

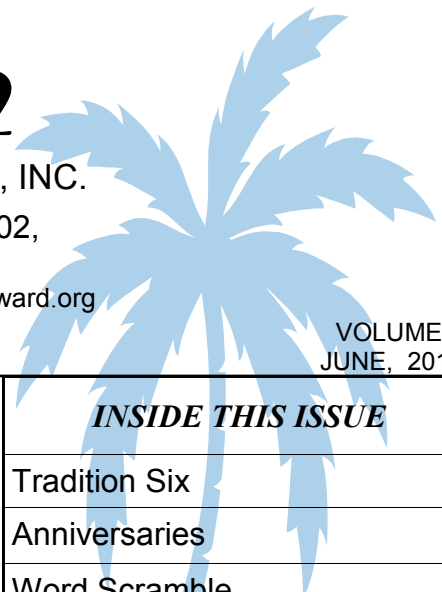


ROOM 502

BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.

305 South Andrews Avenue, Room 502,
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Phone 954-462-0265, 954-462-7202; www.aabroward.org



VOLUME 6
JUNE, 2015

STEP 6: "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."

I'm no saint!

Getting to the truth about self with Step Six

SOMETIMES sitting home taking time off sounds like a deserved reward. I "need" some time just for me, don't I? Don't I do enough? Why do I always have to be the one to make sacrifices?

No one else has to. My group couldn't get along without me, you know. Of course, if they would only do things the way I suggest . . . if only they would listen to me . . . if only I had more control around here, and more money than I am currently making and a different relationship (someone who really understands and loves me), then I could finally relax and begin to enjoy my sobriety.

I get so angry when I see people slacking off on their Step work, service work, their commitments. It's a wonder they stay sober. You should see the way some people treat their friends and families. I have to stay away from most of them just to keep from losing it!

Oh my. A little righteous anger is better than a double espresso. I get all revved up--but with nowhere to go except out, if I'm not careful. When I start thinking along these lines, sooner or later I think of Step Six, and mainly two things: "Would I rather be right, or would I rather be happy?" and "The truth will set you free."

The truth is, when I begin to focus on the failings of others, I become restless, irritable and discontented. What seem to be my finely tuned mind and my "innate sense of fairness" are in reality my character defects judging the world and finding it lacking.

Step Six is simple in the way Einstein's Theory of Relativity is simple--easy to say, difficult to explain. The simple version is: Looking at my moral inventory, am I willing to ask God to remove the defects in my character that caused pain, suffering, longstanding resentments and guilt? Of course. End of Step.

Easy, all right, until Step Twelve, where we "practice these principles in all our affairs." Oh, but what about having just a little bit of personal pride in my Step work, service work or sobriety date? What about judging others in the Fellowship or family members? What about envying the "easy" sobriety others seem to have? Others get away with only one meeting a week, or less.

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Concept VI
The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

Tradition 6: "An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

Our Primary Purpose and the Special-purpose Group

In recent years, no subject seems to have been discussed more often, in more detail, for longer hours, and with more heat than the question of special-purpose groups. Both the advocates and the adversaries of special-purpose groups hold very strong opinions on the subject, and those of us who have tried to occupy the middle ground can see the logic on both sides.

Our Third Tradition says, "The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking." In general, we have inclined to this view: When other requirements are added that might seem to exclude some alcoholics, these should be considered AA meetings and not AA groups. We have never discouraged AAs from forming special-purpose meetings of any or all kinds to meet the needs of interested individuals, but we have been hesitant to consider as groups those that might seem to exclude any alcoholic, for whatever reason.

Many members feel that no AA group is special and, therefore, that no group should be labeled as such or even give the impression that it is "special." However, the fact is that such groups do exist --in the United States and Canada, at least. There are women's groups, stag groups, young people's groups, and groups for priests, doctors, lawyers, and homosexual members. These groups feel that the "labels" serve the purpose of attraction (double identification) and are not intended to imply exclusion of other alcoholics.

Probably the earliest of the so-called special-purpose groups were women's groups, and it is very easy to understand how they came about. In the early days of the Fellowship, before AA was well-known and when its membership was made up largely of male alcoholics, many women felt very timid about attending such groups, and their husbands felt even more strongly about having them attend. The solution seemed to be daytime meetings made up of women, and many of these began to spring up all over our country. Beyond any doubt, they served (and probably still do serve) a very useful purpose, and many of the women who started in these groups went on to become extremely active members of regular, mixed groups of alcoholics.

