

H.O.W.

HONESTY OPEN-MINDEDNESS WILLINGNESS

Monthly Publication of the Indian River Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

Volume 40 Issue 3

March 2021



The HOW is published to improve communication between local AA groups and encourage the participation of AA members in service and activities. Please email anniversaries, group announcements or articles to: aairehow@yahoo.com or text to (772) 360-7949



CENTRAL OFFICE RE-OPENING

The Central Office of Indian River County will open its doors on a limited schedule starting March 1, 2021.

Hours are Monday-Wednesday- Friday
9am—4pm
Saturday 9am—Noon

FROM GSO-NEW GROUP NUMBERS

The records department at the General Service Office in New York has been working for several years on creating and implementing new software to provide sufficient space and adaptability not only for the present but also to get a head start on what the future may hold. **To that end all A.A. groups have received new group numbers.** The new number should be used for all group business, including 7th Tradition contributions.

In South Florida we have in more than 22,000 active groups; in addition there are over 12,000 group names and numbers of inactive and/or defunct groups. Every group

(continued on page 2)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On January 8, 2021 the 2020 Board of Directors of the Indian River Central Office met on a virtual platform and concluded that due to COVID-19 it was not possible to have an election meeting; they did agree, however, to continue their 2020 positions until an election meeting could be held.



On February 12, 2021 the provisional Board met and decided to open the Central Office starting March 1, 2021. The hours are Mon/Wed/Fri 9am to 4:30pm and Saturdays from 9am to noon.

In other business Rocky I. retired from the chair position, Debbie D, the Vice-Chair will act as the Chair as per the By-Laws until elections can be held.

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 insure 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.”

(continued from page 1)

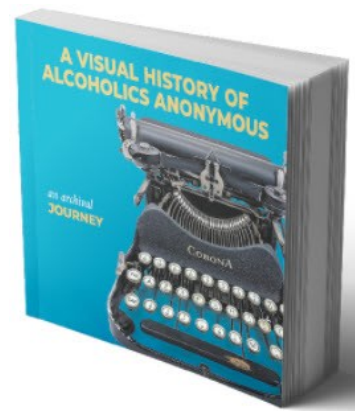
since group 1 in Akron Ohio is remembered, all group names and group numbers are the building blocks that make up the cement our entire fellowship is build upon.

This past year has seen a steady stream of new groups, some may be temporary some may not I am referring to outside meetings that are not an extension of an existing A.A. group; also untold number of virtual groups have been created. Once the pandemic has run its course, it is expected that numerous virtual groups will continue and become a vital part of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The **"VISUAL HISTORY OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS"**

is a masterful book, taking us from our humble beginnings to where AA is today. The price set by A.A.W.S. is \$12, however due to quantity buying, we are able to sell this new book to you for

**It is by knowing our history that we
protect the future**



Why Do We Need A Conference?

The late Bernard B. Smith, nonalcoholic, then chairperson of the board of trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting: "We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life.

We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect A.A. against disintegration while preventing over integration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.

"We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is."

Why is Alcoholism Considered an Illness and not a moral responsibility?

By Bill W.

