

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 7
JULY, 2015

STEP 7: “Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”

Call the Exterminator!

She asks God to help her eliminate the termites, not just the rotted wood

Sometimes I assume I have an open channel to God, that he'll let me know if he wants anything. With an open channel, I don't have to do any work, nor do I have to humble myself in any way. It's me who has to go to God. If I think it's the other way around, I'm wrong. How arrogant to think that God should come get me if he needs me! What would he ask me for? If I don't have the humility to ask him to take the character defects with which I struggle, I continue to struggle until I do. This is called “becoming ready” in Step Six. The instant I let go, the instant I am sincere and humble in my prayer—and in my heart and will—God steps in and takes my defect from me.

My trouble lies in being sincere and humble. What I really ask most of the time is for God to please take away the difficulty that my defect is causing me. I want him to fix the outside problem, the part I see. I want him to make others more tolerant of me, to let me do what I want with no negative consequences. This is not the sincerity required to do a successful Seventh Step.

Through trial and error I eventually learn that my shortcomings are the cause of my trouble just as it is with termites. It's not the rotted wood that is the real problem. I can replace the wood on my deck, but if I leave the termites in there I'm going to eventually have the same problem I do today. Sometimes things can look nice and be rotted underneath.

I don't always see my defects until things collapse. I am not always aware of danger, but if I am in contact with my Higher Power, I am going to get the help I need. If I ask, God will give me the humility to accept that help before it's too late. I must understand that it is all his doing, not mine. When I know that it is not my doing, my whole focus changes. I no longer think that I must do this or that to save myself. I begin to think how I might better get to God, who has everything that I need. I see my personality problems as obstacles in the way to him, and I desire their removal.

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“Why aren't the donuts fresh, and who watered down that coffee?”

Concept VII

The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purpose for final effectiveness.

Tradition 7: Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Changing the World by Friday

Tradition Seven keeps us from getting too extravagant or grandiose

The AA groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those AA treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated AA purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.” (Tradition Seven, Long form.) 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.

Generally speaking, practicing alcoholics enjoy grand financial gestures, like throwing a wad of cash down on the bar and announcing free drinks for all.

The closest I came to any kind of selfless donation was pledging a large sum of money during some charity appeal on television, only to frantically try getting out of it later.

Unacknowledged contributions were boring. We didn't get much of a buzz out of that. When we arrived at AA, beaten and broken, some of us could barely scrape together enough for a cup of tea.

As we got on with the program, offered freely to us, our sponsors guided us back to work. Material things became available to us and we were able to put a bit more into the pot.

Those who had lost little materially were obviously able to put more into the pot from the outset. Did this make them better AAs? Of course not. Nor did it give us any more rights. We all give according to our circumstances, however, there have to be limits. AA cannot risk being at the mercy of donations from a few wealthy contributors who might start acting like share holders, demanding things must be done a certain way. Excess funds at a group level may cause disputes as well. Tradition Seven tells us to keep a prudent reserve. Any surplus is forwarded on to the AA general service structure.

In the early days of AA, some wealthy friends were able to see that too much money would spoil our aims. They gave us a nominal amount to help at the time, but could see clearly that our organization would only survive by supporting itself. At the time, AAs were desperately trying to find the money to get the Big Book published, build hospitals, dispatch messengers to the far corners of the earth and change the world by Friday. A meeting with Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and some of his business acquaintances led to an organized dinner attended by some very wealthy and influential business men. The early AAs thought their money worries were over. These men did not supply AA with great sums of money. Their experience and support, however, were highly valuable to our newly formed Fellowship. Some even became nonalcoholic trustees. Their good business sense and general prudence surely saved us from many costly mistakes and Alcoholics Anonymous is forever grateful to our early business, medical and spiritual friends. For the story, pick up AA Comes of Age.

Continued on Page 4

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

Treasurer, P.O. Box 690275
Vero Beach, FL 32969-0275
(772)360-7949
District 9 General Service
P.O. Box 100126
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310

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When it comes to humility, my problem seems to be that I don't realize I haven't got it. I don't think I'm being arrogant or grandiose. I think I'm being adept and competent. I think I've got a handle on things, and it never occurs to me to ask God to guide me in this matter or that. Of course I don't start out saying "I won't ask for God's help. What can he do that I can't do for myself?"—but I don't ask. I try to arrange things so I get what I want and don't even notice I've lost touch with God until the contact is gone. I look up, and like a lost child at a carnival, everything is strange to me and I'm scared.

