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# HEARTLAND INTERGROUPE

[www.heartlandintergroup.org](http://www.heartlandintergroup.org)

**863-688-0211 or 863-687-9275**

**1643 Williamsburg Square, Suite 103  
Lakeland, FL 33803**

**Mondays - Friday 9 am to 5 pm**

**The Volunteers work hard to ensure we are open these hours,  
but we to live on life's terms.**

**Please feel free to call ahead to ensure we are open.**



# serenity noun

se·ren·i·ty (sə-'re-nə-tē ◀▶)

[Synonyms of serenity >](#)

: a state of utter calm and unruffled repose or quietude

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## 12 and 12 pg.74

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STEP SEVEN

try with a will, or else fall by the wayside. At this stage of our progress we are under heavy pressure and coercion to do the right thing. We are obliged to choose between the pains of trying and the certain penalties of failing to do so. These initial steps along the road are taken grudgingly, yet we do take them. We may still have no very high opinion of humility as a desirable personal virtue, but we do recognize it as a necessary aid to our survival.

But when we have taken a square look at some of these defects, have discussed them with another, and have become willing to have them removed, our thinking about humility commences to have a wider meaning. By this time in all probability we have gained some measure of release from our more devastating handicaps. We enjoy moments in which there is something like real peace of mind. To those of us who have hitherto known only excitement, depression, or anxiety—in other words, to all of us—this newfound peace is a priceless gift. Something new indeed has been added. Where humility had formerly stood for a forced feeding on humble pie, it now begins to mean the nourishing ingredient which can give us serenity.



Faithful Fivers are AA members who graciously contribute \$5.00 or more each month to support 12 step work at Heartland Intergroup.

Your contribution helps pay our telephone bill, rent, utilities, answering service and the cost of doing business.

You can sign up to be a Faithful Fiver by emailing

[Officemanager@heartlandintergroup.org](mailto:Officemanager@heartlandintergroup.org)

Please include:

Your name

Your email

Sobriety Date

- Please indicate if it is ok for us to use your sobriety date in the Intergroup as a way to show this program really works.

**Want to join the Faithful Fiver online?  
Click here and choose monthly**



**Is your meeting making a change?  
Are you part of a new meeting?**

**Heartland Intergroup encourages you to use our website to ensure that we have an up-to-date contact person from your meeting, in case we have any follow-up questions.**

[Click here to add/update a meeting](#)



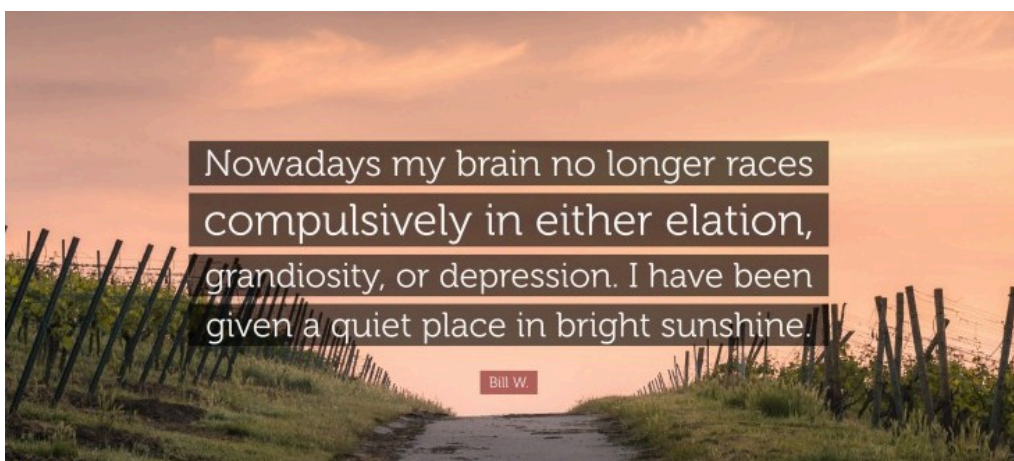


Heartland Intergroup will be closed

Monday Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>

So that our volunteers can celebrate the federal holiday.

