



Suite 404

BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.
Oakland Commerce Center
3317 NW 10th Terrace, Suite 404
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
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VOLUME 1
JANUARY 2017

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

Beyond Step One

Are we missing a great and thrilling adventure because we cannot honestly say, "Here are the steps we took"?

BEYOND STEP ONE lies a country most of us never visited before, not even in our dreams. It is a new land, unexplored territory. Once we step over its borders, we can never go back and be entirely as we were. Who would want to?

Most people who try AA and go back to drinking (either to be lost forever or to return to AA at a later date) have not, I am convinced, gone beyond Step One.

They may think they have. Some will tell you they have always believed in a Higher Power, and this qualifies them as having taken Step Three. Others believe they have taken Step Five simply by unburdening themselves at meetings. And, of course, we have any number of fantastic twelfth-steppers who haven't bothered with Steps Two through Eleven.

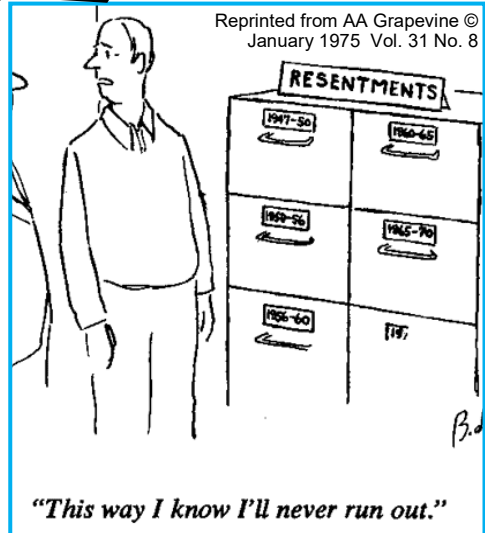
I sat in a small Twelfth Step meeting not long ago with a group of people whom I knew to be active and activating twelfth-steppers. They were persons who quietly inspire all around them, in and out of AA. As each one spoke on the subject, it came out that they clearly considered the most important element in twelfth-stepping to be having taken the other eleven Steps. The consensus was: You can't give away what you don't have!

Beyond Step One lies that mysterious phenomenon, the spiritual awakening. To me, this means a change within oneself which has not been accomplished by visible means, and which becomes apparent only after it has taken place--usually apparent more to others, at first, than to oneself.

A spiritual awakening cannot be forced. It can, however, be nurtured. The seeds to be planted are so simple that it is often difficult to convince the new person of their power to produce a miracle. We sow the seeds by attending meetings and by practicing the Steps without reservations.

I recently spent several hours trying to convince a woman I am sponsoring that the answers to the mental agonies she is going through are to be found in the

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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.”

Together We Can

Two months after I picked up my four-year chip, I decided I was tired of meetings and resentful that I had a disease that required meetings. I rationalized that I could stay sober without Alcoholics Anonymous; after all, weren't there many alcoholics who were sober without AA?

I attempted to examine my reasons for wanting to quit meetings. I still liked AA, although I had lost some of my original thrill for it. My basic reason related to the resentment I had against religion. I felt that as a child, I had been sold a bill of goods based on fear; I was told if I didn't come to church every Sunday morning, I wouldn't be a good person and something bad would happen to me. As an alcoholic I was full of the rebellious nature that Bill W. frequently talks about and so, similarly, I didn't like the warnings of fellow alcoholics that I would get drunk if I didn't come to meetings.

I heard the comment several times in meetings, "I come to meetings because I'm afraid if I don't, I'll get drunk." When I heard that comment, my automatic reaction was rebellion. I didn't want to come to meetings out of fear of getting drunk, I wanted to come, not to avoid a painful consequence, but to gain something positive, such as release from fear and rebellion and a better way to live.

One thing I had learned in my four years of meetings was that talking about what bothers me helps it lose its power over me. I chaired the discussion meeting of my home group and confessed that I had been debating in my mind whether I could stay sober without Alcoholics Anonymous. I believe that God speaks through people, and by the time the meeting was over, I had tears in my eyes, goose bumps on my arms, and the feeling of the presence of a higher power at work in the group. It took some courage for me to speak up in a group that I knew was going to let me have it with both barrels, but I try hard today not to hide my thoughts and feelings.

