

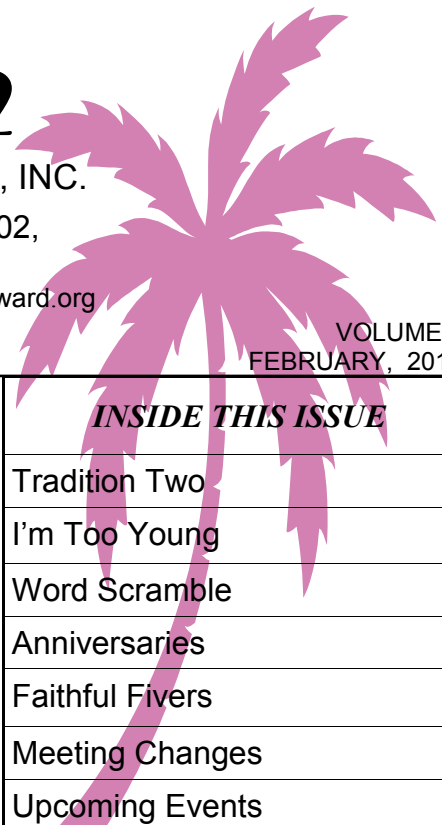


ROOM 502

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 2
FEBRUARY, 2015

Step 2 —“Came to believe a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.”

I Didn't Drink And I Didn't Run

When I came to alcoholics Anonymous, all I wanted was to drink a little less. I did not want to find God, get spiritual, become a better person, or stop drinking. I did not have the power to change anything about my drinking, however. That's why I decided to try AA. That is also the summary of my twenty-five year experience with Step One.

Step Two baffled me. I understood all of the words in the Step but could not comprehend how or why any benevolent force would ever have any connection with me. I had no real religious background, and what I did know made me skeptical. I was taught by my parents, teachers, and popular thought that I could control my destiny and achieve whatever I wanted--if I was willing to work hard enough. If I wanted something done, I should do it myself, they told me. There was no room for the divine in the picture I developed of the world. In fact, there wasn't room for anything or anyone but me.

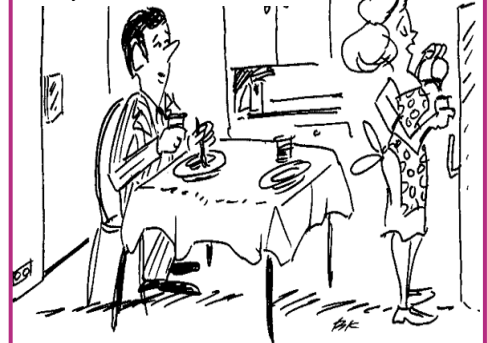
My alcoholism helped me fail at everything important to me. I failed to achieve the status and recognition I thought was due me in my profession. I withdrew from my family. I had no close relationships--drinking buddies were the best I could do. Worst of all, I felt the emptiness that many of us know. Life had no meaning for me. I had nothing to connect with, nothing to engage me, nothing to make my life worth living. This is the state I found myself in when I joined AA, a condition that turned out to be fortunate because it made me willing to consider ideas that I otherwise would have rejected immediately.

In the beginning, all I could do was not drink, and not run away. When I listened to people talk about God at meetings, I didn't drink and I didn't run away. When I heard discussions at meetings about how God--or a higher power, or something--had come into the lives of members and done for them what they could not do for themselves, I didn't drink and didn't run away. I thought it was all nonsense but was afraid to dismiss it entirely. I had been beaten up enough to know that I would die if I drank again.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Tradition Two	2
I'm Too Young	6
Word Scramble	5
Anniversaries	5
Faithful Fivers	7
Meeting Changes	8
Upcoming Events	8

Reprinted from AA Grapevine ©
January 1979 Vol. 39 No. 9



"Since you've been in AA, I've noticed you open the garage door before you put the car in!"

Concept II

The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.

Tradition Two — For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern.

Tradition Two: When They Kept It Simple

Serenity was restored

I belonged to an Eleventh Step group in a small village out in the country during my first year of sobriety. We met on Sunday mornings in the village grange, and the meeting was quite popular. We regularly drew about sixty people who came for our ten-minute meditation, followed by a speaker/discussion meeting.

