



Suite 404

BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.

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VOLUME 6

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Step Six — *“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”*

The Old Three-six Combination

I wanted to make certain I was spiritually ready to do Steps Three through Seven. Everything had to be perfect. I wanted time to meditate, to think clearly. The week my husband and sons had planned to be away on a ski trip would be ideal. The house would be quiet and I could work without interruption. This was my plan--surely God couldn't object to my planning ahead. Nothing less than painstaking preparation would do.

For months I had prayed for discernment of God's will--at the same time fearing that I might get the answer. Would I have to give up all my worldly goods? And would I end up tacking "Praise the Lord!" at the end of every other sentence? Perish the thought--that's not my style. I knew I was still swimming against the current. "I am not worthy," I said to God over and over.

Since I didn't fear doing Steps Four and Five but was still having problems with Step Three, I planned to pay attention to it after I'd worked Four and Five. I figured I'd know more about myself then and I'd be ready to do Step Three, which would then overlap with Step Six. This Three-Six combination would be a real knockout of a spiritual experience! And Step Seven would follow smoothly, naturally.

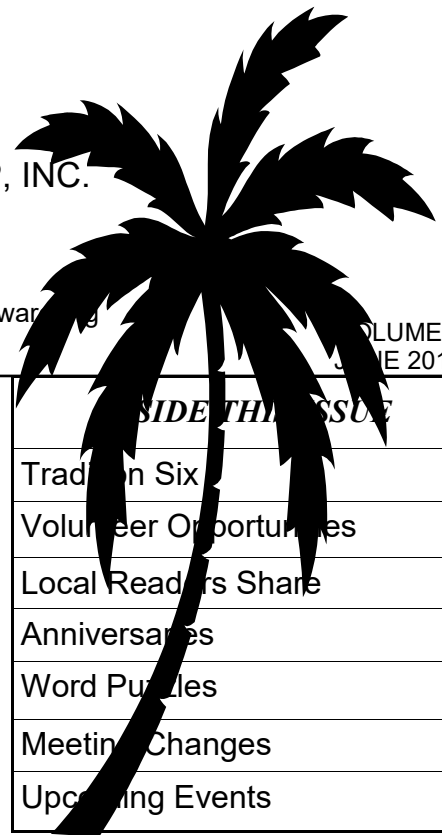
Sunday. My husband and sons left early in the morning, and after going to church as usual, I wrote down my plans for the week. I decided to attend as many noon and evening AA meetings as I could in their absence; this would help me stay sober. Then, unafraid, I spent three hours writing my inventory and was satisfied that I'd been thorough. As expected, I gained a new insight regarding my alcoholism and felt some relief. What I had written, however, also seemed to reinforce my lack of self-esteem. "Lord, I am not worthy of your love," I said.

That night, I attended an AA meeting and asked my sponsor to do Step Five with me. The date was set for the following Wednesday morning. Good, I thought. That would give me another two days to prepare.

Monday. At a noon AA meeting, my sponsor expressed the importance of striving for progress rather than perfection. I'd heard her say this once before. I knew she'd perceived this was a problem for me in my attempts to understand Step Three. To me, a satisfactory completion of Step Three was predicated upon knowing with certainty what God wanted me to do, and it meant absolute, unconditional surrender and obedience on my part forever. Period. When I did Step Three I was going to do it my way, by God, or not at all!

Tuesday. That night at a meeting, I was very glad to see a man whom I knew had been anxious and depressed several days earlier. I'd prayed for him and hoped for my sake that the Big Book I'd given him had made a difference. And here he was--okay and sober. Whether or not my simple gesture had

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**LET'S HEAR
IT FOR ALL
THE SOBER
DADS!!**



Concept VI

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

Tradition Six — “An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.”

Doing What We Do Best

THE EARLY history of Alcoholics Anonymous includes classic examples bearing directly on the formation of the Sixth Tradition: the offer made our co-founder Bill W. to ally himself with a hospital as an "AA counselor"; those education binges when we succeeded in confusing the public (and ourselves) as to just who we were and what it was we were trying to do.

