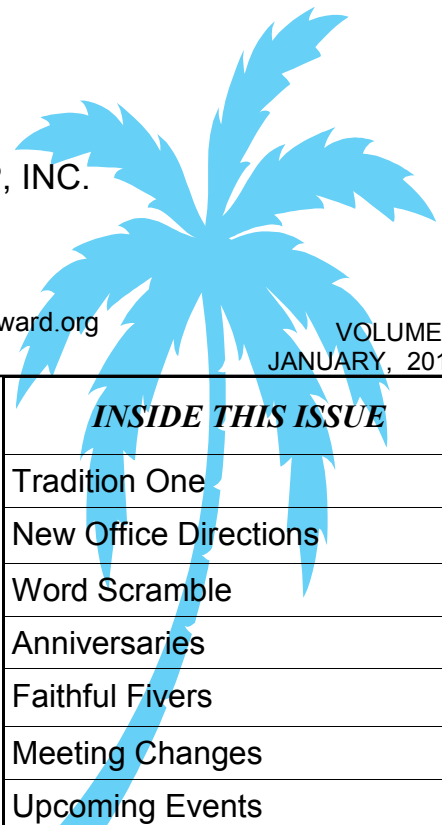


Suite 404

BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.
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VOLUME 1
JANUARY, 2016

Step One — “We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.”

Believes 1st Step Has Become a "Must"

We say or used to say there are no "musts" in A.A. That was true when the book was written because at that time A.A. was in the formative stage and everything was really trial and error. There was no substantial proof that A.A. would work in more than a few cases. The major portion of A.A. is still trial and error and I hope it will always remain that way because we are dealing with individuals and each case differs.

But the fact remains that although each case differs in the final analysis the basic starting point is the same. Each individual finally has to admit that "he is powerless over alcohol and that his life is unmanageable"; therefore I believe that the 1st Step in the program of A.A. has passed the trial and error stage and that we have come to the place where we can and should say that the alcoholic must swallow that 1st Step hook, line and sinker. He must chew it up and digest it so thoroughly that it is absorbed into his system and becomes a living part of him. If necessary he could and should develop as much of an obsession not to drink as he used to have to take a drink. His "no thank you" must become as automatic a thing to him as his former "don't care if I do" answer to an invitation or urge to drink.

That 1st Step is the keystone of the arch, the hub of the wheel or the corner stone of any structure he wishes to build out of his remaining life. The whole A.A. program, for the alcoholic, revolves around it or is based on it. There is no use in continuing the treatment for any disease until the patient has arrived at a decision that he has the disease he is being treated for, because as long as he is not thoroughly convinced that he has the disease he will not follow through on the doctor's orders. And when he doesn't follow the doctor's orders he has a relapse or recurrence of the disease.

The first step in the diagnosis of his case is for him to really make a decision that he is an alcoholic and that his life is unmanageable. Then he is ready for the treatment to take effect.

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Reprinted from *Grapevine*
January 1946 Vol. 2 Issue 8.



"I may be a little late, honey. Charlie's in town and wants me to have a New Year's Eve drink with him."

Concept I

Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

Tradition One — “Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.”

The magnificent unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it. We stay whole, or AA dies. Without unity, the great heart of AA would cease to beat, our world arteries would no longer carry the life-giving grace of God, his gift to us would be spent aimlessly. Back again in their caves, alcoholics would reproach us and say, "What a great thing AA might have been!"

"Does this mean," some will anxiously ask, "that in AA the individual doesn't count for much? Is he to be dominated by his group and swallowed up in it?" We may certainly answer this question with a loud "No!" We believe there isn't a fellowship on earth which lavishes more devoted care upon its individual members; surely there is none which more jealously guards the individual's right to think, talk, and act as he wishes. No AA can compel another to do anything; nobody can be punished or expelled. Our Twelve Steps to recovery are suggestions; the Twelve Traditions which guarantee AA's unity contain not a single "Don't." They repeatedly say "We ought. . ." but never "You must!"

To many minds all this liberty for the individual spells sheer anarchy. Every newcomer, every friend who looks at AA for the first time is vastly puzzled. They see liberty verging on license, yet they recognize at once that AA has an irresistible strength of purpose and action, "How," they ask, "can such a crowd of anarchists function at all? How can they possibly place their common welfare first? What, in Heaven's name, holds them together?"

