

The Today

Palm Beach County Intergroup Association



November
2011

To serve our associated groups in carrying the A.A. message to the still suffering alcoholic according to the principles of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of A.A., always remembering that our common welfare comes first.

1371 Okeechobee Road West Palm Beach, FL 33401 561-655-5700 Fax 561-655-6441
www.aa-palmbeachcounty.org Email: pbcia@bellsouth.net

Intergroup's Bake Sale & Open House

Join us at Palm Beach County Intergroup on
Saturday, November 19th
from 10am to 3pm to meet your Intergroup Staff and taste
some goodies!

Enter your Best Bakery item Contest!

Submit your best Pie, Cake, Cookie, Cup-Cake,
or Misc. Bakery Item.

Win prizes for best in each category and best over all!
(All contest items must be submitted between 9am - 10am)

Donated Bakery
items accepted

Prizes posted at Intergroup

Contact the Intergroup
Office for further details.
561-655-5700



2011/2012 Holiday Alcathons

December 24th at Noon - December 25th at Noon @
The Triangle Club main room.

December 31st at 1pm - January 1st at Noon @
The PBC Intergroup Office in meeting room.

**Group Time Slots will be
published in the December
issue of The Today.**

Volunteers will be needed to help set up, clean up, and
maintain the coffee and room throughout the Alcathons.



Really special volunteers
will be needed to maintain the coffee and room during the really late
night hours.

For more Information, please
contact the Intergroup Office
(561) 655-5700

November is Gratitude Month - Our Chance To Say "Thank You!"

"The idea is in the air that A.A. might adopt Thanksgiving week as a time for meetings and meditation on the Traditions," A.A. co-founder Bill W. wrote in the November 1949 issue of the Grapevine (The Language of the Heart, p. 95) shortly after publication of the Twelve Traditions. In fact, the idea had already taken hold earlier in the decade when, each fall, the General Service Board hosted small Gratitude Dinners - precursors of the larger, more elaborate Gratitude Luncheons that would be held during the '60s as an initiative of the (Continued on back page)

Group Spotlight

Day Openers

Monday - Sunday @ 7:00 Am : Easy Does It Club - 2677 Forest Hill Blvd, #108 West Palm Beach, Fl

History: What began as a group of A.A.'s playing cards and talking about the need for a early morning meeting in the late 1980's, slowly took shape to Officially become Day Openers in May of 1992. While depending upon whom you speak with of the nearly 200 people who claim to be founding members of Day Openers, who actually founded Day Openers is somewhat of a mystery. What is agreed on is that some the early members consisted of "Bandana" Dexter, "Make Your Bed" Bob, his friend Scott P., "Texas" Tom (who was from Boston), "Lucky" Lou, "Ole" Hank, and Mrs. Bea - who donated a round table (which is still at EDI), a coffee pot, and some chairs. Over the years, the group has continued to grow while holding to some of it's founding habits of encouraging new members to chair or lead the meeting and making some the more harder cases "Group projects". The group revels in it's tough roots and maintains the sentiment that "You have to be really serious about your recovery to be at a meeting everyday at 7am!"

Meeting(s): 7 days a week at 7am - Open Lead Discussion with a Big Book meeting on Wednesday and a 12 X 12 meeting on Friday. The Group celebrates their members anniversaries the last Saturday of each month. Day Openers members are a lively bunch and hold true to the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. Members frequently plan outings and activities that anyone can participate in and leads by example to the newcomer. Many members arrive as early as 5:30am to enjoy fellowship over a cup of coffee and then will stay late to invite a guest or newcomer to breakfast. Anyone attending should be aware that this Group will greet you at the door, get to know you during the meeting, and try to include you in their activities. This Group "Absolutely insists on enjoying life" (BB pg 132) and sets an example other groups would be well to follow.

BIRTHDAY CLUB

★ October Celebrants ★

Lane K	35 Years	Helen O.	25 Years
Sherwin A.	23 Years	Joann R.	12 Years
"Blackie" B.	7 Years	Greg F.	6 Years
Ashley N.	4 Years	Jay S.	3 Years
Christine H.	3 Years	Scott M.	1 Year

★ November Celebrants ★

Gary B.	22 Years	Susan D.	22 Years
Donald H.	22 Years	George A.	16 Years
Karen P.	4 Years	Hugh H.	4 Years
Rich S.	3 Years	Thomas C.	2 Years

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Mail to:

Palm Beach County Intergroup Association
1371 Okeechobee Rd, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

JOIN THE BIRTHDAY CLUB!

Celebrate your years of recovery by giving a little something back!