The adversaries of the special-purpose group would say that this is an instance where the good became the enemy of the best, to use co-founder Bill W.'s phrase. Once AA had accepted one kind of special-purpose group, it became difficult, if not almost impossible, not to accept others.

We have no difficulty in understanding the kind of communication and understanding that can exist among groups of people who share other interests in addition to their alcoholism. It has always been hoped that doctors, priests, policemen, young people, women, etc. who meet together in special groups will also participate in the activities of regular, mixed AA groups. We live in a world made up of all kinds of people, who function in a variety of professions, and it is in this world that we have to function as individuals. If AA is a preparation and support for normal living, then it would seem that the most meaningful AA activity would occur in groups made up of all kinds of people who follow all kinds of professions. Certainly, we hope not, and we don't anticipate any such thing. However, we do feel that we should be aware of a possible trend and perhaps bend every effort to encourage our similarities and not our particularities.

Continued on Page 4

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New York, NY 10164-0371
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Bridging The Gap

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Vero Beach, FL 32969-0275
(772)360-7949

District 9 General Service

P.O. Box 100126
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310

Continued from Page 1

I have to make up for lost time, you know. I need to work more hours, obtain a better position, make more money, acquire the things I denied myself or gave away.

Ideas that sound really good at the time are sometimes surrounded by motives that are selfish, self-centered, dishonest, self-seeking, inconsiderate or based on fear. If I can't see the truth, I can't make appropriate decisions. I won't be able to "Intuitively know" how to deal with situations. The world will continue to baffle and control me.

Without working the Steps in order, praying, listening for answers in meetings, studying the literature, doing service and talking with my sponsor, I couldn't have figured anything out, let alone felt good about it. I'd have second-guessed myself into a standstill and mounted up so many resentments in the Fellowship that I'd have talked myself into running away from the only good thing I'd stumbled onto in decades--the one place that was sincerely trying to help me save my life.

The program and the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous has taught me more about myself than 10 years of psychiatric work experience; a couple years of therapy; and thousands of dollars worth of booze, self-help books and women's magazines ever did.

The idea that when I find fault with you, the problem is in me is not just a clever platitude. It is one more step toward true freedom and happiness. When I begin to look where the answer really is--inside of me--I get a sense of "rightness" when I speak or hear the truth. Step Six helps me develop a sense of intuition that I can truly count on.

Now, I'd love to have people believe that having taken the Sixth Step, I am free from all those nasty character defects. Or at least, that if I ever did have thoughts of pride, envy, jealousy, etc., I would recognize these for what they were and immediately become ready to have God remove them. But, some of you know me, and, those who don't, if they are real alcoholics, are not likely to be fooled with all of this "saintly" talk. I am no saint. I'm not even always "willing to grow along spiritual lines." But I have changed. As a result of working the Steps, I am not the same person I was when I half-heartedly began to just go to some meetings. And the change is good. Definitely. So, on the good days, it is kind of exciting to build my relationship with God, through the Sixth Step.

On the bad days, if I can just remember the glimmer of hope I found when I first recognized the truth about myself, I can pray for willingness and I can believe it will come.

—Sue H. Fort Myers, Fla.—

Reprinted from *Grapevine*
June 2009 Vol.0 No. 0

*Things we cannot change,
They will be missed by all who knew them.
Louis S. – Michelle X. – Ray C.
Biker Bear – Bob S.*

Room 502 welcomes your thoughts and experiences with A.A. We love to run articles written by local people in A.A. so, let us know about your experiences with Alcoholics Anonymous, or in your local home-group. **Contact us at help@aabroward.org or will@aabroward.org**

Continued from Page 2

I mentioned earlier that we have never discouraged special-purpose meetings but have been hesitant to list as groups those that might seem to preclude other alcoholics' attending. Perhaps we might talk a little bit about the differences between an AA meeting and an AA group. Our directories state: "Traditionally, two or more alcoholics meeting together for purposes of sobriety may consider themselves an AA group, provided that, as a group, they are self-supporting and have no outside affiliation." And in the beginning of our Fellowship in countries outside the United States and Canada, we agreed on six points that describe what an AA group is. They are: "(1) All members of a group are alcoholics, and all alcoholics are eligible for membership. (2) As a group, they are fully self-supporting. (3) A group's primary purpose is to help alcoholics recover through the Twelve Steps. (4) As a group, they have no outside affiliation. (5) As a group, they have no opinion on outside issues. (6) As a group, their public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion, and they maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio-TV, and film."