That's the past. What about today?

This Tradition was brought into focus for me when a newcomer I was sponsoring became fascinated with it. He read the chapter in *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* and then started asking questions--as I should have when I was a newcomer.

I was so fogbound for years after coming in that, even though I heard and read about our policy of nonaffiliation, there seemed to be no question but that AA was tied in with hospitals and prisons. Every time I went, trembling, to visit or to speak at an AA group in an institution, I was strongly aware of the courtesy and the kind familiarity on the part of the authorities. In my mind, their attitude translated into affiliation. If I'd had a sponsor in the beginning, this and many other matters might have been gotten into a truer perspective.

"What about the AA boat ride?" asked the newcomer. "Isn't that a case of AA endorsing an outside enterprise?"

A local AA group was sponsoring a boat ride on the river for recreation, to raise funds to defray group expenses, and also to make a contribution to our local intergroup. Was AA endorsing the line that owned the sightseeing boat? No. The group was simply paying for use of the boat, as it does for meeting quarters. The misunderstanding in the newcomer's mind was the result of hearing the activity constantly referred to as "the AA boat ride."

What is a newcomer to think? And if those of us who have been around for a while keep repeating such terms, what will we eventually think ourselves?

We still hear references to "AA clubs." Our early experience with them and with AA groups that meet under the same roof had a lot to do with the forging of the Sixth. When I came into the Fellowship in 1960, I started attending meetings at the Old 24th Street Clubhouse. It had just moved to its new home, one block south, on 23rd Street. I was told it was an AA clubhouse. That was the way I thought of it and the way I spoke of it. It was a long time before I understood that it was actually a clubhouse for AAs.

The present-day newcomer didn't get the distinction. "Isn't that all just a lot of semantics?" he said. "You know what people mean when they say that."

No, I don't always know what people mean if they don't tell me. So I explained that the term "AA club" would imply AA *ownership*--thereby involving AA in "problems of money, property, and prestige." That's why it has been found wise to incorporate clubs for AAs as separate entities, *not* owned by any group or collection of groups. If a group wants to meet in such a clubhouse, it pays rent as it would to a church or a civic hall.

The Sixth Tradition alerts us to the dangers of the *appearance* of affiliation. A few years ago, an AA group in my area was obliged to move from quarters it had occupied for many years. Against the recommendation of several of its members, the group voted to move into a center for drug rehabilitation. The rehab center was advertising to encourage the use of its facilities by civic and social groups. The group did not affiliate with the center but did hang its AA sign directly under the drug program sign. The impression of affiliation, if not endorsement, was created. At least, the group did not change its name and take the name of the rehab center. Our General Service Conference has reminded central offices and intergroups, as a guideline, that it is a good idea for new groups *not* to name themselves after the facility or institution where they hold their meetings. Too often, impressions endure longer than facts.

"Tell me," the newcomer said, with a touch of defiance in his voice, "how an AA group might finance an outside enterprise."

I remember an AA member's soliciting groups for bail money for an AA friend of his who had been arrested and charged with a serious crime. Only an insignificant amount was raised, because there were enough informed members around to resist having their AA groups finance the bail bond business. Without the Sixth to guide them, however, even that handful of members might have viewed the bail-out action as a charitable one and set aside their groups' primary purpose.

"Are you saying that we have to be on our toes all the time? That we have to watch everything we think and say?"

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(Continued from page 2)

Yes, and what we write, too. A friend of mine once innocently sent AA members a note that concerned a local intergroup activity but was written on his company business letterhead. There were no repercussions, but the impression could very easily have been created that the intergroup office and his office were affiliated.

