

MARCH 2015
VOLUME 8 - ISSUE 1

CASA NEWS

CASA IRISH IDES OF MARCH BLOOMIN' PICNIC



SATURDAY, MARCH 14 • 12:00 NOON

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Bradley's Sausage, Brats, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw and More!
Donations of Salads and Desserts welcome. Bring a folding chair and enjoy the Spring weather.
PLUS, bring a plant to sell, or any other goodies to help support the CASA Building Fund.

– \$5 CASA Members, \$7 Non-Members –

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Join AAs from around the world in Atlanta from July 2nd – 5th to celebrate
“80 Years – Happy, Joyous, and Free”!

From a kickoff party in Centennial Olympic Park Thursday at midnight to Friday's A.A. Meeting at the Georgia Congress Center until the Closing A.A. Meeting Sunday, there will be non-stop activities. Marathon meetings, special panels, discussion groups, dancing, fellowship, and events for Al-Anon and Alateen – lots to do and share with members from around the world to Carry the Message back home! Learn more and register online or download a registration form at http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/2015-international-convention-of-alcoholics-anonymous

CASA BOARD MESSAGE FROM DIANE H.

Chair, CASA Board of Directors

CASA BUILDING UPDATE: THE JUMPING OFF POINT

Dear Members of CASA 12, Inc.,

Thanks for all your fine support that has gotten us to this “jumping off point” with our new building. Our general contractor and **Jack S.** are submitting the building plans to the City of Tallahassee. By the time you read this, stakes may already be out showing the location and four corners of the new building.

Yes, it is true that we can access the Marion Brown Investment Funds account once a slab is poured. We have raised \$35,000 to date to cover pre-construction costs. If you add Marion Brown's gift to CASA, that would put us a little over \$100,000 – just half way to the \$200,000 needed to complete the building over the next 10 months. So you see, we cannot rest on our laurels! We must raise \$50K this year and \$50K next year. Time is of the essence. We have to continue fundraising so we can get this building built and enjoy it and the fine piece of property we have at CASA. The building is going to be wonderful and the site is beautiful. We plan to have an outline of the grounds in this issue of the CASA newsletter, to give you an idea just how lovely it will be! We are certainly blessed with having this property and grateful to the trusted servants who are taking their personal time to bring the project to fruition. I speak particularly of Jack S. because without his help, we would not have progressed this far. There are many folks to thank, but Jack is my hero on the building plan and his actions that are making it happen. We are so, so fortunate to have Jack in our corner! The list of things he has done for this building is long, and I would never get it right if I tried to enumerate them here. Jack, we truly thank you for your loyal service in the face of many odds.

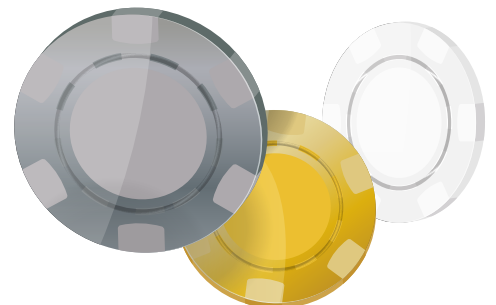
As members, won't you please take the time now to make a pledge or a donation to the Building Fund? There is a pledge form in this issue of the newsletter. You may mail your donations to:

CASA 12, Inc., P. O. Box 12391, Tallahassee, FL 32317-2391

Be sure to mark your check with “*Bldg. Fund*” so it is placed in the right account. Thank you to everyone who is participating in the project.

BIRTHDAY NIGHTS MARCH 27 • APRIL 24 • MAY 29

Birthday Night at CASA is the last Friday of every month. All who have celebrated their sobriety birthdays during that month will share the gift of their experience, strength, and hope. Bring a covered dish at 6:00, and join in the celebration!



CASA 12, INC. MEMBERSHIP FORM



MEMBER INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Telephone (cell) _____

E-mail _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES

I prefer to pay: ☐ Annually (\$100) *Best Value!*

☐ Semi-Annually (\$50)

☐ Monthly (\$10)

Signature _____

Date _____

Please make checks payable to **CASA 12, Inc.**
Payments (*along with this form*) can either be mailed to the
address below or placed in an envelope in the clubhouse safe,
or to to casa12inc.org and pay your dues online.