Doors will open at 5:00 pm for those wishing to attend the  
Representative Meeting in-person.



We are in  
need of Volunteers  
for



## Front Desk

**Mondays**

**1 pm - 5 pm**

**Tuesdays**

**1 pm - 5 pm**

Front desk volunteers are often the first voice of A.A. to a newcomer looking for their first meeting.

Please feel free to email [officemanager@heartland.org](mailto:officemanager@heartland.org) if you would like to visit and see if this area of service is right for you!

### Requirements:

- **1 Year Sobriety**
- **Working with a Sponsor**
- **Working the 12 steps in your life**

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## Service Material from the General Service Office

### ORIGIN OF THE SERENITY PRAYER: A HISTORICAL PAPER

The actual origin of the "Serenity Prayer" has been, over the years, a tantalizing, elusive and, some still feel, an unsolved mystery; intriguing to those of us at G.S.O. who have, at one time or another, attempted to trace the prayer to an authoritative, unimpeachable source.

The prayer entered, unobtrusively, into A.A. history in the year 1941. It was discovered in the In Memoriam column of an early June edition of the *New York Herald Tribune* and the exact wording was: "Mother—God grant me the serenity to accept things I cannot change, courage to change things I can, and wisdom to know the difference. Goodbye."

Some fifteen years later, reminiscing about this event, Ruth Hock Crecelius, our first non-alcoholic secretary, said:

"It is a fact that Jack C. appeared at the office (30 Vesey St., Manhattan) one morning for a chat and during the course of which he showed me the obituary notice with "Serenity Prayer." I was as much impressed with it as he was and asked him to leave it with me so that I could copy and use it in our letters to the groups and loners. At this same time, Bobbie B.\* who was also terrifically impressed with it undoubtedly used it in her work with the many she contacted daily at the 24<sup>th</sup> Street Clubhouse...Horace C. had the idea of printing it on cards and paid for the first printing."

All the local members, including Bill W., felt its relevance immediately:

As Bill said in *A.A. Comes of Age*, "Never had we seen so much A.A. in so few words." On June 12, 1941, Ruth wrote Henry S., a Washington, D.C member and printer by profession, saying:

"one of the boys up here got a clipping from a local newspaper which is so very much to the point and so much to their liking, that they have asked me to find out from you what it would cost to set it upon a small card, something like a visiting card, which can be carried in a wallet...here it is...would appreciate it if you would let me know right away."

Henry answered back immediately and enthusiastically:

"...your cards are on the way and my congratulations to the man who discovered that in the paper. I can't recall any sentence that packs quite the wallop that that does and during the day shown it to the A.A.'s that dropped in and in each case have been asked for copies. I sent you 500 copies in as much as you didn't say how many you wanted. If you need any more, let me know. Incidentally, I am only a heel when I'm drunk, I hope, so naturally there could be no charge for anything of this nature."

This prayer, for most of the 1940's called "the A.A. prayer" by members of the fellowship as well as others (by the late forties it became better known as the "Serenity Prayer") has, as the Grapevine once noted, "been credited to almost every theologian, philosopher and saint known to man." The Grapevine also noted that popular opinion in A.A. (1950) favored St. Francis of Assisi as the author.

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\*Bobbie succeeded Ruth as staff member, when Ruth left to be married in Feb. 1942.



But there were numerous other candidates for the honor also. In *A.A. Comes of Age*, Bill said:

"No one can tell for sure who first wrote the Serenity Prayer. Some say it came from the early Greeks; others think it was from the pen of an anonymous English poet; still others claim it was written by an American Naval Officer; and Jack Alexander, who once researched the matter, attributes it to the Rev. Reinhold Niebuhr..." \*

Indeed, the Greeks did at one time appear to have had the edge in the author sweepstakes, for the Greek philosopher, Aristotle, was cited frequently as the source by many A.A. correspondents, claiming they had read it somewhere or had been told that this was a fact. An example was Jim F., Maryland, who wrote in March 1957 that:

"D...McG., now in Chicago, wrote a lot of letters, trying to trace the origin. I seem to recall that he once said it appeared in some form in ancient Greece, I think, by Aristotle..."