The number one intent of our Traditions, of course, is to guide our groups and our Society as a whole in the ways of unity. And they serve a further end as well. For example, another aspect of this Tradition is the opposite of endorsement, namely, criticism. How easy it would be for the AA movement to point out to the proliferating alcoholism rehab programs just where we think they are going wrong. It also happens that criticism is one of the gravest of my old character defects. It is still the easiest thing for me to criticize a fellow AA for not working the program the way it *should* be worked; to criticize a group for not running its meetings the way I think they should be run; to criticize the operation of our General Service Office.

"You make it sound like the Fourth Step," the newcomer said, and he visibly drew back. "You make it sound just like taking inventory."

That is pretty much what the Traditions come down to--an ongoing inventory of the who, why, what, when, and where of groups and of AA as a whole. The Sixth is warning us against a natural tendency to embrace all manner of causes, noble or ignoble. It warns us to be aware of our limitations: AA cannot be everything to everyone. It reminds us to be ever on guard against three major shortcomings: (a) the crusader's ardor, (b) the one-sidedness of the zealot, and (c) perhaps the villain of the piece, the savior complex.

"None of that is going to happen to me," said the newcomer, as he walked away, "now that I know about it."

I sincerely hope not. I've been done in by all three!

W. H., Manhattan, New York

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Volunteer opportunities

2017 INTERGROUP PICNIC — next planning meeting is

Tuesday, June 27 at 6:30 PM at Intergroup office

CARRY THE MESSAGE DAY 2017 to be held in August, which is a joint service event - BCIC, Intergroup and Dist.9 General Service - Will have planning meetings at 101 Club in Pompano Starting in June. Check with Club or email humilityiskey7@hotmail.com

District 9 has begun **planning for the 2017 Gratitude Dinner** to be held in November to raise money for GSO

Come get involved— Sunday, June 25 at 1:30 PM
at the Fourth Dimension Clubhouse in Hollywood

**2018 Florida State Convention IS AT
FORT LAUDERDALE BEACH AGAIN!!**

Next Planning Meeting, if you want to Volunteer, is Saturday, June 17 from 9 -11 AM
Water Treatment Facility, 2555 Copans Road, Pompano

(continued from page 1)

helped him or not didn't matter now and this surprised me. I was just glad to see him.

My sponsor was also there. She and I mused on the timeliness of the topic which had been picked for that meeting: honesty and Steps Four and Five. She suggested I reread the Big Book sections on Steps Four through Seven before retiring that night. But what about Step Three? Time was running out; I felt no closer to a discernment of God's will than I did before and I still feared the answer.

Later, when I climbed into bed with my Big Book, I prayed for guidance. I wanted to be well-prepared. Suddenly, the music alarm on the bedside digital clock/radio went off, startling me. I checked the buttons and confirmed that the alarm had been set for 8 AM. I pushed another button to read the time. 12:46 AM. This is crazy, I thought, and pushed the off button, but the radio continued blaring. I stared at the clock: still 12:46. Bemused, I wondered if perhaps God wanted me to listen to the lyric of the song being aired. Nope, too tacky and no connection. I unplugged the radio, and returned to the Big Book, but I couldn't concentrate. Suddenly, I made a strange decision. I got down on my knees and said, "I give up. Do with me what you will." It was strange because I didn't mean it. Instantly regretting my words, I said again, "Lord, I am not worthy." I climbed back in bed and read for a while longer until I grew sleepy. Before turning off the light, I made another strange decision. I decided that, for a while at least, I wouldn't plug the radio back in. Plugging it in would only confirm that it simply had gone berserk--and that would spoil things.

Wednesday. A few minutes before my sponsor arrived at my home, I decided to read the Third Step prayer, even though I'd planned to do it in conjunction with Step Six. I thought: "Who knows? It might take." So I got down on my knees and read, "God, I offer myself to Thee--to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy will always!"