Without a doubt, meetings are the primary activity of each AA group and the most common way of carrying the message to newcomers and to other members who want to maintain recovery. When we make a distinction between AA groups and AA meetings, we are emphasizing a concept rather than the format of what actually happens when AAs get together. We think of an AA group as something that continues to exist even when there is no meeting taking place, because a group does many other things besides hold meetings. On the other hand, special-purpose meetings, which take care of the needs of interested individuals, are usually informal gatherings with no particular structure.

At the 1973 General Service Conference, workshops on "The AA Group" were held and went into overtime because of lengthy discussion on the subject of special-purpose groups. By request of this Conference, the subject was scheduled for full-scale discussion at the 1974 Conference. The time allotted for it again proved to be insufficient and a special session--lasting four hours--was called. The final action was that the AA General Service Office should list all groups in accordance with the definition of an AA group listed in the front of all our directories.

In the final analysis, perhaps, what we are really dealing with in special-purpose groups is communication among AA members and how to improve it so that we can do a better job of carrying the AA message to alcoholics of all kinds.

—John L. Norris, MD—

Reprinted from *Grapevine*
November 2000 Vol. 57 No. 6

Room 502 readers tell us about their favorite passages in AA literature

My favorite passage from the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions (Page 124, "Step Twelve") says: "Still more wonderful is the feeling that we do not have to be specially distinguished among our fellows in order to be useful and profoundly happy. Not many of us can be leaders of prominence, nor do we wish to be. Service, gladly rendered, obligations squarely met, troubles well accepted or solved with God's help, the knowledge that at home or in the world outside we are partners in a common effort, the well-understood fact that in God's sight all human beings are important, the proof that love freely given surely brings a full return, the certainty that we are no longer isolated and alone in self-constructed prisons, the surety that we need no longer be square pegs in round holes but can fit and belong in God's scheme of things – these are the permanent and legitimate satisfactions of right living for which no amount of pomp and circumstances, no heap of material possessions, could possibly be substitutes."

To me this represents what Bill Wilson's description of a spiritual life would look like. Recovery, Unity, Service these are the three legacies given to the whole membership of AA. I think this paragraph is some of his best writing, a great topic for leading a meeting.

—Don W. Pompano Beach—

Room 502 is a monthly publication of Broward County Intergroup, Inc. (BCI).

The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of BCI or AA as a whole.

We welcome your stories, news and comments. The deadline for submission is the 15th of each month.

Material may be edited for space and content and cannot be returned.

Please send your submissions to will@aabroward.org or help@aabroward.org.

AA Birthdays

June Celebrants

Men in Recovery

Kevin M. ~ 22yrs.
Ken T. ~ 5yrs.

Westside Men's

Bryan P. ~ 12yrs.
Frank V. ~ 23yrs.
Rick R. ~ 21yrs.
Tony O. ~ 44yrs.

Rule 62

Bart M. ~ 13yrs.

East Naples Men's

Wes R. ~ 27yrs.
Stan S. ~ 24yrs.
Pete S. ~ 17yrs.
Wade B. ~ 15yrs.
Ralph O. ~ 14yrs.
Luis F. ~ 12yrs.

Ft. Lauderdale Women's

Karen P. ~ 15yrs.
Virginia R. ~ 19yrs.

WBC Lunch Bunch

Alex ~ 6yrs.
Kathleen R. ~ 7yrs.
Paul ~ 24yrs.

You Are Not Alone

Donna H. ~ 15yrs.

Coral Springs Men's

Group

Harvey B. ~ 6yrs.

One Day At A Time

Adelina ~ 3yrs.

Free And Easy Group

Bruce P. ~ 22yrs.