So, too, thought Paul K.H., a scholar and historian, who said he often contemplated writing a background history of the prayer. In a 1955 letter to Clem L., a Chicago newsman, he said:

"...four or five years ago, when I was thinking about that Grapevine article...I did some research on it. St. Thomas Aquinas said it in almost the same words and even the Greeks had a word for it – Aristotle or Sophocles..."

"One point you mentioned is that the prayer seems to spread so quickly. That's easily understood, I believe. First, it does fit each one of us. Secondly, if Chicago was like Washington in those early days, if any A.A. returned from a visit to another city, all the home A.A.'s immediately besieged him questions, 'How many in the group there?' and 'Do they do things the way we do?' and so on. Anyone coming back with that prayer, it would spread like wildfire..."

Click to read the rest of the Origin of the Serenity Prayer at AA.ORG



**Heartland Intergroup  
has a private hidden Facebook Group.**

**In the event of a hurricane, the office will be closed, and meetings will need to make decisions whether they will be open or not.**



**This Facebook Page is private and hidden. That means no one can see this page unless invited by a current member and posts cannot be shared. However, members can post closed meetings to keep our A.A. Community informed.**

**If you would like to join.**

**Please message Michelle HM.**

**There is only one on Facebook, so she is easy to find.**

**Of course, Heartland Intergroup respects the fact that not everyone will be comfortable with this method and we will try to share information as best we can outside of this group, however it may be the only way to get information out on short notice.**



## *The Serenity Prayer*

God, grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot change,  
the courage to change the things I can,  
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time,  
enjoying one moment at a time;  
accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,  
taking as Jesus did this sinful world as it is,  
not as I would have it, trusting that you will make  
all things right if I surrender to your will;  
so that I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy with you in the next.

Amen.



## October Anniversaries

Ed P.

10/01/1978

47 Years

Denise E.

10/1/1990

35 years

Dan L.

10/29/2012

13 Years

**We want to know your Sobriety Birthdays  
AND Group Anniversaries!**

***Help us show the newcomer it does work!***

Email: [Officemanager@heartlandintergroup.org](mailto:Officemanager@heartlandintergroup.org) to add your date

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## Did you know?

**It costs the General Service Office \$6.13 to process every contribution sent to them by mail.**

That means if 1000 Groups from all the U.S. and Canada send in a mailed contribution a month, it costs GSO \$6,130 a month or \$73,560 a year!

The real number is probably more.

Consider seeing if making online contributions might be a method that works for your group.

Below is a link to their page where you can set up an account to send it via card or PayPal. After setting up the account, you can choose your group and have a receipt of the contribution emailed to you for your group's records!

[Click here to be taken to the GSO Contribution page](#)

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## Big Book pg.68

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## ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

we think fear ought to be classed with stealing. It seems to cause more trouble.

We reviewed our fears thoroughly. We put them on paper, even though we had no resentment in connection with them. We asked ourselves why we had them. Wasn't it because self-reliance failed us? Self-reliance was good as far as it went, but it didn't go far enough. Some of us once had great self-confidence, but it didn't fully solve the fear problem, or any other. When it made us cocky, it was worse.

Perhaps there is a better way—we think so. For we are now on a different basis; the basis of trusting and relying upon God. We trust infinite God rather than our finite selves. We are in the world to play the role He assigns. Just to the extent that we do as we think He would have us, and humbly rely on Him, does He enable us to match calamity with serenity.