CASA 12, INC.
P.O. BOX 12391
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32317-2391

Thank you for your support!.

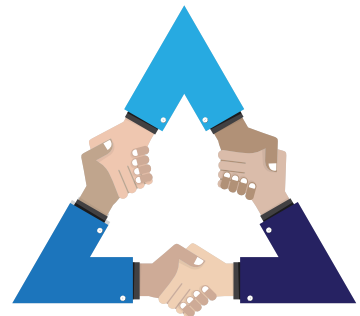
CASA BREAKFAST APRIL 12

Breakfast takes place the **second Sunday of every month** from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Feast on the best custom-made omelets prepared by **Mark H.**

Please bring a side dish like hash browns, sausage, bacon, fruit, etc. Help with setting up and cleaning up is always needed and appreciated... so get there early and stay late.

It's only \$3.00 for CASA members & \$5.00 for all others. **It's the best deal in town!**



CASA BOARD MEETINGS APRIL 8 • MAY 13

The CASA Board meets on the **second Wednesday night of every month** at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend, and your input is welcome. Please join us!

MAY 25

CASA Memorial Day Picnic

JUNE 12-15

Founders' Day Weekend in Tallahassee
(Registration is not yet open at time of publication of this newsletter, but mark your calendar and stay tuned at CASA and at www.foundersdayflorida.org!)

STEP 2

Came to Believe that a Power Greater than Ourselves Could Restore Us to Sanity

By April C.

When I was a frightened and insecure newcomer, the 12 Steps seemed overwhelming to me. No way was I going to make amends to anybody for anything! I felt the world owed me amends. (This is why the steps of Alcoholics Anonymous are in a certain order. I had a long way to go before I reached Step 9.)

Of the 12 steps, it was Step 2 that grabbed my attention and made me feel that maybe, just maybe, there was hope for me. We hear in the rooms, “If you bring the body, the mind will eventually follow.” I found that to be true. First, I came. Then, I came to. Then, I came to believe.

It was the last four words “restore us to sanity” that made me think I might actually have a chance at this sobriety thing. It was a given that I was insane. I’ve known all my life that I was nuts. I think other people knew it too, because my nickname at work was “April-Nut.” Wait a minute! That’s still my nickname at work! Oh, well, progress, not perfection.

I also noticed that Step 2 said “us” and not “me.” How many times had I tried on my own to stop drinking or limit the number of drinks I was having? At least a zillion times. I could not do it. But, maybe we could.

I liked the concept of a Higher Power, as opposed to God. I believed in God, but felt He had a “naughty list” and I was on it. My concept of God was that He was mean and vengeful. One night, very early in my sobriety, something a woman said at a Birthday Meeting steered my thought process in a different direction. She stated, “The first thing my sponsor had me do was fire the God of my understanding and write down what I wanted in a Higher Power.” What? Are we allowed to do that? Fire God? Oh, I am going to Hell for sure.

I went home that night and could not stop thinking about what she said. So, I wrote down what I wanted my Higher Power to be like. It was just three things:

1. Loving
2. Forgiving
3. Sense of Humor

I didn’t realize it at the time, but those were qualities that I was looking for in myself.

Then I came to believe that in order for sanity to return, I had to stop drinking. I also discovered the chapter “We Agnostics” in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous. On page 47, it says we need to ask ourselves, “Do I now believe, or am I even willing to believe that there is a power greater than myself?” Well, heck yes! Alcohol was a power greater than myself.

On page 46, “We found that God does not make too hard terms with those who seek Him.” I thought it was a big, hairy, dramatic and complicated ordeal seeking God. What I realized was He’s not hard to find. Just seek him! How easy is that? I guess that’s why we’re told to “keep it simple.” I tend to overcomplicate everything in my life.

The Big Book also tells me on page 53, “Some of us had already walked far over the Bridge of Reason toward the desired shore of faith.” What an incredible metaphor. I wanted to walk over that bridge because it meant that I would be restored to sanity when I reached the shore.