Early in A.A.'s history, very natural questions arose among theologians. There was a Mr. Henry Link who had written "The Return to Religion (Macmillan Co., 1937). One day I received a call from him. He stated that he strongly objected to the A.A. position that alcoholism was an illness. This concept, he felt, removed moral responsibility from alcoholics. He had been voicing this complaint about psychiatrists in the American Mercury. And now, he stated, he was about to lambaste A.A. too. Of course, I made haste to point out that we A. A.'s did not use the concept of sickness to absolve our members from moral responsibility. On the contrary, we used the fact of fatal illness to clamp the heaviest kind of moral responsibility on to the sufferer. The further point was made that in his early days of drinking the alcoholic often was no doubt guilty of irresponsibility and gluttony. But once the time of compulsive drinking, veritable lunacy had arrived and he couldn't very well be held accountable for his conduct. He then had a lunacy which condemned him to drink, in spite of all he could do; he had developed a bodily sensitivity to alcohol that guaranteed his final madness and death. When this state of affairs was pointed out to him, he was placed immediately under the heaviest kind of pressure to accept A.A.'s moral and spiritual program of regeneration – namely, our Twelve Steps. Fortunately, Mr. Link was satisfied with this view of the use that we were making of the alcoholic's illness. I am glad to report that nearly all theologians who have since thought about this matter have also agreed with that early position. While it is most obvious that free will in the matter of alcohol has virtually disappeared in most cases, we A.A. 's do point out that plenty of free will is left in other areas, It certainly takes a large amount of willingness, and a great exertion of the will to accept and practice the A.A. program. It is by this very exertion of the will that the alcoholic corresponds with the grace by which his drinking obsession can be expelled. (N.C.C.A. 'Blue Book', Vol.12, 1960

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WE ARE NOT GLUM LOT

A scientist runs into an AA meeting and exclaims "we did it! We found a medical cure for alcoholism! All you have to do is take this one pill daily and you are cured." Slowly a hand raises in the back and a man says "what happens if you take two?"

A long time AA member named Joe R has lived to a very old age and one morning God appears to him, as Joe lies in bed.

Joe: What have you come for God?

God: Well Joe, I've come with some good news and some bad new, what do you want first?

Joe (being an optimist): I like to start the morning with good news

God: I have come to tell you that we have AA meetings in heaven

Joe: Alright - that's great! So what's the bad news?

God: You're chairing tonight's meeting....

~~YOU~~ WE ARE NOT ALONE

A year ago this month was a time of confusion and anxiety. As everything around us was being shut down we learned about the **CORONA VIRUS**. March and April were truly a nightmare riddled with fear. No more meeting? How will we survive? What about the newcomers, have we failed them? Poor Me!

When Bill W. retired in 1964 as the lone remaining founder, he left the care of A.A. **NOT** to the Trustees, **NOT** to the A.A. members directly but to the A.A. groups specifically. This has proven to be the catalyst that empowered the groups. Adhering to the principles behind the A.A. Traditions and Concepts, groups looked at a new technology, as yet unproven, as a means of hosting and attending A.A. meetings. By mid April any fears were laid to rest. Throughout A.A. virtual meetings now dotted the A.A. landscape alongside outside and some inside meetings across the globe.

The heretofore unproven technology and A.A. meetings proved to be so successful combination that even though the International A.A. Convention scheduled for Detroit was cancelled, it was moved to the virtual platform and attracted thousands of A.A. members worldwide, many of whom had never had the opportunity of attending such an event.

Hopefully once we return to a what used to be the norm of brick and mortar meetings, virtual meetings will continued to be utilized. So many possibilities, older members no longer able to attend meetings could still be part of and know that they are not forgotten. Members hospitalized would have access to A.A. meeting, and let's not forget those in remote areas, members of our armed forces, indeed, what a blessing!

A year ago I had doubts about a South Florida Quarterly Assembly on the virtual platform. Well, I am ecstatic to tell you that it exceeded all expectations, the same with our District 6 business meetings. A.A. is probably one of the most, if not the most, resilient organization ever.

The groups had proven beyond a shadow of a doubt the wisdom of Bill W's 1964 legacy, the groups are in charge, they truly are the heartbeat of .AA.



THE TIME FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL SERVICE MEETING IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING

Approximately 134 people, Trustees, GSO Staff members and most importantly the Area delegates will be deliberating and making decisions on our behalf. The 93 Area Delegates are the direct representatives of all A.A. groups in the U.S. and Canada and comprise no less than 66% of the voting members. This year a lot of business will be discussed, not everything will come to the floor to be Considered, in other words voted upon. There is not enough space here for the entire agenda, but here are some of the highlights of the literature portion of the 6 page agenda of what will be discussed and/or decided in 2021 Complete copies of the agenda are available from your GSR and the Central Office and also at <http://www.aa.org>.