The good news for me is that God is everywhere. God is patient. He does not prod or punish, he merely waits with all power and loving kindness for me to seek him again in the right spirit, and then he performs miracles. What else can I say? I have seen it.

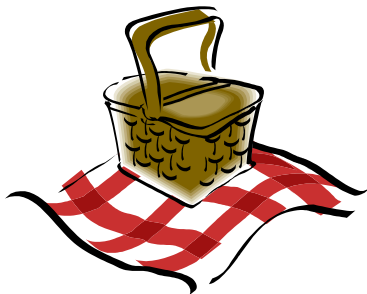
—Amber M., Florence, Ky.—

Reprinted from *Grapevine*
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Seventh Tradition Checklist

1. Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a barroom?
2. Should the Grapevine sell advertising space to book publishers and drug companies, so it could make a big profit and become a bigger magazine, in full color, at a cheaper price per copy?
3. If GSO runs short of funds some year, wouldn't it be okay to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?
4. Is it more important to get a big AA collection from a few people, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?
5. Is a group treasurer's report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?
6. How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect, rather than the feeling of being always under obligation for charity received?

Service Opportunities



Picnic Committee - Join our Picnic committee to see that this year's picnic is our best ever! Adults \$7/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.

*Things we cannot change,
She will be missed by all who know her.*

Susan F.

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.

Continued from Page 2

Lessons learned from the struggles of these old-timers indicate that the most important thing for us to remember is our obligation to the future. We have taken responsibility for our lives, our recovery and, therefore, for the continuation of AA. We have made amends or are making good our debts. We do not need and will not look for handouts.

To ensure that the message is carried on into the future, for the alcoholic who has not yet suffered or has yet to even be born, I always need to remember what AA has given me. I need to look at what I have been given and what I am ready to give.

Tradition Seven ensures there will be a help line, literature, newcomer cards and a meeting space with AA recovery for the shaky, baffled newcomer.

Tradition Seven is the foundation of our service structure. Unfortunately, without money, AA would wither and die. There will always be a great need for member contributions. Money and spirituality mix in the basket. Our society remains in precarious financial times. Our resources will no doubt be put to the test. There will always be many, like us, who will find themselves lost in that strange, miserable world of alcoholism.

So, I say to you today, just as the treasurer said to Bill W. and the other old-timers at a New York meeting in the early days: "Now boys, please go heavier on the hat tonight, will you?"

Today, we of course include the girls.

—Anonymous—

Reprinted from *Grapevine*
July 2011 Vol. 57 No. 6



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

My favorite passage from the Steps And Twelve Traditions (Foreword 3rd Paragraph)

"AA's Twelve Steps are a group of principles, spiritual in their nature, which if practiced as a way of life, can expel the obsession to drink and enable the sufferer to become happily and usefully whole."

There was an old-timer in my original home group who would love to quote this from time to time during his shares. The first thing that appealed to me upon hearing this was that The Twelve Steps were "Spiritual" in nature. Hearing this, especially as a "New-Comer" gave me hope! Maybe, if I too worked these steps, my spirit which I thought had died, would be restored!

As I now continue to "Practice" these Twelve Steps on a daily basis, in all my affairs, my life and my sobriety continue to grow beyond my expectations!

—Terri S., Ft. Lauderdale, FL.—

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**

AA Birthdays

July Celebrants

Men in Recovery

Harry O. ~ 25yrs.
 John D. ~ 5yrs.
 Richard W. ~ 5yrs.
 Casey M. ~ 14yrs.

Westside Men's

Eric S. ~ 16yrs.
 Richard R. ~ 24yrs.

Focus on Sobriety

Joann J. ~ 5yrs.

WBC Lunch Bunch

Scott ~ 4yrs.
 Walter ~ 16yrs.
 Gary ~ 45yrs.

Sands of Serenity

Laura W. ~ 17yrs.

Mountain Group

Michael J. ~ 8yrs.
 Emma J. ~ 7yrs.
 Carole G. ~ 25yrs.
 Denis H. ~ 41yrs.