A sponsor also pointed out to me that on page 55 of the Big Book, “We finally saw that faith in some kind of God was a part of our make-up, just as much as the feeling we have for a friend.” God is my friend? Surely you jest! He was an authority figure who was mean. She encouraged me to talk to God (out loud!) like I would talk to a friend.

Well, ok, I’ll give it a try. “Hi God. How’s it going?” I felt silly talking out loud to Him. But, guess what? The more I talked to Him as a friend, the better I felt.

When I finally found the Great Reality (God) deep down within me, I found a friend who is loving, forgiving and has a great sense of humor. I crossed the bridge. And, for the first time in my life, I did not burn that bridge. As a result, my friend restored me to sanity.

I have learned so many wonderful lessons in AA. Probably the important one is that this is a “we” program. I can’t do this alone. I need a Higher Power, I need the program of AA, and most of all—I need you. Thank you for helping me stay sober today.

**CASA 12, INC. BUILDING FUND
PLEDGE FORM****DONOR INFORMATION** (PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Telephone (cell) _____

E-mail _____

PLEDGE INFORMATION

I (we) pledge \$_____ to be paid: ☐ Monthly
☐ Quarterly
☐ Yearly

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

Please make checks payable to **CASA 12, Inc. Building Fund**.
Payments (*along with this form*) can either be mailed to the below
address or placed in an envelope in the clubhouse safe, or go to
casa12inc.org and make your building donations online.

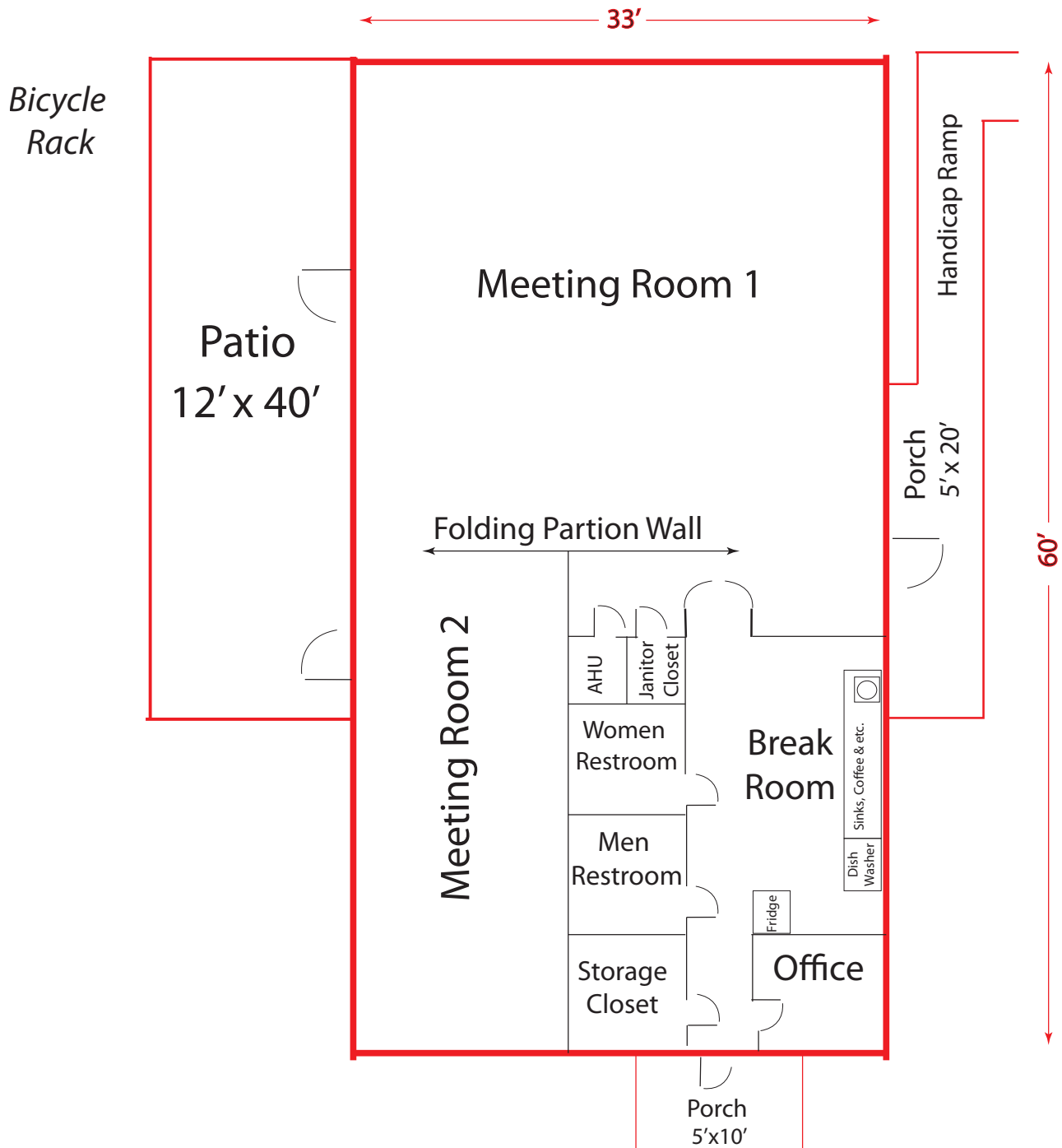
CASA 12, INC. BUILDING FUND
P.O. BOX 12391
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32317-2391