LITERATURE

Consider requests to revise the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*:

1. Add pages 3 through 41 of the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" as an appendix in the next printing.
2. Revise the first 164 pages. *(too much information to be included here)*

Consider requests to revise the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*:

1. To remove the phrase "opposite sex" from paragraph two on page 117 in the chapter "Step Twelve."
2. To reconsider use of the phrase "lustful enough to rape" in paragraph one on page 66 in the chapter "Step Six."

Consider request to add a subtitle to the booklet *Living Sober*.

Consider requests to revise text related to open meetings in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group."

Consider request to revise text related to self-support in the pamphlet "Frequently Asked Questions About A.A."

Consider revising the pamphlet "Questions & Answers on Sponsorship":

1. Change the suggestion that sponsor, and newcomer be of the same sex.
2. Expand the section on "Service Sponsorship" and retitle the pamphlet to include service sponsorship.

Consider request to include a G.S.R. preamble in the pamphlet "G.S.R.: Your Group's Link to A.A. as a Whole."

Consider if proposed agenda items for plain language, simplified language, accessible translations and large print versions of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, as well as workbooks to help study the program of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, can be addressed with a common solution.

Consider adding the Long Form of each Tradition at the beginning of each essay for that Tradition in the book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

Consider the development of a draft Fifth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, noting past Advisory Actions.

Consider revising the pamphlet, "The A.A. Group," to reflect the importance of the group as a "spiritual entity" as stated in the Long Form of Tradition Five.

Consider revising text highlighting service roles at the group level in the pamphlet, "The A.A. Group."

It should be noted that the entire background for the 2021 Conference consists of 1,404 pages

A.A. Celebrants

PLEASE READ

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO MAKE SURE THE A.A. BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARIES ARE PUBLISHED IN THE HOW

1. **EMAIL: iraahow@yahoo.com**
2. **TEXT: (772) 360-7949** (*LEAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS AS WELL*)

Email or text, I will acknowledge receipt

You will also receive a copy of next month's HOW delivered to the email address you provide

EARLY RISERS

Glenn S32
Davis17
Missy05

NEW DAY

Manny B.43
Eddie R.26
Patti R.22
Ken G.07
Dennis M04
Judy D.02

ODAAT

Jim R.49
Winni M.44
Marty M.35
Jim M.29
Millie.26
Jim "Jimbo" K.26
Narlene M.21
Cindi N.18
William M.18
Michelle M18
Greg W.16
Rhett P.11
Jack M.04



APOLOGIES FOR THE EMAIL CONFUSION , IF YOUR GROUP DID NOT GET PRINTED THIS MONTH,

PLEASE SEND TO:

AAIRHOW@YAHOO.COM

Or text to (772) 360-7949

IT WILL BE PUBLISHED NEXT MONTH.

WHY DOES YOUR GROUP NEED AN IRCO REPRESENTATIVE

The IRCO has no authority of its own but derives it from the participating groups. The representative that each group elects is the group's voice and your link to those who maintain and operate the IRCO.

PROVISIONAL 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ChairVACANT
 Vice-Chair.....Debbie D. (Acting Chair)
 Treasurer.....John H.
 Secretary.....Donald S.

Advisory Committee

Member (Past Chair).....Joseph J.
 member (Past Chair).....Rocky I.
 Member.....Steve S.