Oakland Park

Pat M. ~ 39yrs.
Hal D. ~ 20yrs.
Jim D. ~ 4yrs.
Gene S. ~ 6yrs.

Live Laugh Love

Laurie ~ 17yrs.

Express Group

Anthony G. ~ 19yrs.

May Celebrants

(not previously submitted)

Free And Easy

Group

Brian F. ~ 3yrs.

Live Laugh Love

Joyce ~ 20yrs.

It's your Birthday!

Many AA members across the country share their Anniversary by giving a dollar or two, for each year of their sobriety to their Intergroup Office. This insures that the same help that they received will be available to others who are new to the fellowship.

Start today. It is not how much you give that's important. It's thinking of others on your special day, that makes it so special. This is a wonderful way to express your gratitude by helping others receive the blessings of sobriety.

Group Contributions and individual contributions are the life support of Alcoholic Anonymous. There is no such thing as a small contribution.

Make checks payable to:

Broward County Intergroup, Inc.
305 S. Andrews Ave., Suite 502,
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

Service Opportunities



Picnic Committee - Join our Picnic committee to see that this year's picnic is our best ever! Adults \$8/Kids \$3 - Food, fun, fellowship, music, games, raffles, volleyball. Snyder Park, Cauldwell Pavilion, October 11th.

Tickets should be ready for distribution mid-July.

If you want to get involved call Mary at

(954) 462-0265 or email: help@aabroward.org.

Word Scramble Step Six

1. vtinsoaesrre _____
2. tmveeronimp _____
3. csntirporataoni _____
4. tutonslguo _____
5. fmvetiairfa _____
6. lutcaitnnsi _____
7. ntlaiylotep _____
8. drienlenu _____
9. rlietcnosied _____
10. teamnilie _____

(answers on page 7)

BCIC Broward County Institutions Committee

Next Meeting: June 13th

10:00 a.m. at the Twelve Step House,
205 SW 23rd St., Ft. Lauderdale.

Intergroup Meetings

will be now held at

**The Twelve Step House,
205 S.W. 23rd, Ft. Lauderdale,
at 1:00 p.m.**

Steering Committee meets at 11:30 a.m.

Upcoming Meetings

June 21st — July 19th

I CAN'T FLY THAT KITE TODAY

A Fifth Step unveils a 41-year-old resentment that was stonewalling his spirituality

I AM 49 years old. As far as I can remember, I never drank responsibly. Through college and my early years of marriage, when I drank, I drank to get drunk. My drinking was always to excess and always dangerous.

Like many adult children of alcoholics, I vowed not to become my father. He died a couple of years ago after a life of alcohol abuse. I can never remember a time growing up when I did not see my father either drinking or drunk. Whenever he got plastered, he started picking on me. It affected me and I developed a deep resentment of my dad.

In 1994, after several dry years, a single drink in a Los Angeles hotel turned into four long years of disaster. My career and family were gone. My reputation in the community was shot. Three rehabs did not help. I was at that hopeless state. I had become just like my dad, with one big exception. I was at least open to AA.

A man I met at a meeting came to visit me. He sat and talked with me about his experiences. As he heard my story, he said something shocking. He said I was agnostic! Impossible. You see during those dry years, I accomplished a lot. In addition to becoming the vice president of the local affiliate of a national TV network, I also developed my faith. I went to seminary and earned a master's degree in theology and a doctorate in biblical studies.

Agnostic? Never. I had a relationship with God. I read the Old Testament in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek. How could I be agnostic? Yet as I listened and searched my heart, I knew he was right.

I was agnostic in one sense. I did not believe that a power greater than myself would help me. I had concluded that my alcoholism after so many dry years was a lapse of faith that God would not forgive. I was struggling with the Second Step of our program.

I marvel now when I read "How It Works" in the Big Book. I marvel at the wisdom of including one small word in the explanation of the Second Step. It's a familiar passage,

1. That we were alcoholic and could not manage our own lives.
2. That now human power could relieve our alcoholism.
3. That God could and would if he were sought

God could relieve my alcoholism. I knew that. But I did not believe he would. I was sure I had crossed a line. I was no longer able to appropriate that power to help. But AA stressed that he "would." The original manuscript was even more emphatic: "God can and will!" I was humbled.

