

PEACHFORD PRESS

HADLOW NAMED PRESIDENT

Jim deVarenes announces appointment of Hadlow to top position.

Jim said, "I am pleased to announce that Tim Hadlow has accepted the position as our new "President". Tim comes to us with a host of credentials. He attended St Johns from 1966-1970 as a marketing major. He then connected with IBM as a Manager of Marketing Administration. After 13 years with IBM, he joined the Postal Service and held a number of Postmaster positions - the last one being in Kennebunkport, Maine. His most recent position was as a CMHP (Certified Mental Health Professional) with Directions, Inc. in Clearwater.

"Tim has been involved with Peachford House for the past 4 years working with our referral agencies in Clearwater. Most recently he was forced into the position as "Public Relations Director" as seen on the News footage in Jacksonville, and performed an interview "Talking Recovery" on AM 1320 in Jacksonville where he performed admirably.

We feel quite blessed to have someone of Tim's caliber working with the Peachford House. As President, Tim will also be directly responsible for our Marketing and Sales Department."

PEACHFORD CLEARWATER

is gearing up for an active fall season with many events coming up. We wound our Florida Summer down with our final Baseball game of the year on August 30, 2007. We had 32 clients in attendance with The Clearwater Threshers playing The Dunedin Blue Jays. As always, everyone had a great time. Those that didn't attend went to their regular outside meetings. A weekend camping trip is in the works for those clients that wish to go and are willing to pitch in. Many seem to be interested. This could become a regular event; and what better way to enjoy fellowship with others and have great campfire recovery meetings. We also have some interested in the Atlanta Workshop and will be planning to



attend. It is time for the Snow Birds to come down for the winter and all AA and NA groups are planning special meetings such as Anniversaries and Gratitude dinners. We plan to attend as many as possible. There is no better place than Pinellas County Florida for recovery meetings. We are also fortunate to have one of our AA buddies, Matt come every Thursday night to conduct a Step-Study for those that wish to attend. We have several clients that are benefiting greatly from his meetings.

PEACHFORD HOUSTON

We are in the middle of a search for our new director. Several quality candidates have been identified within the Peachford-Houston family. Announcements will be forthcoming. Bryant Wilson from Clearwater has been "Acting Director" and his services are much appreciated. The Peachford-Houston family is stable and in good spirits. We would like to

HADLOW: A GOOD PEACHFORD SPOKESMAN

When a tenant near our Peachford Jacksonville apartments complained to the media, and a local television station showed up to allow her to vent her spleen with false charges, our own Tim Hadlow stepped before the camera and admirably defended Peachford House.

Clearly this was a case of one carping resident with a personal agenda. Tim set the record straight. Julian Hill tells us that since the incident, the woman has been nice and almost apologetic for her previous attitude. Thanks, Tim. You helped us show that Peachford is

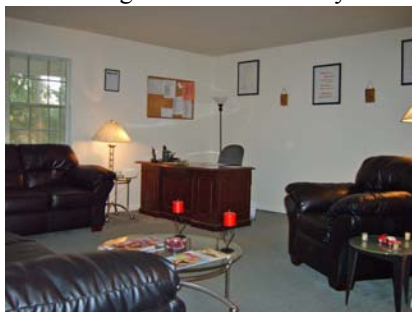


recognize the following guys and celebrate their successful completion of 6 months with Peachford-Houston...Joe Zuniga, James Madison, Donald Stewart, Wayne Gilbert & Phillip Pier. All of these guys will tell you that their success is Peachford's success as well.

All "House Seniors" joined Art Southerland for a cook out fellowship at his house. Our direction and needs were discussed and lots of great ideas to improve our recovery process in Houston were shared by all. The burgers were pretty good, too.

PEACHFORD HOUSE ATLANTA is gearing up for its 2nd Annual Workshop in November. The committee is working hard making arrangements and finding great speakers and group leaders to make this year's event a success. Volunteers are needed. (Call Mike M for details 404/634-4974)

Peachford Atlanta is also undertaking a major renovation project. Atlanta's Intake office has been completely redone, and inside renovations are being done throughout the community.



Peachford Atlanta would like to congratulate Mr. Williams C and Mr. Simmons G and Mr. Warren J for successfully completing six months.

PEACHFORD HOUSE ROSWELL reports these are clients that have completed 6 months and received their certificates: Wade Andrews, Jerry Gleaton, Frank White Sr. and Charlie Jackson. Congratulations.

Roswell is also planning a trip to Six Flags on Halloween for their Fright Night. Boo!

Did You Know That...

...an expert said of Vince Lombardi: *"He possesses minimal football knowledge. Lacks motivation?"*

...Walt Disney was fired by a newspaper editor for lack of ideas? Walt Disney also went bankrupt several times before he built Disneyland.

...Richard Hooker worked for seven years on his humorous war novel

"M*A*S*H," only to have it rejected by 21 publishers before Morrow decided to publish it? It became a runaway bestseller, spawning a blockbuster movie and a highly successful television series.