You get:

Bill & Bob Medallion, Birthday Flyer , and
Name in the TODAY newsletter.*

Complete this form and mail to:

Birthday Club, 1371 Okeechobee Road, WPB FL 33401

Or email us at: pbciaa@bellsouth.net.

\$1 per year of sobriety is the suggested contribution.
(Feel free to give more!)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Email : _____

Home Group : _____

Sobriety Date: ____/____/____

Phone # () _____ - _____

DONATION: \$ _____

* Deadline for new submissions for Today printing is the last Wednesday 1 month prior to sobriety month.



Financial Reports

Palm Beach County Intergroup

Operating Report -

10/01/2011 - 10/31/2011

Revenues:

Literature Sales	\$3,526.84
Sales Tax	\$214.09
Tax Exempt Sales	\$30.00
Group Contributions	\$3,114.83
Potluck Dinner Tickets	\$204.00
Today Subscriptions	\$0.00
Birthday Club Memberships	\$110.00
Meeting Baskets	\$73.00

Total Revenues: \$7,272.76

Expenses:

Literature Purchases	\$3,405.35
Sales Tax	\$180.10
Office Salary	\$3,076.90
FICA & Unemployment Tax	\$235.39
Paychex (monthly fee)	\$69.00
Health insurance	\$500.00
Rent & Water	\$475.00
AT&T (Internet, Phone, Website)	\$322.62
FP&L	\$143.87
Exterminating	\$35.00
Printing	\$205.00
Office Supplies / Postage	\$47.41

Total Expenses \$8,695.64

Monthly Surplus / (Deficit) (\$1,422.88)

Checking Account Balance \$2,930.43

Prudent Reserve Interest	0.32
Transferred to Prudent Reserve	\$0.00

Prudent Reserve Balance \$20,046.51

Palm Beach County Intergroup

Institutions Committee

Operating Report -

10/01/2011 - 10/31/2011

Beginning Balance \$8,579.47

Income:

Group Contributions

After Hours Group	\$79.48
Free Spirited Women	\$55.80

Big Book Ball \$100.00

Total Income \$235.28

Expenses:

Where & When	\$0.00
Big Books	\$0.00
Printing	\$0.00
Rent	\$0.00
Big Book Ball	\$43.46

Total Expenses \$43.46

Monthly Profit/Loss \$191.82

Ending Balance \$8,771.29

Office Activity in October

- 12 Step Requests - 1
- Other information - 46
- Bridging The Gap - 0
- Institutions - 1
- Request for meeting info - 169
- Public Information - 3
- Visitors - 220
- AA Emails - 149
- **Total Activity - 589**

Website Visits in October

- 1st time visits - 1794
- Return visits - 479
- **Total Visitors - 2273**

New Where & When's Have Arrived !

All new updated information
On sale now at Intergroup!

Tomorrow

November 11th: PBC Intergroup Office
OPEN on Veterans Day

November 19th: PBC Intergroup's Bake Sale and Open House. 10am - 3pm @ Intergroup Office.

November 19th: SPBC Intergroup's 23rd Annual Gratitude Dinner @ Embassy Suites, 661 NW 53rd St., Boca Raton For tickets call SPBC Intergroup 561-276-4851

November 24th - 27th: 45th Annual Las Vegas Roundup. Info @:
www.lasvegasroundup.org

December 4th: Institutions Committee Meeting @ Triangle Club (4:30pm - Orientation) 5:00pm Committee Meeting.

December 7th: PBC Intergroup Committee Chair Meeting 6:15pm @ Intergroup Office. All are welcome to attend.

December 11th: General Service, District 8 Meeting 5:00pm @ Triangle Club.

December 14th: PBC Intergroup Business Meeting 6:15pm @ Intergroup Office.

December 24th - 25th: PBC Intergroup's Annual Alcathon @ Triangle Club from noon to noon.

December 26th: PBC Intergroup Office **CLOSED** in observation of the Holidays

2011 / 2012

December 31st - January 1st: PBC Intergroup's Annual Alcathon @ Intergroup Office from 1pm to noon.

January 2nd: PBC Intergroup Office **CLOSED** in observation of New Years Day.

January 13th - 15th: Area 15 Quarterly in St. Petersburg, FL @ Hilton Hotel— Hosted by Dist. 1 - For more info: www.area15aa.org

Intergroup has lowered the cost of A.A. Books & Literature!

Due in part of continued Group contributions and prudent spending, Intergroup has been able to buy more in bulk and pass the savings on to you!

Check out the low prices!