My turning point came when I was, as the Big Book suggests, "convinced." I was convinced that God could and would relieve my alcoholism. I began to take small steps back to that power greater than myself. The first step was to start my day on my knees asking God to keep me sober. It has worked one day at a time.

But my friend pointed out there was a lot more to do. He joined me on his knees as I prayed a Third Step prayer. Then I had to face that Fourth Step and that tremendous resentment toward my dad. That was hard.

With the support and guidance of my friend, who became my closest friend and my sponsor, I set out to deal with resentment, selfishness, and fear. I followed the outline in the Big Book, looking at where and how this resentment toward my dad developed.

I saw that time when I was eight when Dad, a friend, and I were out flying a kite. Dad as usual was drinking. No matter how hard I tried I could not get that kite airborne! My friend, who was much more athletic than I, ran faster and the kite soared. I remember my dad's words, which cut right to my heart and soul: "Sometimes I wish he were my son instead of you." I was crushed. I carried that moment for forty-one years.

The Fourth Step helped me see that moment in a new light. My dad was sick, sick with the disease of alcoholism. I understood firsthand how alcoholism affects a person and the family. I asked my spiritual father to relieve me of anger toward my dad. The kite incident and others brought so much to the surface--each time I faced resentment and fear.

I did my Fifth Step with my sponsor-friend. I faced fear. The fear that held me tight for all these years was a fear that my dad did not love me. I faced that fear with many tears. It was so consuming I knew that no human power could help. I needed a power greater than myself to help. I needed to ask for that help through the Sixth and Seventh Steps.

I finished my Fifth Step about midnight and set my alarm for 5:00 A.M., when I knew it would be quiet, to review my work and "know God better." It was a tremendous spiritual experience. As I reviewed my resentments and fears, it became clear that as I feared my earthly father did not love me, I also had come to believe that my heavenly father did not love me. Here was the source of that agnosticism. For all these years, I had a conception of God based on a life of fear, a life of resentment. I shed tears again. This time I asked my heavenly father to forgive me and to help me to trust him and know him. Years of heaviness were lifted.

I still begin my day with prayer, and when I feel overwhelmed by events or circumstances, I often find myself whispering a prayer that goes something like this, "Father in heaven, I just can't seem to fly that kite today. Please help me." And my experience, strength, and hope is that he does.

Faithful Fivers are fellow A.A. members who donate five dollars (\$5) a month to Intergroup as an act of gratitude. Their generosity helps us to carry the message of A.A. to the still sick and suffering alcoholic throughout the year.

Thank you to our Faithful Fivers. Your contributions are so appreciated!

Tom & Liz J., Gregory C., Sherri D., Suzanne B., June C., Ron J. Bob H., Anonymous I, Bobby V., Janet M., Dan C., Lu W., Elizabeth B., Happiness Is Group, Lillian M., Fran C., Milinda B., Barbara S., Lois O., Richard H., Gay M., Richard S., Sam B., Mark S. Howard S., Douglas C., Jennifer S., the other Bob H., Carol B., the original Bob H., Leslie R.

and maybe YOU next time?

Please consider becoming a "Faithful Fiver." Your commitment of \$5.00 a month to your Intergroup Office will go a long way toward helping carry the message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic who reaches out.

Fill out this form and mail it in with your contribution today!

It is the still suffering alcoholic who ultimately benefits from your generous spirit!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Sobriety Date and Home Group _____

Make checks payable to:

Broward County Intergroup, Inc.

305 S. Andrews Ave., Suite 502, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

Answers from page 5:

1. reservations
2. improvement
3. procrastination
4. gluttonous
5. affirmative
6. instinctual
7. potentially
8. underline
9. derelictions
10. eliminate

Broward County Intergroup is hosting the Intergroup Central Office AAWS / AAGV Seminar September 17th—20th, 2015

Sheraton Airport Ft. Lauderdale.

If you would like to participate in the wonderful experience of planning the Seminar

**PLEASE join us for our 2nd planning meeting
held at Lester's Diner**

250 W State Road 84 , Fort Lauderdale

Tuesday, July 21st at 6:30 PM

The 5 COMMITTEES: Transportation, Hospitality, Registration, Program/Meeting, and Final Report all need volunteers to help make the seminar a success. E-mail: www.help@aabroward.org

Definition of Broward County Intergroup, Inc.