The village was small and parking was tight, especially during the summer when tourists came to visit the surrounding countryside.

Occasionally, the town's police officer would come in during the meeting to say we had to move such-and-such car away from a driveway, or that we were blocking some important access. The group realized that we had outgrown our space and discussions began on finding a larger space with better parking accommodations. This may sound like a simple proposition, but it became a volatile issue.

Many people loved the grange, and felt threatened by the prospect of moving. The meeting had been there for many years and some of us believed the spirituality of the meeting had infused the cinder block walls with a special feeling.

Our business meetings became difficult and more emotional as we discussed whether or not we should move. People interrupted one another to get their point across, and some ill will developed. I started to dread business meetings because I felt confused. The meeting itself could be so spiritual, nurturing, and loving, but the business meeting was governed more by insecurity, fear, and hurt feelings.

Then a member of the group with more than ten years of sobriety suggested that we begin our business meetings by reading the Second Tradition: "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."

The group chairperson followed the Second Tradition reading with a short statement that said, "We are holding this group conscience to discover our Higher Powers will about moving the meeting. We ask each member who participates in these discussions to do their best to leave their personal opinions out of their comments, to respect the comments of others, and to sincerely try to consider what's best for our group." This statement brought calm to our business meetings and returned civility and respect to our group conscience process.

Ultimately, the group conscience decided that we move the meeting to the local fire station where there was more parking and where our presence was less of a burden to the village. We got used to sitting among the fire trucks and now those walls, too, have been infused with the spirituality of our meditations, prayers, and discussions. I learned a valuable personal lesson during this process. The principles of our program can bring me back from my self-centered opinions to a sincere consideration of what is best for AA, and therefore what is best for me.

Continued from Page 1

Because I did not drink and did not run away, I heard a lot of ideas about a power greater than myself that I considered--in spite of myself. I also saw that other alcoholics, who had been as desperate as I was, had stopped drinking and, as a result, their lives had changed. Even if I did not identify with whatever power they said worked for them, I saw that something had happened to them. This gave me just enough hope to keep coming back to one more meeting, to listen to one more story, and to talk to one more alcoholic.

Because this program did not dictate the name, size, shape, or color of the power that works here, I was forced to find my own. My experience has been a gradual one. It was not anything specific that happened, because nothing really happened. It was not something special that someone said, because I don't remember much of what anyone says. I cannot point to a day or meeting or person or book that changed my thinking. That's not how I experienced it.

But little by little, over months and years, my thinking about other people changed. I started seeing them less in relation to myself--more than or less than me, useful or useless to me, or doing something to me--and more as people struggling just like I was to find a way to live. I lost many fears and some insecurities, and that has made it possible for me to do things, say things, and go places I never would have considered. I can now think about something other than myself, and I don't complain that life is not interesting or engaging.

In those instances when I give up my idea of how something should work, my life changes in a profound and wonderful way. The most powerful example, is my marriage. It is nothing like I thought it should be, and yet it works quite well. When something really difficult has happened in sobriety--despite my feelings of grief or loss or hurt--I have behaved in a way that made me feel good about myself and at peace with the outcome.

God is the name I call this power I have found, because that is the easiest way to express it to other people. If pressed to describe it, I say that I have found a power greater than myself that enables me to get out of myself and experience that rare and wonderful miracle of change.

—Nancy C. Coral Gables, Florida—



"My sponsor says it's what you learn after you know it all that counts."

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**

WHY IT WORKS

I must admit that when I first looked over our Twelve Traditions hanging on the wall, I thought they were a dumb, boring business charter. I was so smart that I knew they had nothing to do with me, and with that information, I ignored them for as long as I could. That was until the day my sponsor, wise woman that she was, suggested that I go through the Traditions with her just as we had the Steps. It seemed like a corny idea at the time, but she was my sponsor and I did not know you could tell your sponsor no. (I still don't recommend that).

One by one we read them together, studying page after page, looking for the spiritual principles and the practical applications. Though at the time I did not understand the significance they would have in my life or how much wisdom was within the words on the page, I know today that they are "why it works" and they are also, when practiced in my own life, the glue that allows unity in my relationships with others inside and outside the rooms of AA.

