G.S.O., PO Box 2407, James A. Farley Station, New York, NY 10116-2407

**VISIT [NCINTERGROUP.COM](http://NCINTERGROUP.COM)  
FOR THE LATEST  
MEETING LOCATIONS AND TIMES,  
NEWS AND OTHER RESOURCES**



## Steps | Traditions | Concepts

### STEP 3

“Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.”

### TRADITION 3

“The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.”

### CONCEPT 3

“To ensure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. – the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives – with a traditional “Right of Decision”.