Your Intergroup office services all groups in the Broward County area. It is not a governing body and does not attempt to, nor can it, rule any AA Group. Its sole purpose is to act as a clearinghouse for the convenience of members and groups desiring assistance, and to extend the Twelve Step Work "carrying the message" to the sick alcoholic. The Intergroup office is supported entirely by contributions from groups, usually a specified amount each month or at intervals throughout the year.

The office purchases and sells all conference-approved books and literature to groups throughout Broward County.

MEETING CHANGES

Monday

NEW MEETING Lambda Rising 11th Step Group, 7:00p.m., Lambda Clubhouse, 1231 Las Olas, OMg.
Closer Conscious Contact, 7:00p.m., St. Francis & Clare Parrish, Fort Lauderdale. **No longer meets.**
Along Spiritual Lines Big Book SS, 7:30p.m., St. Francis Mission, Fort Lauderdale. **No longer meets.**

Tuesday

Joy Of Living Group, 7:30p.m., St. James Episcopal. No longer has the OBG. Now they are now ONLY a CST.
Joy Of Sobriety, 8:30 p.m., Center For Spiritual Living, has moved to Atlantic Shores Hospital, 4545 N Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale, 33308 OSP.
Sunrise Beginners, 7:30 p.m., Christ the King, has moved to St. Francis Mission, 208 SE 2nd St., Fort Lauderdale, 33308 OBG.

Friday

Friday Night Step by Step, 8:30 p.m., Memorial Urgent Care, has moved to Luther Lutheran Church, 1921 N. State Rd. 7, Hollywood, 33021 ODCC.
Coffee Pot Group, 8:00 p.m. Pro-Am Building, 1915 NE 45th St., (Florinada) Ft. Lauderdale, **No longer meets.**

Saturday

To Stay Alive Saturday Night, 8:00 p.m., Has moved to St. Boniface Catholic Church, Ministry Building, Room 6, 8330 Johnson St., Pembroke Pines, 33024 OD.
Midday Sobriety 12:00 p.m. St. David's Catholic Church - 3900 S. University. Davie, **No longer meets Saturday.**
Our Lives on the Line, 7:00 p.m., Pompano , has moved to Christ Community Church, 901 E. McNab. 33060.

Sunday

Beginners Meeting, 9:30 a.m. Sunrise Room, has moved to Sun Village Plaza, 4577 N. University Dr. Lauderhill 33351

Daily

Empty Glass, 10:00 p.m., 101 club, 700 SW 10th St. Pompano, **No longer meets.**

Upcoming Events

- June 5-7** **Steps to Serenity** - Naples Grande, 475 Seagate Drive, Naples, FL. 34103
 Registration \$35.00. For more info Visit www.serenityclubswfl.org.
- June 7** **General Service District 9 Founders' Day Picnic**, Snyder Park, 3299 SW 4th Ave.,
 Ft. Lauderdale 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tickets \$8.00 in advance, \$10.00 at the door.
 Bring a newcomer and a dessert! For info. email supportyourservices@district9aa.org.
- July 2-5** **A.A. 2015 International Convention, "80 Years — Happy Joyous and Free"**
 Atlanta Georgia. **3 WAYS TO REGISTER** * Online: www.aa.org * Fax: (508) 743-3605
 * Mail, 2015 International Convention, ICAA075 * c/o Convention Data Services
 * 107 Waterhouse Road * Bourne, MA 02532
- Sept 3-6** **57th ICYPAA Convention**, Miami Trump National Doral, 4400 NW 87th Ave. Miami,
 FL. Registration \$30.00. Register now at: www.57thcypaa.org.
- Aug. 12-16** **59th Florida State Convention, "A Common Solution,"** Rosen Plaza Orlando,
 9700 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819. Registration \$35.00 For information
 and registration go to www.59.flstateconvention.com.
- Oct. 11** **40th Annual Broward County Intergroup Picnic**, Snyder Park Caldwell Pavilion,
 3299 SW 4th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, 11:30 a.m. to Sundown. D.J., 50/50 raffle, games,
 dancing, volleyball, and an open A.A. Speaker Meeting. Tickets \$7.00 in advance.