My sponsor taught me to take each Tradition and find how it applied to me personally. When I felt stuck and could not see the spiritual significance or application, she encouraged me to dig deeper. She shared her own experience about what the Traditions had brought to her own life. When I struggled with finances and debt, and with my husband wanting to set a budget, she shared with me the freedom I would experience by being self-supporting through my own contributions.

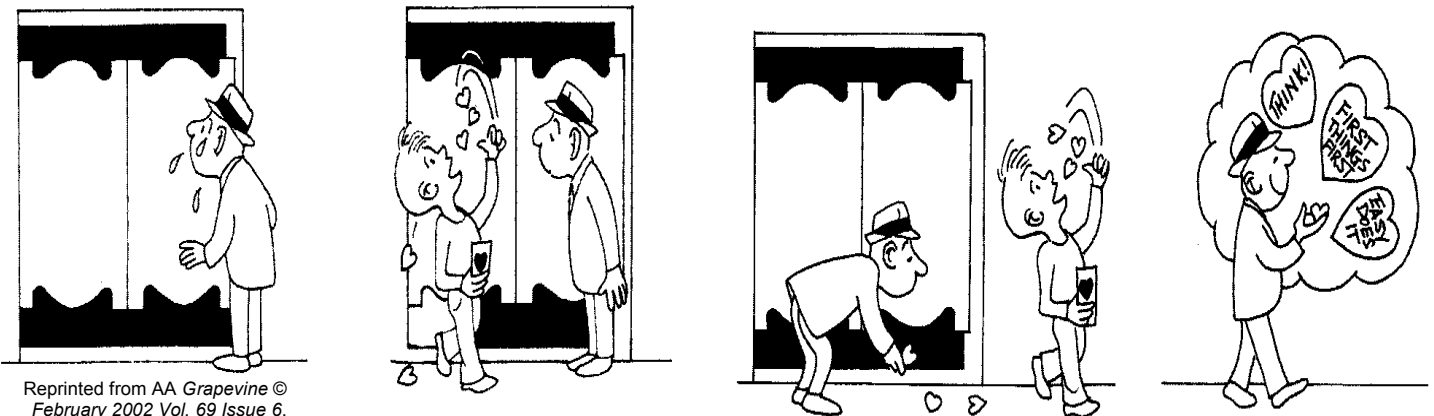
When I wanted to complain about my husband or mother-in-law one more time, she shared with me that having no opinion on outside issues might save me from some resentments.

She said that the common welfare of my family should come first. She said I should stick to my own side of the street and be self-governing, and in this autonomy I would have peace of mind. She said that everyone, including myself, had the right to be wrong.

And she taught me that keeping my mouth shut and not playing the big shot was a great way to practice anonymity, for it is only by staying right-sized with humility that I can practice the spiritual principles I learned before I let my personality run the show.

—Heather L. Oceanside, Calif.—

Reprinted from *Grapevine*
October 2010 Vol. 0 Issue 0.



Reprinted from AA *Grapevine* ©
February 2002 Vol. 69 Issue 6.

General Service Office, NY

P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10164-0371
212.870.3127

Bridging The Gap

877.207.2242

Broward Co. Intergroup, Inc.

305 S. Andrews Ave. Room 502
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301
954.462.0265

BCIC

P.O. Box 22701
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335

Area 15 General Service

Dutch N., 1405 82 Ave. #231,
Vero Beach, FL 32966-6936
772.360.7949

District 9 General Service

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

A.A. Birthdays

February Celebrants

Oakland Park Group

Will R. ~ 10yrs.
 Al S. ~ 16yrs.
 Jerry N. ~ 13yrs.
 Pete B. ~ 27yrs.
 Mike L. ~ 37yrs.
 Sandy P. ~ 44yrs.

WBC Lunch Bunch

Brad ~ 2yrs.
 Alex ~ 3yrs.
 Franz ~ 4yrs.
 Meko ~ 4yrs.
 Steve ~ 5yrs.
 Joe ~ 23yrs.

Focus on Sobriety

Cheryl S. ~ 8yrs.
 Stephanie R. ~ 6yrs.

Early Risers

Winnie W. ~ 29yrs.

Westside Men's

Bob H. ~ 12yrs.
 Greg G. ~ 7yrs.