2020 STANDING COMMITTEES

Archives.....
 Birthday Dinner 2018.....
 Desk Coordinator.....Bill VB
 Corrections-Men.....Lane

Corrections—Women.....Lorelei G..
 Corporate Documents.....Trish H.
 Public Information.....Greg S.
 Unity Committee.....
 Nominating Committee.....Bill VB.
 After Hours Phone.....Mindy S.
 HOW Editor (Dutch-temporary)
 Inventory Control..... John R.
 Literature.....Dutch V.
 Nominating.....Billie VB
 Treatment.....Bobby Z/Clyde K.
 Website.....Dutch V.
 Where and When.....Maria G.
 12 Step List Coordinator.,.....Trent L.
 District 6 Liaison.....Jo Anne H

12 STEP VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

NAME" _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

AREA IN WHICH YOU WILLING TO PARTICIPATE

NORTH COUNTY Y__ N__ SOUTH COUNTY Y__ N__

AVAILABILITY; MON-FRI __ WEEKENDS __ DAYS __ EVENINGS __

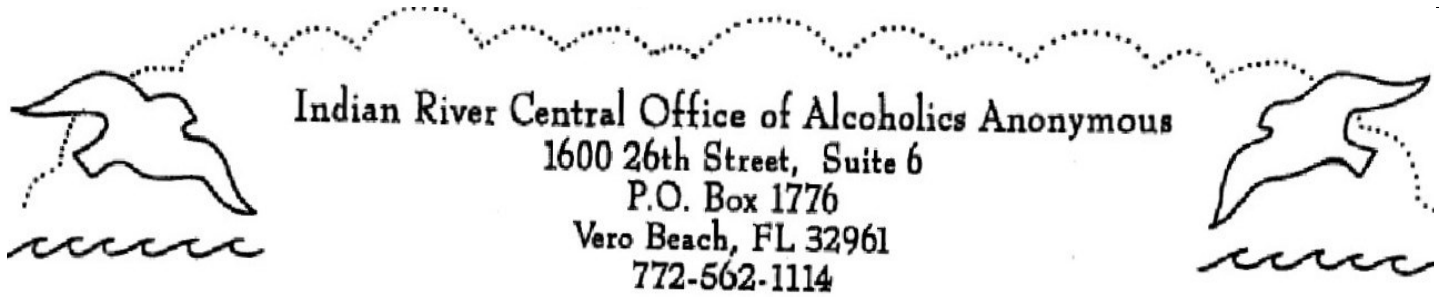
I AM WILLING TO (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

TALK TO SOME ONE OVER THE PHONE __ TAKE SOMEONE TO DETOX* __

TALK TO SOMEONE AT THEIR HOME* __ GIVE RIDES TO A.A. MEETINGS __

MEET SOMEONE AT A MEETING __ OTHER: _____

** It is suggested that a person NOT go on a Twelve Step call by themselves to help an alcoholic who is still suffering. Also you should NOT drive a wet frunk to a treatment facility or detox without having another AA member with you. If you checked any of these items, please be sure that you have another AA who is willing to go along with you*



<http://www.indianriveraa.org>

Indian River Central Office Birthday Plan

This contribution on my #_____ A.A. Birthday is my way of saying *thank you* to Central Office for serving the A.A. community in Indian River County.

Contributor: _____

Address: _____

* Group Name: _____

Please indicate whether you want your contribution credited to (a) your group* or (b) anonymously: _____

Make check out to **Indian River Central Office of AA**. Drop off at the Central Office or mail to the address listed below.

1600 26th Street, Suite 6

Vero Beach, FL 32960

Phone: 772-562-1114

Indian River Central Office

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Indian River Central Office (hereafter "IRCO") is to provide AA services within Indian River County, with the primary goal being to carry the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers. It is the mission of the IRCO to keep groups informed about AA activities by newsletter and by maintain a website, answer inquiries for help, provide AA meeting information, maintain an available supply of Conference Approved books and literature, and to provide guidance and support to the IRCO standing committees.

The IRCO shall function within the meaning and intent of the Twelve Traditions and the Guidelines for Intergroup and Central Offices and other guidelines as set forth by the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The IRCO is entirely accountable to the groups it serves and is entirely supported by the voluntary contributions of AA groups within Indian River County.