...an MGM executive sent this memo advising against investing in ***Gone with the Wind:*** *"Forget it. No Civil War picture ever made a nickel?"*

...Einstein was criticized for not wearing socks or cutting his hair? One observer noted, *"He could be mentally retarded."*

...the movie Star Wars was rejected by every movie studio in Hollywood before 20th Century-Fox finally produced it? It went on to be one of the largest-grossing movies in film history.

...Louisa May Alcott, the author of *Little Women*, was encouraged to find work as a servant or seamstress by her family?

The Peachford Atlanta Workshop at Camp Woodland is set for November 2nd through 4th 2007. Sign up early!

Reservations are now being accepted on a first come first serve basis. No more than 150 applications will be accepted. Please complete your application and do not forget to include your deposit and mail it early to ensure you have a spot at the workshop. Once your application has been accepted, we will notify you at least ten days prior to the workshop and we will look forward to seeing you there. If for any reason you need to cancel your reservation, contact Mike Marshall before 11 p.m. at (404) 634-4974. Please let us know ASAP about any cancellation so we can select someone else from our waiting list. "No - Shows" keep others from attending! Absolutely no walk-ins will be accepted.

If you are going to need financial assistance so you can attend the workshop, contact one of the members of the scholarship committee listed on the application to request help.

Getting to Woodland camp is simple; it is located off of I-20 between Atlanta and Augusta. Take the Temple exit (#19), go North on GA 113, turn right on Lavell Rd, turn Left on Woodland Camp Rd. and you are there.

Sign-in will begin at 2:00 p.m. on November 2nd.

When you receive your registration form, fill it out and return it right away. You don't want to miss out.

PEACHFORD CHARLOTTE

Things continue to run smoothly at Peachford, Charlotte. We recently added a new Tuesday AA meeting, The Hawthorne Group. This is a beginner's meeting / Big Book study, and our presence has been well received. All clients under 30 days are required to attend this meeting as well as an AA meeting on Sunday morning and NA meetings on Wednesday and Saturday.

The AA / NA "How To" series run by our intake coordinator Albert S. on Friday nights continues to receive high praise from our new clients.

Our van driver, William B., just returned from a recovery retreat at Table Rock State Park. His enthusiasm for recovery is contagious, and we are fortunate to have such a dedicated staff member actively involved in working the steps with a sponsor.

We would also like to congratulate Anthony B. and Daniel M. for receiving their 6 month certificates. They are both very positive role models and great assets to our community.

AA Wisdom:
Trying to get advice from an alcoholic is like trying to take a drink from a fire hydrant!

Message from Jim d.**My Old Friend and Sponsor – Hoyt A**

What a great way to start the Holiday Season, Clean & Sober. Remember, don't try to stay sober all year...just stay sober today. One Day At a Time!

I would like to dedicate this newsletter to my old friend and sponsor, Hoyt Allison. Hoyt passed away December 2001. When I felt the need to open a place like the Peachford House, Hoyt along with my wife, Linda, were very positive and supportive about the idea. Peachford House thanks both of you. Without your love and support, this wonderful recovery residence would have never happened.

Hoyt was like the Bear Bryant of sponsors. He was the finest sponsor anyone could have. God must have known that someone as sensitive as me and with a huge ego, would need a loving caring sponsor like Hoyt.

Most sponsors wait on you to call them, and that is probably ok. But somehow Hoyt sensed that this addicted alcoholic, who loved to run his life on "Self Will", needed a little more attention. When it had been awhile since I called last, you could always count on Hoyt to give you a ring. He was never condescending or sarcastic; he just truly wanted to know that "Jim" was ok. He spent time talking to my wife. He would joke that "Jim – If I ever need to know about you, I just ask Linda...she always tells me the Truth." He knew my kids and always asked about them. Hoyt became part of our family. He said AA was a kinship and he showed me what that meant.

Anyone who knew Hoyt knew he loved to hand out AA's 12 principles on a business card. When he thought I was feeding him a line of bull, which was often, he would hand me one of those cards with the word HONESTY circled. Damn, I hated getting one of those from Hoyt, but I always deserved it. Even then I felt honored and blessed that Hoyt cared enough about me to give me one. Hoyt loved AA and the Atlanta Men's Workshop.

I thank God for putting Hoyt and his lovely wife Charlotte into my life and my family's life. Sitting in Hoyt's back room taking the steps and holding hands for a prayer afterwards are memories I shall never forget. Hoyt told me how he prayed, he said, "Jim, I ask God every morning to keep me Clean, Sober, and Cigarette free.", and at night I hold hands with Charlotte, his wife of 62 years, and say: "Now I lay me down to sleep.....". I have been saying his morning prayer ever since.

In his last few days of life, on an unusually snowy day in Atlanta, John S. and I walked into Northside Hospital to visit Hoyt. On previous days, Hoyt had been drifting in and out of consciousness, but on this day as we walked into the room, Hoyt sat straight up and said: "How you boys doin" as if he was waiting on us. We sat and talked about some of the humorous events of the past. Hoyt asked about "The Girls" and I told him we made a snowman but it was kind of dinky. He looked at me all clear-eyed and said: "Ya know, ya can't go rollin around a ball in the yard, it's easier if you use a shovel". Hoyt was damn smart that way. We both kissed Hoyt and told him we loved him and he told us how much he loved us and reminded me to tell "The Girls" that he loved them too. That was the last conversation I had with a wonderful friend, sponsor, and Dad.