Mountain Group

Kathy L. ~ 33yrs.
 Joan H. ~ 29yrs.
 Mike J. ~ 29yrs.
 Tommie D. ~ 54yrs.

Sober Today Group

Misty P. ~ 7yrs.
 George G. ~ 8yrs.
 Thomas G. ~ 30yrs.
 Bill D. ~ 30yrs.

Meeting In Print

Art P. ~ 32yrs.
 Bruce W. ~ 33yrs.
 Gregg G. ~ 24yrs.
 Steve G. ~ 30yrs.

One Day At A Time

Howard M. ~ 3yrs.
 Jim R. ~ 58yrs.

You Are Not Alone

Dave K. ~ 8yrs.
 Mark L. ~ 10yrs.
 Kenny ~ 6yrs.

Ft. Lauderdale

Women's
 Priscilla M. ~ 13yrs.

Free Thinkers

Art S. ~ 59yrs.

Ft. Lauderdale Men's

Whitey H. ~ 34yrs.

Men in Recovery

Bill B. ~ 13yrs.
 Larry T. ~ 44yrs.
 Brian L. ~ 5yrs.

True Self

Warren B. ~ 31yrs.
 Steve G. ~ 30yrs.
 Don B. ~ 30yrs.

Live Laugh Love

Sherri D. ~ 6yrs.
 Stephanie ~ 3yrs.

East Naples Men's

Pete H. ~ 25yrs.
 Ted J. ~ 16yrs.
 Ed B. ~ 14yrs.
 Jason J. ~ 11yrs.
 Robert F. ~ 11yrs.
 Josh F. ~ 8yrs.
 Joe L. ~ 7yrs.
 Ralph ~ 6yrs.
 Mike B. ~ 6yrs.

Sat. Morning Awareness

Ryan T. ~ 1yr.
 Ann P. ~ 23yrs.
 Jon J. ~ 33yrs.

Serenity All Together

Ernie F. ~ 28yrs.
 Jon K. ~ 13yrs.

River Side Group

Howie K. ~ 34yrs.

Also Celebrating

Doug B. ~ 29yrs.
 Kathleen B. ~ 35yrs.
 Gail S. ~ 31yrs.

*January Celebrants
 (not previously submitted)*

Live Laugh Love

Cathy S. ~ 1yr.
 Gia ~ 5yrs.
 Jean ~ 19yrs.

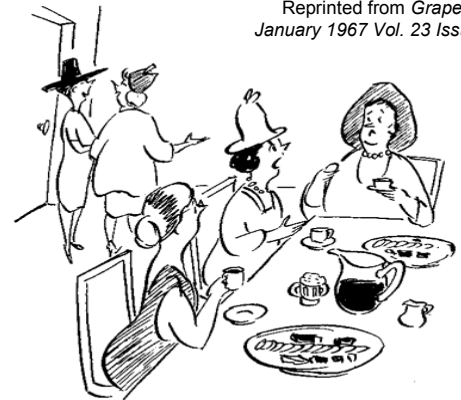
It's your Birthday!

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

Reprinted from Grapevine
 January 1967 Vol. 23 Issue9.



"He's had a complete personality change. From a quiet, pleasant, simple drunk to a sober, vindictive, loud-mouthed know-it-all!"

BCIC Broward County Institutions Committee

Next Meeting: February 14th
 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 11:00 a.m.

Upcoming Meetings

February 15th — March 15th

Word Scramble Step Two

1. loveusres _____
2. greentillbe _____
3. dimriplaro _____
4. digusroopi _____
5. bdeeliwrd _____
6. sagnotci _____
7. roousicpce _____
8. acefinde _____
9. uslouprucs _____
10. tailavlyn _____

(answers on page 7)

I'm Too Young

This mom "wasn't old enough" for AA until she heard the stories of two women her age

I was raised in a very Christian home where my dad was a pastor for most of my childhood. Doing the right thing was taught to me from an early age. I was raised in a picturesque setting. There was a lot of love and nurturing in my home.

My first drunk came when I was 15. I blacked out and woke the next morning to a horrible hangover, but vowed that I was going to drink again as soon as I could. And I did, until I crawled into AA some 14 years later. There's some insanity for you!