Those who look well soon have the key to this strange paradox. The AA member has to conform to the principles of recovery. His life actually depends upon obedience to spiritual principles. If he deviates too far, the penalty is sure and swift; he sickens and dies. At first he goes along because he must, but later he discovers a way of life he really wants to live. Moreover, he finds he cannot keep this priceless gift unless he gives it away. Neither he nor anybody else can survive unless he carries the AA message. Realization dawns that he is but a small part of a great whole; that no personal sacrifice is too great for preservation of the fellowship. He learns that the clamor of desires and ambitions within him must be silenced whenever these could damage the group. The moment this Twelfth Step work forms a group, another discovery is made--that most individuals cannot recover unless there is a group. It becomes plain that the group must survive or the individual will not.

So at the outset, how best to live and work together as groups became the prime question. In the world about us we saw personalities destroying whole peoples. The struggle for wealth, power, and prestige was tearing humanity apart as never before. If strong people were stalemated in the search for peace and harmony, what was to become of our erratic band of alcoholics? As we had once struggled and prayed for individual recovery, just so earnestly did we commence to quest for the principles through which AA itself might survive. On thousands of anvils of heartbreaking experience, the structure of our society was hammered out.

Countless times, in as many cities and hamlets, we re-enacted the story of Eddie Rickenbacker and his courageous company. Like us, they had suddenly found themselves saved from death, but still floating upon a perilous sea. How well they saw that their common welfare came first. None might become selfish of water or bread. Each needed to consider the others and in abiding faith they knew that they must find their real strength. And this they did find, in measure to transcend all the defects of their frail craft, every test of uncertainty, pain, fear, and despair, and even the death of one.

—Bill W.—

Continued from Page 1

The treatment for the alcoholic is the balance of the program of A.A., the other 11 Steps. And the best part of it is that the balance of the program, although it comes slow to most of us, becomes a pleasure and a joy to try and live by.

I, for one, am thankful that I didn't have any sudden spiritual awakening, because if it had been too easy at the start I probably would have done the same thing I had always done before, lost interest or said, "This is a cinch. All I have to do is not drink." If that had happened I would have missed the boat and by this time I would have been drowned and forgotten.

So I say that we have come to the place in A.A. where we should tell the new man that he must get that 1st Step and get it good. The evidence is all in favor of that statement and conclusion.

— J.F.H. Linda Vista, California—

Broward County Intergroup's 5th Annual

AA's Got Talent

(Adult only event)

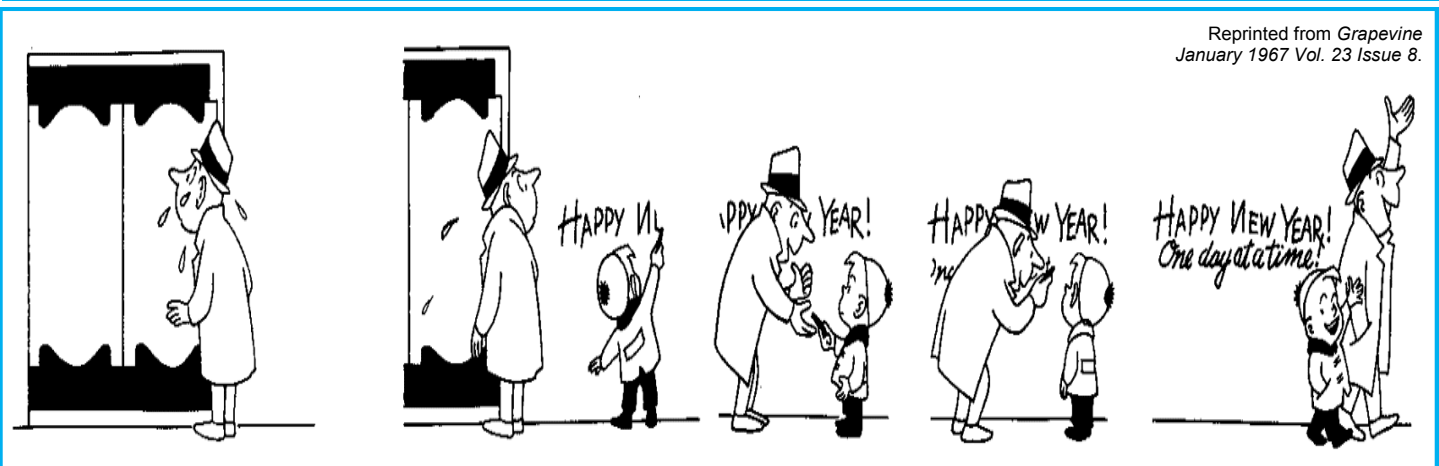
Saturday, February 6, 2016

6:00pm-check-in, coffee, please bring a pick-up dessert
7:00pm Talent Show-\$10 in advance only-limited seating

Coral Springs Charter School

3205 North University Drive
Coral Springs, FL 33065

Tickets are on sale now



Intergroup wants to express our appreciation

for those groups and individuals who have made generous financial contributions, and give a special thank you to all the members who have volunteered their time to help the sick and suffering alcoholic.