It has been 6 years since his death, and for all the many men and women who shared the joy of AA with this wonderful man, we say we love you Hoyt and Charlotte and will miss you both; your memories shall never be forgotten.

Jim d.

"Reading the literature, but not practicing the program is like learning to swim by a correspondence course --- or in this day and age, like learning to swim online!"



Atlanta Workshop Nov 2nd – 4th 2007

**Peachford Atlanta Workshop
P.O. Box 2151 Norcross, Ga.
30091 Phone (404) 634-4974**

2nd Annual Peachford Atlanta Workshop
90 Woodland Camp Road in Temple, Ga.
30179

This year's workshop will focus on issues and solutions experienced by all in recovery, new and old, regardless of what fellowship you primarily attend.

Due to the increased number of applicants, we are sending out forms early so we can increase our efficiency and to make the workshop a greater success than last year.

Mail Completed Application with Check or Money Order to:
Peachford Atlanta Workshop
P.O. Box 2151
Norcross, Ga. 30091

Limited Scholarship available, so call for approval.

Mike Marshall 404/321-9859
Terry Johnson 404/634-4974
Jason Kilgore 404/929-6711

Workshop Question's Call 404/315-4824

Register Early Only 150 Applicant's Will Be Accepted This Year!

WHY A MEETING MIX

By Bill S.

I go to a mix of AA meetings. I go to speaker meetings, discussion meetings, men's meetings and meetings with both men and women. I go to meetings with lots of newcomers, and I go to meetings with lots of oldtimers. I have been asked, why such a range of meetings. Here's my answer.

It's because I live in a mixed society. If I lived in a society of only men (God forbid), I would only go to men's meetings; but I don't. I live in a world of men and women, young and old, gay and straight, of various races, religions and beliefs.

My recovery and the lessons I continue to learn affords me the ability to exist, interact and function with all of these groups of people.

When I came to AA, I came from a life of womanizing and, sadly, only seeing women as sex objects. Sitting in meetings with women, hearing their loves, fears, issues and concerns made me realize that they are no different from me except they're a lot prettier! One of the greatest gifts of my recovery is having women friends. No agenda, no underlying intentions or desires...just friends. It's a wonderful thing and it has broadened the scope of my relationships immensely. I don't believe my viewpoint of women could have changed in any other way.

I go to speaker meetings because I identify by hearing the full life stories of fellow travelers on this road to recovery. I am grateful that my sponsor requires that I attend at least one speaker meeting a week. The more AA speakers I hear, the more I realize how much of a garden variety drunk I am.

I go to discussion meetings because that's where we talk about the issues that face men and women in recovery, real life situations, and we share solutions. Discussion meetings are where I learn what tools to use for each life circumstance I face. It also affords me the opportunity to share the solutions I have found in my own life.

I love the laughter and love and hope that comes when alcoholics share the foibles of their lives and the answers to their issues.

I go to men's meetings because there are times when I can share about things with other men that I might not share in an open meeting with women present. I learn more about myself and how to be a friend to men in these frank discussion gatherings.

I go to Big Book meetings, Step meetings, Traditions meetings and any other kind of meeting that will broaden the horizons of my recovery and make me, not just a useful member of AA, but of society as well.

I go to meetings with newcomers to share my own experience, strength and hope and to help the new men and women realize that life without drinking is not only possible, but highly desirable.

I go to meetings sprinkled with oldtimers because I need to continue to hear that after thirty, forty and fifty years, it still gets better and better. I need to be reminded that they still have the same "daily reprieve" that I have and that longevity does not breed immunity! It's still one day at a time, no matter how long I live.

So you can see, I need all kinds of meetings to make me whole. The omission of any elements of this mix narrows the scope of my recovery and limits my growth.

After 25 years of recovery, I only rarely repeat my original 90 and 90 routine, but my rock bottom minimum meetings a week is three and most usually four.

For fourteen years, I have conducted a Big Book Study meeting at a local AA club and it's an important part of my ongoing recovery, but my three or four meetings is over and above this meeting. As my sponsor has often pointed out, meetings where I am doing most of the talking is service work. If I count a meeting where I listen to myself talk...well the rest should be self-explanatory.

I love meetings; all kinds of meetings. I love AA. It's as vital and alive today as it was fifty years ago. Simply put, people who are serious about getting sober are still making it. Those who are not, won't.

I cringe at the criticism I hear about today's Alcoholics Anonymous. I agree with my buddy Earl H. who says, "The only thing wrong with AA is people going around saying that there's something wrong with AA." AA is still strong for those who are desperate enough to seek answers. It is still infused with love and tolerance and with a broad highway toward recovery.

For every newcomer who crosses the threshold of AA, I wish them desperation. May the desperation of their disease make them hungry enough to be teachable. That continues to be the best formula for recovery that I know.