I went over my inventory with my sponsor, and though I'd been thorough and honest, I didn't feel the overwhelming relief I was supposed to. She was very reassuring, however, and pointed out that I would regain my self esteem in time. And again she gently reminded me that I should strive for progress not perfection. I didn't tell her about the clock/radio incident--possibly because it now seemed insignificant, possibly because I was afraid she might laugh at me. Before she left, she instructed me to do Steps Six and Seven straightaway. Alone again, I knelt on the living-room carpet. I didn't feel right. Perhaps the hard kitchen floor would do the trick. So I knelt on the kitchen floor and read the Seventh Step prayer, even though I didn't feel ready. How could I? I was not worthy. Immediately afterwards I went to a noon AA meeting feeling disappointed. I'd failed again. A vague discontent stayed with me for several hours. I told myself, "You're trying too hard." So I busied myself for several hours doing something different, and by day's end I felt better.

Thursday. As planned, I met a friend for an early lunch. Though I enjoyed her company, I felt the urge to get away and go to the noon AA meeting. It wouldn't matter if I arrived late. I wanted to be there even if to only catch the closing with the Lord's Prayer. Wednesday's discomfort had vanished and I was in a good mood. As it turned out, the meeting was running overtime. I listened eagerly to three or four alcoholics before my turn came. Before I knew it, I was cheerfully relating my clock/radio story. We all laughed. Perhaps the others laughed because I had entertained them. For me the important point was that I stopped taking myself so seriously. On the way home, I started laughing again and I thanked God. Many wonderful thoughts raced through my mind, most of which I've forgotten. I realized how impossible it would be for me not to act at variance with God's will from time to time. I wasn't perfect--and suddenly that was all right. My childlike reactions to the clock/radio constituted a reaffirmation of my faith in God; prostrating myself at my bedside was a manifestation of my need to want to do God's will--and that was a step in the right direction. But needlessly I had complicated matters! I felt God's love and shivered tearfully. If he could accept me as I was, who was I to resist?

When I got home, I felt the need to write it all down. I stopped only long enough to redo Steps Three, Six, and Seven. Only this time around it felt right. Not perfect, but right and good. I felt God's love and that was all the nourishment I needed to keep me sober this day.

— P. A., Temple, Texas

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Bridging The Gap

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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

June Celebrants

Serenity Altogether

Hal D. ~ 22 yrs.

Men's Independence

Ken W. ~ 14 yrs.

Hollywood Happy Hour

Patricia B. ~ 13 yrs.

Secular & Sober

Laura H. ~ 7 yrs.

Deerfield Happy Hour

Marc C. ~ 7 yrs.

Ryan ~ 1 yr.

Erika P. ~ 2 yrs.

H.A.L.T.

Stacy L. ~ 1 yr.

5:45 Happy Hour

Sandy ~ 28 yrs.

Broward Men's

Larry D. ~ 2 yrs.

Free & Easy

Bruce P. ~ 24 yrs.

Mountain Group

Gary D. ~ 18 yrs.

Dawn D. ~ 1 yr.

Friends of Pat C.

Mary Y. ~ 6 yrs.

Straight Talk

Mark O. ~ 27 yrs.

I Came To Stay

Floyd G. ~ 3 yrs.

Plantation Happy Hour

Angela L. ~ 9 yrs.

Susan M. ~ 9 yrs.

John G. ~ 2 yrs.

Stan G. ~ 16 yrs.

Sandpebble

Henry B. ~ 12 yrs.

Matt D. ~ 9 yrs.

Al S. ~ 30 yrs.

Susan H. ~ 9 yrs.

Mark G. ~ 7 yrs.

Other Notables

Lee B. ~ 31 yrs.

Kevin M. ~ 24 yrs.

Sharon M. ~ 35 yrs.

Stan A. ~ 30 yrs.

Women's Hope in Recovery

Lynda Z. ~ 21 yrs.

**DOES YOUR GROUP HAVE A
LIST OF
MEMBERS'
ANNIVERSARIES?
SHARE IT WITH US, SO WE
CAN HELP YOU CELEBRATE
DURING YOUR SPECIAL
MONTH!**

*Things we cannot
change.....*

Pam S.

RIP. You will be missed.



May Celebrants- not previously mentioned

We Came To Stay Group ~ 30 yrs.