Meeting in Print

Rhonda D. ~ 11yrs.

You Are Not Alone

Sharon G. ~ 16yrs.
 Janet T. ~ 13yrs.
 Marie H. ~ 7yrs.

Ft. Lauderdale Women's

Diana H. ~ 15yrs.
 Nancy B. ~ 26yrs.
 Pam ~ 19yrs.

Live Laugh Love

Juliyet. ~ 17yrs.
 Leslie B. ~ 7yrs.
 Carol V. ~ 4yrs.

Oakland Park

Mary W. ~ 24yrs.
 Mike M. ~ 19yrs.
 Mark W. ~ 12yrs.
 Dick C. ~ 5yrs.
 Freddie L. ~ 35yrs.

Don't Forget Group

Doug W. ~ 4yrs.
 Richard H. ~ 35yrs.

Coral Springs Men's

Steve B. ~ 23yrs.

Happy Destiny

Sharon M. ~ 6yrs.
 Liz A. ~ 7yrs.

Serenity All Together Group

Ken M. ~ 9yrs.
 Mary S. ~ 16yrs.
 Keith W. ~ 12yrs.

One Day at a Time

Alicia ~ 5yrs.
 Mervyn ~ 19yrs.
 Bob F. ~ 25yrs.

Free And Easy

Linda M. ~ 29yrs.
 Larry H. ~ 34yrs.

*May Celebrants
 (not previously submitted)*

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

"If all I have is a dollar in my pocket and I'm at a meeting, logic tells me to save it for myself for later. If I give it to AA, and have faith in the process, it will come back to me in ways I can't even imagine."

Reprinted from Grapevine December 2012

Word Scramble Step Seven

1. rcaerthca _____
2. nadcenbau _____
3. mribulieiq _____
4. trbusnaacid _____
5. mtitioasnli _____
6. goendlbude _____
7. nsrtiaotruf _____
8. tiasafsicotns _____
9. atenrsonconti _____
10. gefusfnri _____

(answers on page 7)

**BCIC Broward County
 Institutions Committee
 Next Meeting: July 11th**

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
 July 19th — August 16th**

**Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers in Broward County,
 and for all you wonderful alcoholics who continue to support your
 Intergroup office.**

A Lifetime of Service

Step Seven

Fresh from a Fifth Step session with my sponsor, I turned to the Sixth Step. Gradually, very gradually, I became ready to have God remove my character defects--and God knows there were a lot of them!

That evening, I got home from a meeting and was ready for bed. It had been a long day. The blustery March night was cold and I was bone weary. With a smile on my face, I crawled into bed, folded my arms across my chest and realized, with some satisfaction, that on the following day all of my shortcomings would be a thing of the past. I was taking the Seventh Step, and I was at peace. After a tranquil night, I awoke knowing I had a clean slate.

Finally I got up--a bit late, but cheerful--because I was free at last of all those burdensome negative character traits which had kept me from making real progress. Leaving the bed unmade, and with shoes un-shined, I bolted down my breakfast, and piled the dirty dishes in the sink. I headed off to work in a rush, for once again I was just a little behind schedule. On cloud nine, I did get to the office--only five minutes late. But what matter? I was free at last. Liberated! I managed to get in quite a bit of work in between coffee breaks and trips to the water cooler.

It was the new me. After all, I had humbly asked God to remove my shortcomings. Things were in his hands and God would take care of them. I didn't have to worry about all those little bothersome details. They were molehills, nothing more. I didn't need to worry about my shortcomings as long as he was working on them.

And then it came to me. The shortcomings were the molehills I had to take care of. I had addressed the mountains in Steps Four, Five and Six, but now it was time for the molehills--the bed unmade, the shoes un-shined, dirty dishes piled in the sink--all those things I should have gotten around to and just never had. There were some pretty significant molehills out there. How about relationships with my family and friends? Didn't they merit some attention? And my work? Was I putting in a full day's work for a full day's pay?

During my drinking days, I marched to a different drum. I seemed to abide by a philosophy which bore little resemblance to the Golden Rule. My basic attitude was, "What's in it for me?" I would do what I was supposed to do, only if it was to my advantage. My work got done--but barely--because I did need to live. It was very inconvenient to have to go to work every day, but generally I did make it to the office. (Let's not dwell on the days when I just couldn't come in.) Naturally, I wasn't being paid what I considered a just salary given my enormous talents. And just as naturally, if "they" weren't going to pay me well "they" weren't going to get much out of me!