The discussion started on my right with "Joan." My feelings on the subject were nothing new to her as she had already thought what I thought and tried it. She had had five years' sobriety, quit going to meetings, and relapsed. It took inpatient treatment for her to get sober again and, she assured me, she doesn't want to test statistics again.

Next was one of my favorite alcoholics, "Edward." With eighteen years' sobriety, he doesn't mince words. I had really looked up to him when I came in with nothing much but a big mouth and chip on my shoulder. He was a big dose of hope for me when I had two weeks dry because I thought, "If this man still comes to meetings after all these years, then maybe it will work for me." He believes in keeping it simple. He looked at me and said, "I can't believe you would think of something so stupid!"

Next, a "slipper." In and out of the program and never able to stay sober over three months. I bet he could stack his start-over chips to the ceiling. He explained to me that someone might come through the doors of AA who needs me to be there. Now this might not mean much to someone else, but to me, it touches my heart. Because you see, when I came through the doors of AA, I didn't think I had anything anyone else could use or needed. What a miracle the Fellowship has wrought! I, who felt like a worthless, useless soul until I found the program, now have something that someone else may want. By the grace of God, I am one of those people talked about in the Big Book who are "uniquely useful to their fellow man."

And the last person, the one who brought the tears to my eyes, was the newcomer at his first meeting. He trembled and shook, this big giant fellow. His voice quivered as he told about running from himself and his alcoholic demons so hard and so fast for so long. He had come to a stand-still only two nights ago and couldn't face life anymore. With tears in his eyes, he said he couldn't go on anymore. He had tried everything he knew to stay sober, even church, and he was looking for someone he could talk to who would understand that he was "just a drunk." He said he felt something in this room, he didn't know what it was, but he knew that we were there for him and that somehow we understood.

With goose bumps on my arms, I thanked my Higher Power for my answers once again and for the privilege of being a part of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. I realized that sitting there in that meeting had nothing to do with fear, but was about love and the sharing of experience, strength, and hope with one another.

—S. R. Martinsville, Virginia—

Continued from Page 1

AA meetings and program. She reminded me of myself a few years ago. I wanted to be shown how AA could possibly help me with anything but my drinking. How much hell I would have spared myself had I been willing to take my sponsor's word for it!

But we alcoholics can be stubborn. As we're going down for the third time, we finally decide to grasp the AA lifeline that has been thrown to us. No more questioning; we're ready to open our minds and hearts and venture out into the unknown--beyond Step One.

Now, we are no longer "dry, but not sober." We may have problems, but they never again need overwhelm us. Now, we have a program.

Beyond Step One lies what is for us a new state--blissful unself-consciousness. This is a paradox, because it goes hand in hand with finding one's true selfhood. We who have searched the world over (including in bottles and in bars, but sometimes in other places, as well), looking for our true selves and getting more and more lost, have finally discovered who we are.

We have a birthright--our identity. We are not saints, but our everyday living is joyous and full of meaning. Beyond Step One lies spiritual progress, and it isn't at all what we imagined!

— Sally H. - Bellevue, Washington. — *found online through Google*

Service Opportunities

Intergroup Appreciation Banquet is Looking for Volunteers

for the following committees;

Tickets, Raffle, Decorations, Greeters, Program

Next planning meeting: February 15th, 6 PM

at the Intergroup Office

3317 NW 10th Terrace, Suite #404

Broward County Intergroup

Would like to thank all you wonderful alcoholics who have contributed their past issues of Grapevine, and purchased new subscriptions for the sick and suffering alcoholics who do not have access to them.

Stop by our office, and ask how you can help.

Spring Fling Planning Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18th, 2017 1:00 PM

Lester's Diner, 250 SR84, Fort Lauderdale, 33315

2018 State Convention Planning Meeting

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017 1:00 PM

Water Treatment Facility, 2555 Copans Road, Pompano

Suite 404 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**

Suite 404 readers tell us about their favorite passages in AA literature

My favorite passage in AA literature comes from the chapter "We Agnostics" Page 48, in our basic text, Alcoholics Anonymous. It reads as follows:

"The practical individual of today is a stickler for facts and results. Nevertheless, the twentieth century readily accepts theories of all kinds, provided they are firmly grounded in fact. We have numerous theories, for example, about electricity. Everybody believes them without a murmur of doubt. Why this ready acceptance? Simply because it is impossible to explain what we see, feel, direct, and use, without a reasonable assumption as a starting point."