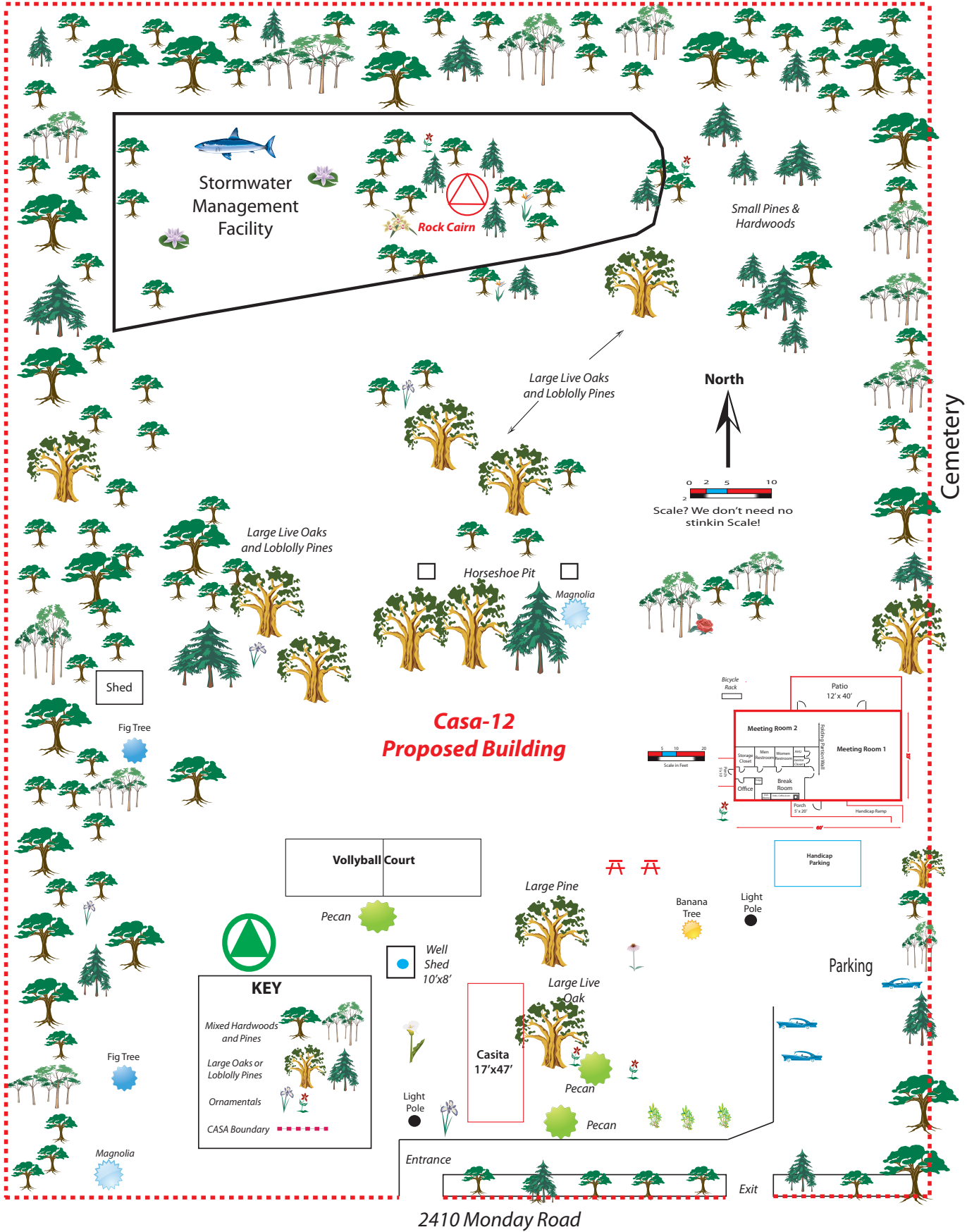
**Contributions are tax-deductable and will go toward the
purchase of a permanent Clubhouse Building for CASA 12, Inc.**
Thank you for your support.