You were my friend if you could give me a listening ear for my drunken and maudlin meanderings. That was a sign you appreciated the immensity of my intellect. You were a good friend if you could stand me round after round of drinks, thereby demonstrating that you appreciated the company I offered.

Actually, I had a deep suspicion, barely admitted, that I really wasn't such a great person. But if others would affirm me, if they would stand by me, then there was the proof that I was good. I soaked up such moral support like a blotter, like water poured over a dry brick. I needed that support to survive.

I used to think that I was absorbing the booze, deftly handling the drinks in my life. In reality, the gin was absorbing me. Gin didn't fit in me after a few years of heavy, heady drinking; I was fitting into the gin. I only did things which didn't interfere with my drinking schedule. Evening work was out because I was useless after the "happy hour" had begun. Mornings weren't too good either as I was suffering the agonies of the damned. Noon wasn't bad but by then, the sun was over the yardarm and I could have a drink to erase the ravages of the previous day's happy hour. I was pretty creative by one o'clock but by two I was beginning to get sleepy from the drinks that had accompanied lunch. I would come to just before five--because I didn't want to leave a messy desk before going home. All in all, I had about an hour and a half of productive time in any one day.

I had long ceased caring about whether I did my work or not. If anyone called my attention to the fact that I was a nonproductive member of society, I became irate. What an insult. Don't they know who I am?

I was, in reality, enormously egocentric. The word "egocentric" comes from the Latin and means that everything travels toward the center. The opposite of "ego-centric" is "ex-centric" meaning that everything moves out from the center. In other words, it means becoming a giver, one who serves others, one who reaches into his or her own inner reserve of strength to help another. In terms of the Seventh Step, I had to stop being a taker, an absorber. I had to become the responsible person I had not been. In short, I had to learn to take care of the molehills in my life.

What the AA program really calls us to is not to be egocentrics but to be ex-centric. Ex-centricity is an attitude, a way of life so rare in today's world that it has come to mean weird or off the wall. To be ex-centric, we are called to change our selfishness into self-giving. We are called to exchange our absorption with ourselves into service to others.

This short step may be the most difficult there is. It implies an entire change in our way of thinking, in our attitude to self and to others. This is not something that will happen overnight. We have to practice it--a lifelong habit of serving others. This, in large measure, is the basis of the "spiritual awakening" spoken of in the Twelfth Step.

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. character
2. abundance
3. equilibrium
4. disturbance
5. limitations
6. bludgeoned
7. frustration
8. satisfactions
9. consternation
10. suffering

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

Saturday, July 18th at 11:30 AM

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.

MEETING CHANGES

Monday

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

Tuesday

NEW MEETING Perry Street South Group, 7:00p.m., Pro Am Building, 1915 NE 45th St. Ft. Lauderdale, CSD.

NEW MEETING The Place, 7:30p.m., Mt. Olivet Church , 649 NW 15th Way, Ft. Lauderdale, 33311 OCC.

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.

NEW MEETING Recovery On The Rocks, 7:30p.m., Unity Church, 261 SE 12th Ave, Pompano Beach, ORF.

Saturday

Midday Sobriety, 12:00 p.m. St. David's - 3900 S. University Dr. 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.

D.A.T.A., 7:30 p.m., Abiding Lutheran, has moved to All Saints Church, 10900 W Oakland Park Blvd, Sunrise, CD.

Sunday

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

Daily

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

Surrender Is Freedom, 7:00 a.m. Luther Memorial, has moved to 4th Dimension Club, 4425 Hollywood Blvd.

Upcoming Events

- 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.
- Aug. 8th** **Carry the Message Day.** NSU Cafeteria, 3200 S. University Drive, Davie. 6 PM—
 Free service event hosted by District 9, Intergroup and BCIC. Speakers, dessert, and coffee. Bring a sponsee and sign up for a commitment.
- September 17th-20th** **Broward County Intergroup** is hosting the **Intergroup Central Office AAWS/AAGV Seminar**, Sheraton Airport Ft. Lauderdale.
- 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.