It gave me something to think about. This chapter was written for me. If AA had been a religious program, I do not think I would be here.

—Nadine H., Fort Lauderdale, FL—

Suite 404 readers tell us about their personal experiences with AA Compliancy

After several 24 hours of sobriety, time came when I said I'm tired of meetings and service, which saved my sobriety, sponsoring, which is the lifeline of AA. I wanted no more phone calls. I can handle this now, no more drinking. I have the tools, and can use them all.

Every New Year's Eve for many years, I had to make a meeting. Because, it was on New Year's Eve that I had destroyed room after room in my home. I had decided to go to bed early that New Year's Eve, because I could handle the past now with ease, right?... Wrong! I woke up on that New Year's Day, not knowing who I was, where I was, or how this had happened. In reality, I wanted to die without a drink. I was in pain, and despair, and again lonely, because I had edged the God of my childhood out.

I was literally dumped at an AA meeting, and through the grace of God, I did not drink. Someone took my phone number. It was through that, and the strong bond of God, working through people, I was given a life again.

This time the AA way, over and over again: through the big book, and the steps and traditions of this program. I needed to do ninety meetings in ninety days. I did not drink through this despair, through the grace of God.

I wanted to die because I thought that I knew it all. I had all the tools I needed, attended all the meetings I needed to, and had done my share of service work.

Sound familiar? Beware my friend! Complacency is the most dangerous word in AA. I was there.

—Lil M., Fort Lauderdale, FL—

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New York, NY 10164-0371
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Bridging The Gap
877.207.2242

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BCIC

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

Area 15 General Service

Cary White, PO Box 56
Sebring, FL 33870

District 9 General Service

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

A.A. Birthdays

January Celebrants

441Group

Angelo G. ~ 10yrs.
Harry R. ~ 16yrs.

Plantation Lunch Bunch

Larry ~ 4yrs.
Joe ~ 5yrs.
Earl ~ 24yrs.
Sally ~ 31yrs.

Men in Recovery

Justin G. ~ 8yrs.
Jamie B. ~ 7yrs.
Robert C. ~ 7yrs.

Tamarac Group

Mark R. ~ 5yrs.
Mark B. ~ 8yrs.
Bobby V. ~ 29yrs.

Riverside Group

Howie K. ~ 36yrs.

Express Group

Patrick ~ 4yrs.
Heather ~ 6yrs.
Michelle ~ 16yrs.

Ft. Lauderdale Women's

Pattie F. ~ 13yrs.

You Are Not Alone

Gerard ~ 24yrs.
Ebony D. ~ 9yrs.
Sarai ~ 8yrs.
James ~ 16yrs.

Oakland Park

Audrey P. ~ 38yrs.
Sterling J. ~ 40yrs.

Westside Men's

Allan G. ~ 33yrs.

Northeast

Douglas M. ~ 23yrs.

Serenity all Together

Dennis M. ~ 28yrs.
Bill M. ~ 24yrs.
Glenn K. ~ 42yrs.

Meeting In Print

Michele C. ~ 3yrs.

12&12 Group

Deborah H. ~ 20yrs.

One Day at a Time

Umberto ~ 3yrs.
Mena L. ~ 20yrs.
Paulette ~ 22yrs.

Free And Easy

Lou B. ~ 4yrs.
Susan C. ~ 6yrs.
Michelle R. ~ 7yrs.
Kelly T. ~ 14yrs.
Wendy P. ~ 19yrs.
Neil L. ~ 28yrs.

Mountain Group

Kathy D. ~ 7yrs.
Bob S. ~ 14yrs.
Tony F. ~ 18yrs.
Glenys H. ~ 31yrs.

Each Day A New Beginning

Gregory C. ~ 7yrs.

December Celebrants

Sunlight of the Sprit

Tom J. ~ 28yrs.

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
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309



Reprinted from Grapevine
January, 1974 Vol. 30 Issue 8.

"AA says, 'Stick with the winners.' I'm going to ask Al-Anon if I have to stick with a loser."

THE FIGHT IS OVER

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UNSCRAMBLE EACH
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CELLS WITH THE

SAME NUMBER

ANSWER ON PAGE 5

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9	10

11	12	6	

BCIC Broward County Institutions Committee

Next Meeting: January 14th
10:00 a.m. at the Twelve Step House,
205 SW 23rd St., Ft. Lauderdale.