A New Year's Message

It Works!

Nothing is so brittle as a New Year's resolution, unless it be a glass crutch.

Most New Year's resolutions shatter within a few days. Then their broken pieces lie around, as sharp as needles, reminding of failure until the skin, or the conscience, has again become calloused. What, in fact, is so rare as an unbroken New Year's resolution in June?

Yet, we in particular, were among the most prolific New Year's resolution makers. We turned them out on a mass production scale. All through the year we stored up our awareness of personal deficiencies and faults, planning to correct them all in one vast wash of resolutions. Do it all at once, we said, with splendid optimism. Easy does it, in reverse.

Of course, it probably is better to have one day or a few days of high resolution than none at all, but how much more practical if the purpose behind the New Year's resolution is built into daily life. How much easier it is to correct the deficiencies and the faults one by one as we go along day by day, than to try to level a mountain in one stroke.

The kindness and the realism of the A.A. approach to the task of self-improvement offer more hope of success than the high resolution sworn to once a year. At least they have offered more hope and yielded more success for many.

There are, to be sure, other ways, and, of course, some New Year's resolutions do endure. But the inventory that is taken more often than annually and the resolution that is formed at the beginning and the close of each 24 hours have worked convincingly for many and will continue to work for many more.

The new hope that comes from this overwhelming evidence of a new approach to an old and deadly trouble is the offer of the New Year, of each New Year. "It works!" is the electrifying promise that we can give to others.

If there has to be a resolution today, let it be that we will offer those two words fraught with the ringing message that has been proven over and over. "It works!" They offer a new year to any who are still burdened with the past. They bring a new year whenever and wherever they are accepted. Today is the day, any day and every day, to try the new way. Today, "It works!" Tomorrow, "It works!"

Through the 13 years of A.A., people have been doubting those words at first, testing them skeptically, and finally coming to believe them. Perhaps the message they speak makes the best resolution of all.

The A.A. who knows that "it works" needs no ceremony to remind him. His day of high resolution came the moment he took the 1st Step. His New Year began then and continues as long as he follows the new way that others have blazed. His New Year's resolutions are forged and strengthened day by day. Where the glass crutch was brittle and shattered easily, he now has at hand a staff stronger than steel. He has faith built upon proof that, "It works."

—T.D.Y.—

Reprinted from *Grapevine*
January 1990 Vol. 46 Issue 8.

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Area 15 General Service

Treasurer, P.O. Box 206
Bradenton, FL 34208
941-266-0609

District 9 General Service

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

A.A. Birthdays

January Celebrants

Focus on Sobriety

Janet B. ~ 29yrs.
 Melanie ~ 9yrs.
 Anne B. ~ 10yrs.
 Randi Z. ~ 20yrs.
 Ileana G. ~ 5yrs.

WBC Lunch Bunch

Larry ~ 3yrs.
 Joe ~ 4yrs.
 Earl ~ 23yrs.
 Sally ~ 30yrs.

Men in Recovery

Justin G. ~ 7yrs.
 Jamie B. ~ 6yrs.
 Robert C. ~ 6yrs.

Tamarac Group

Mark R. ~ 4yrs.
 Mark B. ~ 7yrs.
 Bobby V. ~ 28yrs.

Riverside Group

Howie K. ~ 35yrs.

Ft. Lauderdale Women's

Pattie F. ~ 12yrs.

You Are Not Alone

Gerard ~ 23yrs.
 Ebony D. ~ 8yrs.
 Sarai ~ 7yrs.
 James ~ 15yrs.

Oakland Park

Audrey P. ~ 36yrs.
 Sterling J. ~ 39yrs.

Westside Men's

Allan G. ~ 32yrs.

Northeast

Douglas M. ~ 22yrs.

Serenity all Together

Dennis M. ~ 27yrs.
 Bill M. ~ 23yrs.
 Glenn K. ~ 41yrs.

Meeting In Print

Michele C. ~ 2yrs.

One Day at a Time

Mena L. ~ 19yrs.
 Paulette ~ 21yrs.

Free And Easy

Lou B. ~ 3yrs.
 Susan C. ~ 5yrs.
 Michelle R. ~ 6yrs.
 Kelly T. ~ 13yrs.
 Wendy P. ~ 18yrs.
 Neil L. ~ 27yrs.