My drinking resulted in two DUIs; several public intoxication charges, and being homeless, broken, and left with a hole in my soul too big to be filled by anything other than the Higher Power I found in AA. I had a child when I was 21, and by the time I was 26, my parents had taken her from me so I could "straighten things out." That is when my drinking really took on a whole new form. I was not bound by any responsibility, and the guilt I carried from not being a good mom engulfed me. Before they took guardianship of her, I once dropped her off at daycare so I could go party for a bit. I remember how much she didn't want me to take her there. When they were closing the daycare they had to call me several times to tell me to come get my child or they were going to have to call Child Protective Services to come and get her.

Still my drinking did not stop, it only got worse. Nothing was ever enough to make me stop, although I wanted to a lot of the time. I love page 24 in the Big Book where it says, "We could not bring into our minds with sufficient force the suffering and humiliation of even a week or a month ago. We are without defense against that first drink." My alcoholic mind would not allow me to recall the horrors that drinking was causing me. I tried to take my own life several times, to no avail. I am convinced today that God is not done with me yet.

I continued to spiral downward for two more years after that incident. Several people mentioned that maybe I had a drinking problem or maybe I was an alcoholic, but I was convinced that I was not old enough to be an alcoholic. How cunning, baffling, and powerful! I know today that alcohol doesn't care how old or young I am, it doesn't care that I grew up in a great home, doesn't care what kind of car I drive or don't drive, doesn't care what I do for a living. It just doesn't care! I am so grateful for the fact that God knows me even when I don't know myself.

I was convinced that I was not old enough to be an alcoholic, so during my last stay in jail, God brought two women my age to do an H & I meeting for AA. I had already surrendered a few days into my stay. I knew I wanted to change, but I just wasn't sure how that was going to happen. But I said those few little words that you hear a lot of us say once we are really ready ... God help me! And he did. Those women came in and told me about their drinking, and I related. They said they used to have to look out the window the next morning to see if their car was still there. I did that! They talked about waking up in the morning unsure of where they were or where they had been the night before. That was me!

So that is where it all began for me. I got their number and the day after I got out of jail I went to my first AA meeting. I cried as I got my desire chip and said, "My name is Talia and I am an alcoholic." I was filled with an amount of gratitude that I cannot even put into words. I had finally found something at last that gave me a sliver of hope that everything was going to be all right.

I got into sober living and stayed there for my first seven months of sobriety. I got into action real quick and started working the Steps with a sponsor. I started finding ways of being of service to others. I started going to a lot of meetings. I started praying every day to the God I had abandoned a long time ago—although he was not the same God I had in my mind when I was a child.

I just celebrated four years of sobriety, and my life keeps getting better and better. I am very active in AA, with several service positions within my group and at the district level. I sponsor four women who have absolutely enhanced my sobriety. I just recently got married to a man who gets the privilege of practicing this way of life too. We pray and meditate together every morning and do our best to apply the principles to our marriage. I also have my daughter living with me full time, and it is a joy to get to apply this program to my parenting as well. She is active in Alateen and I am so grateful that she gets a program to help her too.

I am thoroughly convinced that I am powerless—and thus, godless—without the program of AA and every day I am given power through the God of my understanding that I have found in AA. Power to do good. Power to heal and not hurt. AA has created a spirit in me that cannot be broken, so long as I continue to "trudge the road of happy destiny."

—Talia C., Tulsa, Okla. —

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.

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., 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

*Things we cannot change,
They will be missed by all who knew them.
Mark "The Brit" S., Joe O.*

Answers from page 5:

- 1. ourselves 2. belligerent 3. primordial 4. prodigious 5. bewildered
6. agnostic 7. precocious 8. defiance 9. scrupulous 10. valiantly**

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.

MEETING CHANGES

Monday

Lighthouse Point Trinity, 6:30 p.m., Will no longer meet Thursdays., and has moved to Dixon Ahl Hall, 2200 NE 38th Street, Pompano 33064.

NEW MEETING Along Spiritual Lines, St. Francis Mission, 208 SE 8 St, FtL 33301, Mon. 7:30 p.m. OBBSS Monday Night at the Fourth Dimension in Hollywood 7 p.m. is now a Men's CD, **Monday Night Men's**

Tuesday

NEW MEETING Keep it In the Day, Temple Beth Emet, 4807 S. Flamingo Rd., Cooper City, Tues. 6 p.m., CSP

Wednesday

NEW MEETING Young and Free, 8:45 p.m. 12 Step House, 205 SW 23rd St., Fort Lauderdale, 33315. OCC.