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Heartland Intergroup will be holding elections for the board positions of Secretary and Treasurer during the group representative meeting that will be held on November 10th at 6 p.m. To stand for either position, two years of continuous sobriety when placed in nomination is required. Candidates will be placed in nomination at the October group representative meeting, which will be held on October 13th at 6 p.m.

There are two ways to express your intention to stand for a position:

**Option 1: In-person at the September meeting ( Which has passed )**

- Attend the group representative meeting on September 8th at 6 p.m.
- Submit your intention to stand for the desired position in writing to the office manager or any of the current board members. You must attend this meeting in person to submit a written intention.

**Option 2: In-person or remotely at the October meeting**

- Attend the group representative meeting on October 13th at 6 p.m.

- State your intention to stand for the desired position verbally during the meeting. You can do this either in person or by joining the meeting remotely via Zoom.

The Secretary position has the following duties:

- A. Record minutes of Intergroup meeting.
- B. Attend all Intergroup-sponsored functions.
- C. Make certain that all necessary materials are made available at Intergroup meetings, such as sign-in sheets, etc.
- D. Perform other duties that the Chairperson may request.
- E. Must be familiar with the By-Laws and 36 principles.

The Treasurer position has the following duties:

- A. Require skills of current bookkeeping system.
- B. Prepare a monthly financial statement and present this report at Representatives meetings.
- C. Attend all Intergroup-sponsored functions.
- D. Perform any other duties the Chairperson may request.
- E. Must be familiar with the By-Laws and 36 principles.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to current Chair Mark C. at [LakelandWW@gmail.com](mailto:LakelandWW@gmail.com)

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## **Curious how Heartland Intergroup works?**

**Come and visit us during our Monthly Rep  
meeting on the second Monday of each month  
via Zoom or In-person at 6 pm.**

# **The next one will be October 13th**

**1643 Williamsburg Square  
Suite 103  
Lakeland, FL 33803**

**The entry code for the front door  
after 5pm is 19355**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 232 358 0422**

**No password is needed. The Host will let you in.**

**Although only Group Representatives can vote,  
all A.A. members are welcome to attend.**

[\*\*Click here to join the meeting via Zoom\*\*](#)



**Candle Light Group Presents**

# Annual Indoor Picnic

**\$10**

Provided:

- Hotdogs
- Baked Beans
- Water
- Iced Tea

Please Bring A:

- Covered Dish  
or
- Dessert



Unity Life Enrichment Centre  
10417 S. Orange Blossom Blvd  
Sebring, FL 33875

Saturday, October 11, 2025

Doors Open: 11:30 am  
Event From: 12 noon - 3:00 pm

**Door Prizes  
Featured Speaker  
Fun for All**

# Friday Family Fun Night Halloween Party 2025



Oct. 31st 7:30pm - 11:30pm

745 E Main St. Bartow, FL

Costume Contest For Adults & Kids







Scan for more info!

## Southern States Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly

**13 Areas are included in the Southern States!! Come and represent yours!**

**What:** SSAASA 8, hosted by Area 71

**When:** December 5-7, 2025

**Where:** Hyatt Regency Dulles 2300 Dulles Corner Blvd., Herndon, VA 20171

**Go to:** [www.SSAASA.com](http://www.SSAASA.com) to register, reserve your room, and then plan to have FUN!!

Who is SSAASA for? SSAASA is for anyone interested in or involved in A.A. service (GSRs, DCMs, District & Area Committee Members, Intergroup/Central Office representatives). All A.A. members are welcome to attend to learn more about our Third Legacy – Service!

What happens at an SSAASA event? A program is set up by the host committee where there are general sharing sessions, panels on specific topics, and workshops or roundtables where A.A. members holding the same jobs can share their experience with each other and learn more about each service opportunity.

Is there a cost? Yes, and it's only \$35.00! The SSAASA event is self-supporting through your registration fee. Home groups, districts, and areas can honor the 7th tradition by supporting your trusted servants so that they may attend.

