

I was asked to give you a brief history of Al-Anon in Nassau County, Florida and I am afraid that's what it will be, brief indeed. What I have comes from my memory of it:

1970 - It is my understanding that at this time there were two Al-Anon members - Myrtle M. and Mary G. from Brunswick and I believe they met in St. Peter's Parish building, Whitney Hall, then located on Church property, Fernandina Beach.

1971 - District II World Service Committee meeting was held in Jacksonville and that opened a door to a new level of learning on the Al-Anon level. Area groups were encouraged to get GR's and Peggy N. was the first from Nassau County...Catherine R. was alternate. Now that's a powerhouse combination! They represent long years and devotion to Al-Anon.

1976 - After two years in the Central Group, San Marco, Jacksonville, I came to Fernandina Al-Anon - from twenty or thirty members at a meeting to two or maybe three. That would have been or could have been great but at that time those attending the meetings went in to the AA room for a speakers meeting in place of an Al-Anon meeting. I opted for an Al-Anon meeting even if I had to sit there alone in the hope some newcomer would come in the door - and they did, on and on.

1977 - We had outgrown the kitchen of Whitney Hall and were now meeting in one of the Sunday School rooms at St. Peter's Church - then in 19--something or other, and for some unremembered reason, we were meeting in St. Michael's school room. From there we went to the Administration Building of St. Peter's Parish and by this time we were a good-size meeting, lots of love and warmth. From there we moved to the Amelia Room, then located on the corner of Third Street

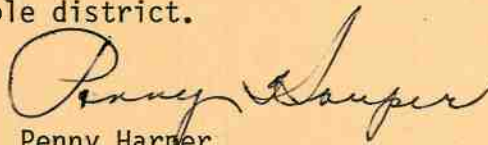
and Alachua Street in Fernandina Beach.

1984 -The Thursday night group stayed in the building at Third and Alachua, which was then re-named the Alachua Club. One group of Al-Anons went with the Amelia Room group into their new club at the corner of 7th and Indigo Streets, Fernandina. Actually this was not a "new club": the old Whitney Hall, back of St. Peter's Church, was moved to 7th and Indigo and the Amelia Room group "went home" to it.

To back up a bit, about 1977 we started a Yulee Al-Anon Group, small but determined. Well, we struggled along for quite a while and then decided to wait for a while. It was revived in 1979, I believe, and is still going strong - strong, still small, but good, good Al-Anon and serving a real need.

Nassau County now has Al-Anon meetings every night except Tuesday and several day-time meetings, so we feel the needs of this side of the county are being met, or at least Al-Anon is available. The Callahan-Hilliard area had a very small group that held together several years but folded about ten years ago.

Don't hold me to these dates - verification is difficult and memories are not always accurate. But do know the spirit of Al-Anon is very much alive in Nassau County and the whole district.



Penny Harper

Amelia Island Al-Anon

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