Oakland Park Big Book Step Study, 7:30 p.m. 4312 N.E. 5th Avenue, Oakland Park. **No longer meets.**

Downtown Dry Dock, 5:30 p.m. Closed Discussion Men's Meeting, will now be an Open Literature Meeting.

Thursday

Living Young And Sober, 7:30 p.m. Oakland Park, has moved to St. Francis Mission, 208 SE 8 St, FtL 33301

NEW MEETING Our Charge, Luther Memorial Lutheran 1925 N. SR 7, Hollywood, Thurs. 8:30 p.m., CD

Friday

NEW MEETING Coffee Pot Group, 8:00 p.m. Pro-Am Building, 1915 NE 45th St., (Florinada) Ft. Lauderdale 33308

NEW MEETING Easier Softer Way, now meets Friday OM, All Saints Episcopal, 331 Tarpon Dr., FtL

NEW MEETING Women's Hope in Recovery, First Presby, 2331 NE 26 Ave., Pompano, CSTw 11-st Meditation

Saturday

Saturday Downtown, 8:30 p.m. City Hall Building, 100 N. Andrews Ave. Fort Lauderdale, **No longer meets.**

NEW MEETING Lives on the Line, 7:00 p.m., OD. Meets at 721 E. Atlantic Blvd., Pompano.

Sunday

NEW MEETING 11th Step Conscious Contact, 7:00 p.m., meets at St. Benedicts, 7801 5th Street, Plantation.

Daily

Good Morning God, 10:00 a.m. Sunrise, has moved to Sun Village Plaza, 4577 N. University Dr. Lauderhill 33351

Lambda Rising, 7:30 a.m., **No longer meets** Tuesday and Thursdays, Lambda South Clubhouse, Ft. Lauderdale.

441 Group, All 10 p.m. meetings now open, Sat. 2:30 BBSS no longer meets. New meeting Friday 7:00 p.m.

FRENCH MEETING Sunday

NEW MEETING Dimanche Matin, 10:00 a.m., Sunrise Lakes Phase 2, 8315 Sunrise Lakes Blvd., Closed.

Upcoming Events

- Feb.5-8** **2015 Spacecoast Round-up**, Radisson Resort at the Port, 8701 Astronaut Blvd. Port Canaveral. Registration \$30.00 thru January 11th., \$35.00 after. For more info. go to www.aaspacecoast.org.
- Feb. 7** **4th Annual AAs Got Talent**, Coral Springs Charter School, 3205 North University Dr. Coral Springs. Contact organizers at: AATalent2015@gmail.com. Tickets \$10.00. in advance, Limited seating. Adults only. Coffee and desserts!
- Feb. 28 & March 1** **2nd Annual French Florida Convention** \$25 includes workshops, banquet and speakers. Universal Palms Hotel, 4900 Powerline Rd. , Fort Lauderdale
- March 7** **Annual Women's Day** in Ft. Myers, 8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m. Info bcparfait@comcast.net
- March 7** **District 9's Spring Fling**, NSU Campus, 3200 S. University Dr., Davie, Terry Bldg, Karaoke & Chili Dinner 6:00 p.m., Speaker 8:00 p.m. Tickets \$8 advance, \$10 at door.
- Mar. 14-16** **SoberStock 2015**, Camp Brorein, 16901 Boy Scout Rd., Odessa, FL. Weekend \$40.00 per person, \$50.00 at the gate. For more info. Visit www.soberstock.com.
- Mar. 11-15** **Florida Roundup 2015**, The Deauville Beach Resort, 6701 Collins Avenue, Miami 33141. Registration \$70.00, For more info, or to register, go to: floridaroundup.org.
- April 18** **District 9 Archives Old Timers Meeting**, Dessert, 3 speakers with 35+ years sobriety, full archives display, NSU, 3200 University Drive, Davie
- April 25** **52nd Annual Intergroup Appreciation Banquet**, Tropical Acres Steak House, 2500 Griffin Rd., Ft. Lauderdale. 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Dinner, Speaker meeting, Raffles \$40.00. Save the date!