DESIGN DRAWING OF CASA PROPERTY AND NEW BUILDING (DRAFT)

Submitted by Will E.

Casa-12 ***Proposed Building***





MEETINGS AT CASA-12, INC.

2410 MONDAY ROAD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301

MONDAY

7:00 a.m. – Conscious Contact AA meeting – Meditation (*Casita*)
12:30 p.m. – 1. Living Sober 12 & 12 AA meeting
12:30 p.m. – 2. Al-Anon meeting (*Casita*)
6:15 p.m. – Happy Hour AA meeting

TUESDAY

7:00 a.m. – Conscious Contact AA meeting – Meditation (*Casita*)
12:30 p.m. – Living Sober AA meeting
6:15 p.m. – Happy Hour AA meeting

WEDNESDAY

7:00 a.m. – Conscious Contact AA meeting – Meditation (*Casita*)
12:30 p.m. – Living Sober AA meeting
6:15 p.m. – Happy Hour AA – Speaker meeting

THURSDAY

7:00 a.m. – Conscious Contact AA meeting – Meditation (*Casita*)
10:30 a.m. – Tears & Laughter Women's AA meeting
12:30 p.m. – Living Sober AA meeting
6:15 p.m. – Happy Hour AA meeting – (*Closed Meeting*)

FRIDAY

7:00 a.m. – Conscious Contact Open AA meeting – Meditation (*Casita*)
12:30 p.m. – 1. Living Sober AA meeting
12:30 p.m. – 2. Al-Anon meeting (*Casita*)
6:15 p.m. – 1. Step-Sisters (*Casita*) *On the last Friday of each month, Step-Sisters meets at 5:15 p.m.*
6:15 p.m. – 2. Happy Hour AA meeting *

*** THE LAST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH: CASA's Sobriety Birthday Meeting celebrates those attending Living Sober, Happy Hour, Step-Sisters or Conscious Contact AA meetings. Covered dish dinner starts at 6:00 p.m., followed by celebrants sharing their stories of recovery 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. (Open Meeting.)**

SATURDAY

9:00 a.m. – Conscious Contact AA meeting – Meditation (*Casita*)
11:00 a.m. – Living Sober AA meeting
6:15 p.m. – Happy Hour AA meeting – 12 & 12 Step Study
7:30 p.m. – Game Night!

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. – Conscious Contact AA meeting – (*Meditation*) *
* *On the 2nd Sunday of each month, Conscious Contact meets at 8:00 a.m.*

CASA BREAKFAST from 9:30 – 10:30 A.M. on the 2nd Sunday of Each Month

11:00 a.m. – Living Sober AA meeting
6:15 p.m. – Happy Hour AA meeting – Half and Half Book Study
8:00 p.m. – Miracle Group AA meeting

To receive this newsletter by email, contact **Chris B.** at: casa12news@gmail.com and you will be placed on the anonymous distribution list. To submit content, please contact **Amy H.** at: amyhen05@yahoo.com.