

The Newsletter

ISSUE NO 1

APRIL 1, 1983

This newsletter is for all of us. It was conceived with the desire to keep all of us informed with news of upcoming events, reports of past events and with the hope of drawing us close through sharing. Like all beginners we need help and support from everyone, the AA traditions of anonymity and principles before personalities will be strictly adhered to. It is not our desire to print anything harmful or annoying to anyone. We welcome any and all contributions and comments hoping to grow in the spirit of AA sharing.

Thank You

UNITY IS A BLESSING

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on AA unity:

For this and more WE are responsible:

We at the district are trusted servants, by choice, and enjoy growth that only service can give. We would like to thank our groups for allowing us this opportunity to grow. Even though your GSR's are willing and trying to maintain unity to further "Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety" we need the help and prayers of all the people in the North Florida Area district 5. With all of the hours and work that go into OUR District it can not and will not be a district unless there is a strong effort by all groups to be present and offer input into OUR district. OUR district cover a large area of the Florida panhandle, and there are some groups that would have to travel 50-80 miles to get here, even though as a district there is a need for all.

By and large we have good attendance from most of the in town groups but there is a need for the out of town groups for there input so that we can function as a district and not a "City Committee". I would like to refer to the 1981-82 edition of the service manual, pages 39-41.

"Leadership in AA: Ever a vital need"

No society can function well without leadership in all its levels and AA can be no exception. It must be said, though we AA's sometimes cherish the thought that we can do without much personal leadership at all, we are apt to warp the traditional idea of "principle before personalities" around to such a point that there would be no "personalities" in leadership whatsoever, this would imply rather faceless automatons trying to please everybody, regardless.

At other times, we are quite as apt to demand that AA leaders must necessarily be people of the most sterling judgement, morals and inspiration: big doers, prime example to all and practically infallible. Real leadership, of course, has to function in between these entirely imaginary poles of hope for excellence. In AA certainly, no leader is faceless and neither is any leader perfect. (page 40)

A leader in AA service is therefore a man or woman who can personally put principle, plans and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him up and help him with his job. When a leader power drives us badly we rebel; but when he too meekly becomes an order taker and he exercises no judgement of his own he really isn't a leader at all. (page 41)

Now we come to all important attribute of vision. Vision is, I think, the ability to make good estimates, both for the immediate and for the more distant future. Some might feel this sort of striving to be a sort of heresy, because we AAs are constantly telling ourselves "one day at a time". But that valuable principle really refers to our mental and emotional lives and means chiefly that we are not foolishly to repine over the past nor wishfully to daydream about the future.

As individuals and as a fellowship, we shall suffer if we cast the whole job of planning for tomorrow onto a fatuous idea of providence. God's real providence has endowed us human beings with a considerable capacity for foresight and He evidently expects us to use it. Therefore, we must distinguish between wishful fantasy about a happy tomorrow and the present use of our power of thoughtful estimate. This can spell the difference between future progress and unforeseen woe. Vision is therefore the very essence of prudence, an essential virtue if there ever was one. Of course, we shall often miscalculate the future in whole or part, but that is better than to refuse to think at all.

We thank God that Alcoholics Anonymous is blessed with so much leadership in all of its affairs.

As you can see there is a lot to be done now and in the future, it is my feeling that you have trusted "Our now and future" to one of the hardest working devoted group of GSRs I've come into contact with. Thanks for the great start in 1983.

Tom D. D.C.M.

AL ANON

The district I Al Anon extends from the Apalachicola River to Lake City and the Georgia line to Cedar Key. On March 5th the district representatives and the public information coordinator attended the World Service Committee Meeting. They reported an excellent exhilarating experience. On Feb. 18th the Literature, Institutions and Al Alateen Coordinators spoke at an open district I meeting. Another open district meeting and a Gratitude Dinner are planned for the future. An estimated 12 Al Anon groups are meeting here in district I on a regular basis.

BIRTHDAYS

CRAWFORDVILLE: Jan. Jan A., Feb. R. C.

NORTHSIDE: Jan. Paul S., Feb. Rob. G., Helen C. March Terry H., Doug K., Don P., Dick C.

LLOYD: Nancy F.

ST. AUGUSTINE: Feb. Sid M., March Jack R. Clyde C.

SOUTHSIDE: Judy D. lost the list belated B. days will be printed in the next issue, if she lives that long.

CONTINUED ON BACK SIDE

UP COMING EVENTS

1. Big Book Seminar May 26-29 1983 Pompano Beach, Fla. Pre registration
2. Georgia Round-up, June 2-5 1983, Downtowner Hotel, Albany, Ga. Pre registration
3. Southeastern Conference, August 24-27, 1983, Orlando, at Buena Vista.
4. North Fla. Area Assembly Tentative Schedule: April 9-10 Jacksonville, July 8-18 Orlando, October 15-18 Ocala.
5. North Fla. Area Assembly, District 5 Meets the first Friday of each month at 8.30 P.M. at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church 1500 Miccosukee Rd. Tallahassee, Fla.

NOTE: You can get pre registration forms from your GSR or the DCM for out of town events.

MEETINGS

Alateen: Wednesdays 2:00-3:00 in the Guidance Office, Leon High School, Tallahassee, Fla.
Jail Meeting: Monday Nights 8:00. NOTE: Notify 24 hrs before. Jack R. PH 386-4598. Charlie B. PH 878-8733. Bob I. PH 224-1031; GIVE: Name, Address, Phone No. Social Security No. Date Of Birth, Hight, Weight, Color of Hair and Color of Eyes. PLEASE, No Women Allowed.

SUMMARIES OF DISTRICT 5 MEETINGS

JANUARY: District 5 meetings will be at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church on Miccosukee Rd. the first Fri. of every month at 8.30 PM. A fact sheet is being written listing crisis services, out patient services and community support programs to aid those members making 12th step calls. Reported X-Mas party netted \$407 in contributions, expenses \$378.90 leaving \$30.04 donated to district 5.

Officers and Chairman elected: Jane A. Treasurer, Robin S. Secretary, Bob D. Grape Vine, George T., Terry S., Bob I., and Bill K.; Institution, Clyde C., Answering Service and Burt C. Group Information

FEBRUARY: A new group was started at Leon County Jail. Cathy B. Terry S. and Judy D. volunteer to coordinate the intergroup on March 13, 1983. Rosemary and Marco, from Live Oak, are to be the speakers.

MARCH: DCM, Tom D. urged all groups to contribute to state AA. AA will supply literature for the upcoming health fair in Leon, County. A new schedule of meetings is forthcoming. The month of April will be SPONSORS MONTH. All sponsors are encouraged to come the April District 5 Committee Meeting.

FEELINGS ARE
EVERYWHERE
BE GENTLE

Printed quarterly; distributed by GSR at group meetings. next deadline June 10, 1983.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

This newsletter needs a name!!!

This is a contest!!!

The winner will receive any AA publication of his or her choice!!!

Please submit your ideas to your GSR!!!!!!!



GOD
grant us
serenity to accept
the things
we cannot
change;

courage
to change
the things we can,
and wisdom
to know the
difference.

REINHOLD NIEBUHR
1934