Mountain Group

Kathy D. ~ 6yrs.
 Bob S. ~ 13yrs.
 Tony F. ~ 17yrs.
 Glenys ~ 30yrs.

Each Day A New

December Celebrants
(not previously submitted)

Sunlight of the Sprit

Tom J. ~ 27yrs.

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.

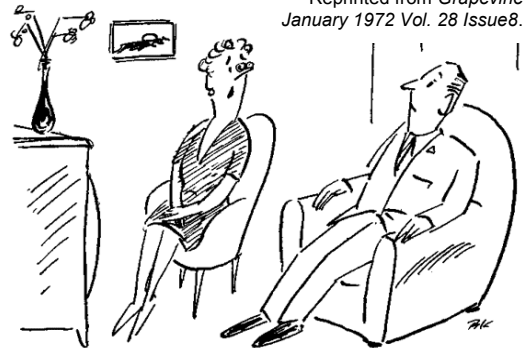
Start this year. It is not how much you give that's important. It's thinking of others on your special day, that makes it so special. This is a wonderful way to express your gratitude by helping others receive the blessings of sobriety.

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.
 3317 NW 10th Terrace, Suite 404
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

Reprinted from *Grapevine*
 January 1972 Vol. 28 Issue 8.



"Henry, I'm bored. Since you've been sober in AA I've nothing to complain about."



Congratulations to all of our celebrants. You deserve to be recognized. Celebrants should be submitted as early as possible, by the 15th, of the preceding month at the latest. (Example) January celebrants should be submitted by December 15th, to be published in the January Newsletter. Thank you for your time and effort.

Word Scramble Step One

1. loswereps _____
2. abelnumgeana _____
3. feetda _____
4. diveropecn _____
5. hollaco _____
6. humaniiloit _____
7. taddtime _____
8. padrew _____
9. sobesnios _____
10. crypatbnku _____

(answers on page 6)