Intergroup Meetings

Are held at:

The Twelve Step House,
205 S.W. 23rd, Ft. Lauderdale,

Upcoming Meetings

January 22nd — February 12th
at 1:00 p.m.

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 1949 vol. 5 no. 8.

Answer from page 5:

Surrender to win

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 J., Ron J. Bob H., Anonymous I,
Bobby V., Janet M., Elizabeth B., Happiness Is Group, Lillian M., Tim S.,
Milinda B., Barbara S., Lois O., Richard H., Richard S., Sam B., Mark S.
Howard S., Douglas C., Jennifer S., Ted K., the other Bob H., Carol B., June C.,
Bob H., Pat R., Leslie R., Eric P., Tara D., Nancy S., Joey B.
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. 3317 NW 10th Terrace, Suite 404, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Things we cannot change,

John K. ~ Joe G.

They will be missed by all who knew them.

Celebration Of Life

On Sunday, January 29th, there will be a memorial for

Joe G.

at the 101 Club, 700 SW 10th Street, 1:00p.m.—3:00p.m.

Bring a dish or dessert to pass

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.

MEETING CHANGES

Monday

Meditation In Practice, 7:30p.m., Sanctuary, 1400 N. Federal Hwy, Fort Lauderdale, FL **No longer meets.**
Fort Lauderdale Primary Purpose Big Book Study Group, 7:15p.m in Ft Lauderdale **has Moved to** First Presbyterian Church, Nuemann Center Bldg. 401 SE 15th Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL. 33301

Tuesday

NEW MEETING Veteran's In Recovery, 7:00p.m., Fellowship Recovery Center, 5400 W. Atlantic Blvd. Margate, FL 33063 CCCm

NEW MEETING Splinter Group, 9:00a.m., First Pavilion On Beach, North Of Fishing Pier, Pompano, FL

NEW MEETING Pompano Young People, 8:00p.m., 3765 NE 18th Terrace, Pompano Beach, FL. OBBD

Wednesday

NEW MEETING 3rd Floor Sobriety, 5:30p.m., Pembroke Professional Centre, Suite 383, 9050 Pines Blvd. Pembroke Pines, FL 33024 OBB

Thursday

Living Young & Sober, 7:30p.m., which met previously in Ft. Lauderdale and Dania **Is Looking For A New Home.**

Alcoholics and God, 7:15p.m. in Ft. Lauderdale **has Moved to** First Presbyterian Church, Nuemann Center Bldg. 401 SE 15th Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL. 33301

Friday

Friday Night Step Series, 8:00p.m., Sober Today Club, 1633 S. 21st Ave., Hollywood, FL33020 OSS

Daily Meetings

Victor E., 8:30a.m., Monday—Saturday in Ft. Lauderdale **has Moved to** Metropolitan Community Church, Room 1

Groups we love your contributions!

We are looking for groups that would like to contribute
a gift basket to be raffled off at our

54th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, April 22nd

Upcoming Events

- Jan.19- 22** **2017 Spacecoast Round-up**, Radisson Resort at the Port, 8701 Astronaut Blvd. Port Canaveral. Registration \$35.00 For more info. go to www.aaspacecoast.org.
- Feb. 4** **6th Annual AAs Got Talent**, Coral Springs Charter School, 3205 North University Dr. Coral Springs. Tickets \$10.00 - Adults only. Coffee and desserts!
- March 4** **District 9's Spring Fling, 50's Dance & Dress up**, NSU Campus, 3200 S. University Dr., Terry Bldg., Davie, Chili Dinner 6:00 p.m., Speaker 8:15 p.m. Tickets \$8 advance, \$10 at door.
- Mar. 17- 19** **SoberStock 2017**, 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. 15- 19** **Florida Roundup 2017**, The Deauville Beach Resort, 6701 Collins Avenue, Miami 33141. Registration \$70.00, For more info, or to register, go to: floridaroundup.org.
- Apr. 7-9** **South Florida Area 15 Qtly Assembly** - Boca Marriott - free service event
- April 22** **54th Annual Intergroup Appreciation Banquet**, Tropical Acres Steak House, 2500 Griffin Rd., Ft. Lauderdale. 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Dinner, Speaker, raffles.. \$40.00. per person, Call to reserve a table. Tickets are now available.