Come experience Virginia hospitality and get to know some of your neighboring AA members - we'll be happy to have you!

Still have questions? Please email [Chair@ssaasa.com](mailto:Chair@ssaasa.com).

**Click here to register online for SSAASA!**



**ORLANDO**  
**2026**  
68th Florida  
State Convention

**REGISTER TODAY**

**August 6-9, 2026**

**EXPERIENCE A NEW FREEDOM**

- ✓ Affordable
- ✓ Central Location
- ✓ So Much to Do
- ✓ Register Early and Save

**FUN ACTIVITIES**

- ✓ Indoor Go-Kart Racing
- ✓ Indoor Water Volleyball
- ✓ World-Class Golf
- ✓ Scenic 5K
- ✓ Dance Parties

**\$159 Room Rates**

**\$40 Early Registration**

**Click here to register, buy merch,  
and/or reserve a banquet ticket!**

A important message  
from our  
68th Florida Convention Chair

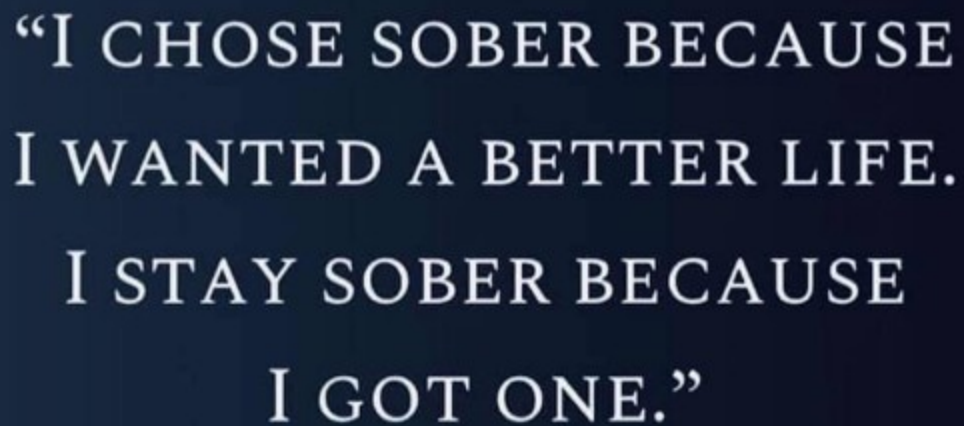
Dear Friends,

We are excited to welcome you to the 68th Florida State Convention! The Host Committee is overwhelmed with excitement as the planning continues to move forward. We can't wait to see you there!

If you see a charge from **Cheddar Up** on your bank or credit card statement, it is connected to your valid convention registration.

Disputing a valid charge through your bank or card issuer results in a **non-refundable chargeback fee** that the convention must pay.

If you need to cancel your registration or request a refund, please contact us directly at **chair68fsc@gmail.com** and we'll take care of it promptly.



“I CHOSE SOBER BECAUSE  
I WANTED A BETTER LIFE.  
I STAY SOBER BECAUSE  
I GOT ONE.”

DISTRICT III BUSINESS MEETING- Meets at 2:00PM  
on the 3rd Sunday of every month at

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church,  
500 West Stuart St.  
Bartow, FL 33830.

## **Addresses for Contributions:**

### **General Service Office**

Post Office Box 2407  
James A Farley Station  
New York, NY 10116  
Payable to: General Service Board

### **Area 15 Treasurer**

2950 W Cypress Creek Rd  
Ste 333 # 1097  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309  
Payable to: Area 15 Treasurer

### **District III Treasurer**

District 3  
PO Box 333  
Bartow FL 33831  
Payable to: District 3 Treasurer

### **Heartland Intergroup**

1643 Williamsburg Square, Suite 102  
Lakeland, FL 33803  
Payable to: Heartland Intergroup

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**Any questions can be emailed to the office manager at:**

**\*officemanager@heartlandintergroup.org**

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You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