A service piece of the Indian River Central Office

3/25/2021

CURRENT COVID-19 MODIFICATIONS

THE INDIAN RIVER CENTRAL OFFICE OPEN HOURS
MONDAY-WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY 9:00AM - 4:30PM
SATURDAYS 9:00am - Noon

FOR IN-HOUSE MEETINGS PLEASE CONSULT THE CURRENT "WHERE-N-WHEN"

There are just too many groups meeting inside to have here on a one page insert. Please consult the newly designed "Where and When". It contains ALL known meetings on the schedule for all of Indian River county including, the Barefoot Bay groups (Area 14) as well as the Lakewood Park group, (Crossings Community Church, Indrio Rd., Ft. Pierce) In addition it also lists any outside or virtual meetings sponsored by those groups.

The "WHERE-n-WHEN" is available on-line for reading and/or download at "<https://www.indianriveraa.org>" or may be obtained at the Indian River Central Office located at 1600 26th Street, Suite 6 in Vero Beach, FL 32960. Hours are Mon, Wed and Fri 9:00am-4:30-pm and Saturday 9:00am to Noon.

KNOWN OUTSIDE MEETINGS

SOCIAL DISTANCING OBSERVED ALL MEETINGS		
SUNDAY	9:00 AM	Freedom from Alcohol (Newport Club Parking Lot)
	12 Noon	Step/Discussion Meeting - Young Park, Park Ave, Vero Bch
	5:00 PM	Sundowners - 1st Presb Church, 1405 Louisiana Ave, Sebastian
MONDAY	12 Noon	O.D.A.A.T. - On the basketball Ct - (Bring your own chair)
	5:00 PM	Sundowners - 1st Presb Church, 1405 Louisiana Ave, Sebastian
	5:00 PM	Speakeasy - Riverview Park (Bring your own chair
	5:00 PM	A Breath of Fresh Air - Dale Winbrow Park on Roseland Rd, Sebastian
	5:30 PM	Roosevelt Community Park - 12/12
	5:32 PM	The 5:32 Group meets at the Roseland Meth. Outside Church
TUESDAY	12 Noon	O.D.A.A.T. - On the basketball Ct - (Bring your own chair)
	5:00 PM	Sundowners - 1st Presb Church, 1405 Louisiana Ave, Sebastian
	5:32 PM	The 5:32 Group meets at the Roseland Meth. Outside Church
	7:30 pm\	Sebastian Freedom-NE Corner Main St/US 1 (by big Flagpole)
WEDNESDAY	12 Noon	O.D.A.A.T. - On the basketball Ct - (Bring your own chair)
	5:00 PM	Sundowners - 1st Presb Church, 1405 Louisiana Ave, Sebastian
	5:00 PM	Speakeasy - Riverview Park (Bring your own chair)
	5:00 PM	A Breath of Fresh Air - Dale Winbrow Park on Roseland Rd, Sebastian
	5:32 PM	The 5:32 Group meets at the Roseland Meth. Outside Church
THURSDAY	12 Noon	O.D.A.A.T. - On the basketball Ct - (Bring your own chair)
	5:00 PM	Sundowners - 1st Presb Church, 1405 Louisiana Ave, Sebastian
	5:00 PM	Speakeasy - Riverview Park (Bring your own chair)
	5:30 PM	Women's Big Book - -A.W.Young Park, Park Ave, Vero Beach
	5:30 PM	Roosevelt Community Park - 12/12
	5:32 PM	The 5:32 Group meets at the Roseland Meth. Outside Church
FRIDAY	12 Noon	O.D.A.A.T. - On the basketball Ct - (Bring your own chair)
	5:00 PM	A Breath of Fresh Air - Dale Winbrow Park on Roseland Rd, Sebastian
	5:00 PM	Sundowners - 1st Presb Church, 1405 Louisiana Ave, Sebastian
	5:32 PM	The 5:32 Group meets at the Roseland Meth. Outside Church
	6:00pm	Meat and Potatoes - Community Church 21st St Vero Beach
SATURDAY	12:30pm	Barefoot Bay - Outside under Oaks, left of "A" Building
	5:00 PM	Sundowners - 1st Presb Church, 1405 Louisiana Ave, Sebastian
	5:00 PM	Speakeasy - Riverview Park (Bring your own chair)