BCIC Broward County Institutions Committee

Next Meeting: January 9th

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

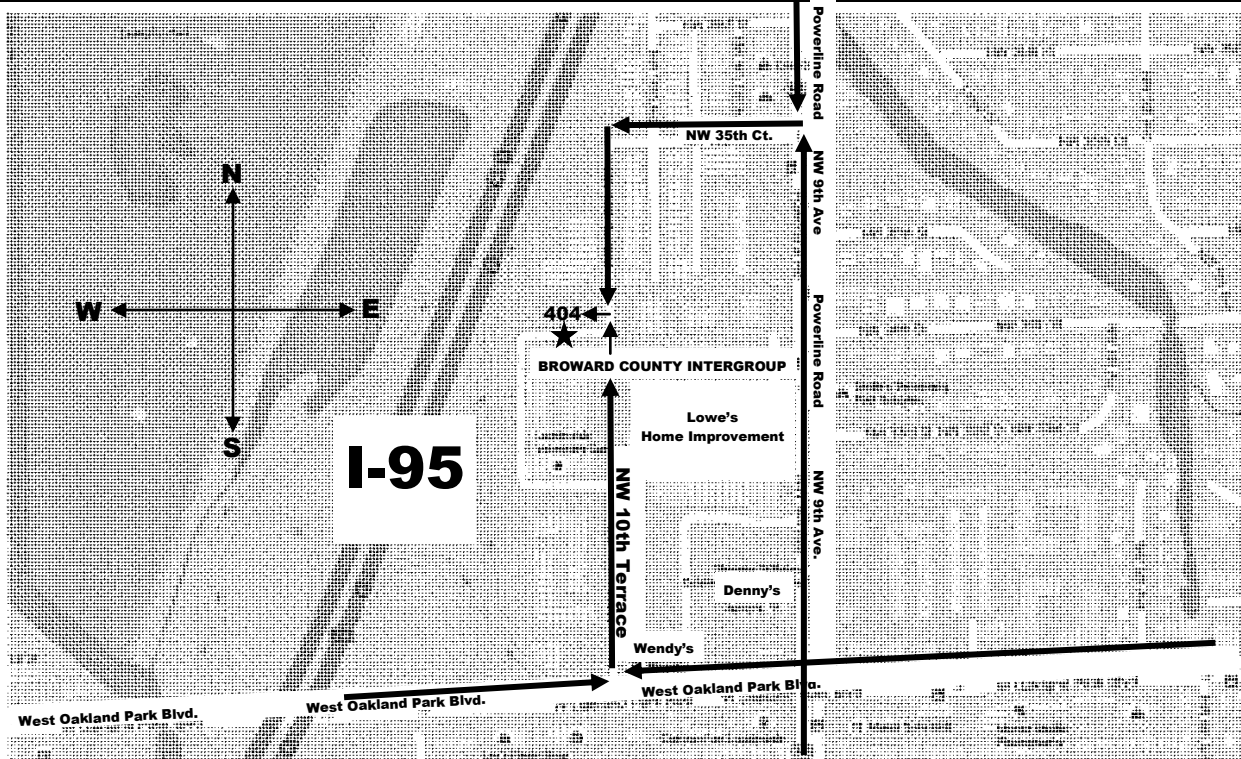
Intergroup Meetings

will be now held at

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

Upcoming Meetings

January 16th — February 13th



INTERGROUP HAS MOVED

We would like to thank all of the following volunteers sincerely for sparing your valuable time and helping us in relocating our office.

Mike L. & his guys, Randy M. with his guys, Carol B., Bob H., Arielle V., Jason, Eric P., Meredith, George D., George G., George M., Marty L., Mike C., Gary D., Amanda S., Don W., Joel C., Susan B., Philip S., Jean G., Carol McC., Hope S.

It is only with the help of volunteers like you that we have been able to continue carrying the message. One alcoholic helping another alcoholic to achieve sobriety.

New Address

3317 NW 10th Terrace, Suite 404
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

Answers from page 5:

1. powerless 2. unmanageable 3. defeat 4. providence 5. alcohol
6. humiliation 7. admitted 8. warped 9. obsession 10. bankruptcy

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?

Make a New Years Resolution, of only five dollars a month to help carry the message of A.A.

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.

3317 NW 10th Terrace, Suite 404, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

*Things we cannot change,
They will be missed by all who knew them.*

*DJ Gary, Dennis,
Sarah Jane, Sky P.*

Suite 404 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

Wednesday

Chickee Group, 8:00 p.m., Seminole Head Quarters, moved to Seminole Estate Clubhouse, 3300 N. State Rd. 7, Hollywood.

Thursday

NEW MEETING Our Little Meeting, 6:30p.m., Ocean Breeze Recovery, 2413 E Atlantic Blvd., Pompano ,CWBB.

NEW MEETING East Side Back To Basics, 7:00p.m., Christ Church, 901 E. McNab., Pompano ,OBG.

Friday

NEW MEETING Golden Text Group, 7:45p.m., Point of Grace, 1104 Federal Hwy., Dania Beach, BBSP.

NEW MEETING Friday Primary Purpose, 8:00p.m., 2458 SW 42nd Ave., (Backyard) Ft. Lauderdale, 33317 OSP.

NEW MEETING Woman's Journey, 10:30a.m., Fourth Dimension , 4425 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, 33021 OD.

Saturday

D.A.T.A., 11:00 a.m., All Saints Catholic Church, 10900 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Sunrise. **No longer meets.**

NEW MEETING Nooner's, 12:00p.m., Twelve Step House, 205 SW 23rd St., Ft. Lauderdale, 33315.

Sunday

NEW MEETING 441 Group, 7:00 p.m. Village Plaza, 1452 N State Rd. 7. (441) Margate 33063.

Daily Meetings

Pompano Beach Splinter Group, 9:00 a.m., M-F, has moved to Christ Community Church, 901 E. McNab, Pompano Beach 33060.

SPANISH MEETINGS

NEW MEETING Grupo Libertad, 8:00p.m., Monday. Sober Today Club, 1633 S 21st. Ave., Hollywood, 33023

Upcoming Events

- Feb.4-7** **2016 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. 6** **5th Annual AAs Got Talent**, Coral Springs Charter School, 3205 North University Dr. Coral Springs. Contact organizers at: AATalent2015@gmail.com. Tickets \$10.00. Limited seating. Adults only. Coffee and desserts!
- March 5** **District 9's Spring Fling, Chili Cook-off & Dinner** NSU Campus, 3200 S. University Dr., Davie, Terry Bldg., Chili Dinner 6:00 p.m., Speaker 8:15 p.m. Tickets \$8 advance, \$10 at door.
- Mar. 11-12** **SoberStock 2016**, Camp Brorein, 16901 Boy Scout Rd., Odessa, FL. Three days of speakers, meetings, bands, food & fellowship. Weekend \$40.00 per person, \$50.00 at the gate. For more info. Visit www.soberstock.com.
- Mar. 9-13** **Florida Roundup 2016**, The Deauville Beach Resort, 6701 Collins Avenue, Miami 33141. Registration \$70.00, For more info, or to register, go to: floridaroundup.org.
- April 25** **53rd 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. \$40.00. Save the date! Tickets available soon.