(Continued from Front) trustees' Public Information Committee. The first official recognition of an A.A. Gratitude Week, specifically designed to coincide with Thanksgiving week in the U.S. (Canada celebrates in October), occurred in 1956, when the Sixth General Service Conference approved the motion, stipulating that "this action be noted in the annual pre-Thanksgiving appeals to the groups for funds to help support A.A.'s worldwide services." Three years later, Bill urged in a letter, "Gratitude should go forward, rather than back-ward... if you carry the message to still others, you will be making the best possible repayment for the help given to you." (As Bill Sees It, p. 29). The motivation behind A.A.'s Gratitude Lunches was threefold: to express personal gratefulness for the gift of sobriety; to carry the message of A.A. to other alcoholics; and to express appreciation to our professional friends for their numerous articles, books and radio and TV interviews relating to A.A. in the year just past. It was hoped, in the words of a General Service Office memo circulated at the time, that the luncheons would "advance A.A.'s public relations by bringing editors, publishers, writers and broadcasters in personal contact with sources of reliable information on the movement." Held without fail in November at New York City's Roosevelt Hotel, the luncheons were always well-attended. A typical list of invitees to the 1965 luncheon included representatives of The New York Times, McCall's Magazine, Medical World News and The Christian Science Monitor. Bill W. always addressed the gatherings, as did the late "Dr. Jack" Norris, then serving as A.A.'s Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee chairman. A discussion period followed the proceedings, an ample selection of A.A. literature was available for the taking, and in 1965 Bill sent an autographed copy of A.A. Comes of Age to every guest. The luncheons were discontinued in 1968, but the concept of gratitude persisted and expanded in scope. For decades now, A.A.s in the U.S. have set aside all of November as Gratitude Month - marking the occasion with special contributions to G.S.O. In the spirit of the Seventh Tradition A.A. is self-supporting through its members' contributions, and frequently turns away money from well-meaning outside contributors. This means that the active input of every A.A. is vital to the life of the Fellowship. Grateful for the sobriety they've been given and eager to pass it on, A.A.s are busier than ever in Twelfth Stepping and service. They are reaching out in greater numbers to Loners, people with special needs, members of minority groups and previously unreached alcoholics. It is clear from their sharing that an overwhelming number of A.A.s - along with many of our professional friends - find their own special ways to say thank you during Gratitude Month and, indeed, all year long. Writes one member: "Enclosed is a check for Gratitude Month, because I want A.A. to be there for all those who need it, just as I did." From another: "The enclosed check is from my own pocket, to help groups in correctional facilities like mine. Some of us are struggling to turn our lives around. We begin the process in here ourselves, and by reaching out." And a nonalcoholic missionary wrote from India, "It is a matter of great encouragement and satisfaction that your A.A. has been a rich resource of guidance, help and light for a number of organizations dealing with problems related to alcohol..." Besides observing Gratitude Month, many a member uses the A.A. Birthday Plan "to give back what's been given to me," as one wrote. And from another fateful A.A.: "I want to say thanks today for my life and my family's - or all of us alcoholics in recovery," he wrote.

"Enclosed is an anniversary check, because I want the hand of A.A. to be there for all who need it". Like him, many members celebrate their A.A. birthdays by sending in a gratitude gift to G.S.O. - usually a dollar or two for each year of sobriety. Some groups follow this Birthday Plan by collecting contributions from members on a voluntary basis throughout the year, or until the number of dollars matches the member's total years of sobriety. On the group's anniversary, the money collected is sent to G.S.O. as a birthday contribution. Gratitude. It's a weighty, high-dignity word, but in truth its close companions are humor and joy. As Bill W. observed early on in the Big Book (p. 132), "Outsiders are sometimes shocked when we burst into merriment over a seemingly tragic experience out of the past. But why shouldn't we laugh? We have recovered, and have been given the power to help others." What greater cause can there be for rejoicing than this?

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STEPS • TRADITIONS • CONCEPTS

Step 11: Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

Tradition 11: Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.

1. Do I sometimes promote AA so fanatically that I make it seem *unattractive*?
2. Am I always careful to keep the confidences reposed in me as an AA member?
3. Am I careful about throwing AA names around—even within the Fellowship?
4. Am I ashamed of being a recovered, or recovering, alcoholic?
5. What would AA be like if we were not guided by the ideas in Tradition Eleven? Where would I be?
6. Is my AA sobriety attractive enough that a sick drunk would want such a quality for himself?

Concept 11: The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

- Do we understand how the roles of nontrustee directors and nontrustee appointed committee members help serve and strengthen the committee system?
- How do we encourage our special paid workers to exercise their traditional "Right of Participation"?
- Do we practice rotation in all our service positions?