any additions, changes or deletion - text or call (772) 360-7949

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY VIRTUAL MEETINGS				3/25/2021
DAY	TIME	GROUP/MEETING	ZOOM ID	PASSWORD
SUN	5:00 PM	Sundowners - Chairman's Choice	650 367 733	Rule 62
MON	CENTRAL OFFICE IS OPEN FROM 9:00 AM - 4:30PM			
	12:00 PM	O.D.A.A.T. Closed Step/Tradition	998 7512 9904	63228
	12:00 PM	Hibiscus Thursday - Speaker/Step	835 0216 0464	
	5:00 PM	Sundowners - Living Sober	650 367 733	Rule 62
	5:30 PM	South Vero	919 2868 4512	132567
	7:00 PM	Indian River Women's Grp/BB-12&12	885 8030 8385	647726
TUE	12:00 PM	O.D.A.A.T. - Open Discussion	998 7512 9904	63228
	Noon	Daily Reflections	236 615 4804	
	5:00 PM	Sundowners - Big Book	650 367 733	Rule 62
	5:30 PM	South Vero	919 2868 4512	132567
	6:00 PM	The 3 Leg Group - A.A. Literature	452 100 1634	31236
	6:00 PM	Promises Meeting	879 9604 4860	
	7:00 PM	Vero Beach A.A. - Big Book	717 856 963	875016
	7:00 PM	Vero Beach Men	873 6680 9886	782444
WED	CENTRAL OFFICE IS OPEN FROM 9:00 AM - 4:30PM			
	Noon	O.D.A.A.T. Big Book	998 7512 9904	63228
	5:00 PM	Sundowners	650 367 733	Rule 62
	5:30 PM	South Vero	919 2868 4512	132567
	7:00 PM	Man To Man (Men Only)	601 949 6762	mantoman
	7:00 PM	Vero Beach A.A. - Open Discussion	717 856 963	875016
THU	12:00 PM	O.D.A.A.T. - Open Beginner	998 7512 9904	63228
	5:00 PM	Sundowners - Step Meeting	650 367 733	Rule 62
	5:30 PM	South Vero	919 2868 4512	132567
	5:00 PM	Hibiscus Thursday - Big Book	835 0216 0464	
	6:00 PM	The 3 Leg Group - Pamphlets Study	452 100 1634	31236
	7:00 PM	Vero Beach Men - Closed Discussion	876 1125 8301	829672
	7:00 PM	Women sTaaYING Connected	319 619 2864	2864
FRI	CENTRAL OFFICE IS OPEN FROM 9:00 AM - 4:30PM			
	12:00 PM	O.D.A.A.T. - Speaker Meeting	998 7512 9904	63228
	5:30 PM	South Vero	919 2868 4512	132567
	5:00 PM	Sundowners - As Bill Sees It	650 367 733	Rule 62
	6:00 PM	The 3 Leg Group - Topic Dual Speaker	452 100 1634	31236
SAT	7:30 AM	South Vero - Spkr Meeting/Discussion	924 7373 2754	132567
	CENTRAL OFFICE IS OPEN FROM 9:00 AM TIL NOON			
	5:00 PM	Sundowners - Open Discussion	650 367 733	Rule 62
	5:30 PM	South Vero	919 2868 4512	132567
	6:00 PM	The 3 Leg Group -Topic Dual Speaker	452 100 1634	31236
	7:30 PM	12&12 Speaker/Discussion	886 0538 3611	722488
	8:00 PM	Lakewood Park Speaker Meeting	298 703 197	2030

errors, changes or omissions - please text or call (772) 360-7949