Ft. Lauderdale Men's Group ~ 51 yrs.

Plantation Happy Hour

Peggy D. ~ 12 yrs.

Robin S. ~ 23 yrs.

Howard S. ~ 2 yrs.

Keith N. ~ 2 yrs.

Lou P. ~ 17 yrs.

Then and Now

Tim S. ~ 34 yrs.

Riverside

Cookie A. ~ 25 yrs.

Express Group

Dave H. ~ 5 yrs.

Bobby ~ 5 yrs.

Saturday Morning Awareness

Joey B. ~ 5 yrs.

Let's Study the Book

Don ~ 39 yrs.

5:45 Happy Hour

Linden ~ 31 yrs.

Other Notables

Dori S. ~ 33 yrs.

Freedom From Alcohol

Jackie S. ~ 35 yrs.

Sober Sisters

Louanne ~ 1 yr.

Maryjo ~ 31 yrs.

Jan ~ 32 yrs.



JOIN THE BIRTHDAY CLUB!

Celebrate your sobriety by sending \$1 per every year sober to your local Intergroup office to show your gratitude and give back once a year.

(Birthday listings are not contingent upon contributions...we just like to celebrate sobriety.)

BCIC - Broward County Institutions Committee

Next Meeting:

June 10, 10:00 AM

Twelve Step House

205 SW 23rd Street
Ft. Lauderdale.

Upcoming Intergroup Meetings:

Twelve Step House

205 S.W. 23rd, Ft. Lauderdale
June 18 and July 16th
at 1:00 p.m.

Recovery Word Puzzles

YETRINEL _ _ _ _ _
ZEERSCONGI _ _ _ _ _
NFENOREECC _ _ _ _ _
HEARTACCR _ _ _ _ _
PESTREENRI _ _ _ _ _
SEEDRON _ _ _ _ _
GRIPSTEE _ _ _ _ _
STEARBFAK _ _ _ _ _
DRUFSNOE _ _ _ _ _
HASTERF _ _ _ _ _

*June is a busy and
exciting month!*

*Unscramble the red letters
to fill in the blanks for a
special message...*

Answers on page 8

Suite 404 readers share their favorite passage....

My favorite passage in our AA literature comes from the chapter "A Vision For You", found on Page 153 in our text Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th edition....

"The age of miracles is still with us. Our own recovery proves that!"

Miracle, by definition, is an event that appears beyond explanation by the laws of nature.

Once I finally accepted that I was an alcoholic, and became honest, open-minded and willing, the gift of recovery became ever so present. What a miracle this journey has been — to live life, no longer shackled to that once paralyzing bottle, and being able to experience the many miracles of recovery every time I walk into the rooms of AA.

— Nancy G., Ft. Lauderdale

FOUNDER'S DAY PICNIC

SNYDER PARK

3299 SW 4th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale

JUNE 4TH, 11 AM - 4 PM

\$10 - KIDS FREE

DJ, Kids Games, Volleyball and
Horseshoe Tournaments

LOTS OF FOOD, SPEAKER

UNITY XII BREAKFAST

PLANTATION UNITED METHODIST

1001 NW 70TH Avenue, Plantation

June 24th

9 AM - Noon

\$8

advance sales only

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 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., Bob H., Anonymous I, Elizabeth B., Lillian M., Ron J., Tim S., Milinda B., Barbara S., Lois O., Richard H., Jennifer S., Ted K., June C., Pat R., Beth D., Trent A., Thomas T., Thomas Q., Craig G., Sandy P., Mel K., Leo H., Larry C., Jean G., Vickie T., Howie K., Kerry W., Lewis G., James B., James H., Joanne D., Jim R., Kevin B., Gerry B., Don W., Jamie B., Flemming A., Arthur R., Eric P., Tara D., Nancy S., Joey B., Denise J., and Bonnie T.

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!

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

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.**

HAPPY FOUNDER'S DAY!!

**Thank God for Dr. Bob and Bill W.
today and every day!**



Your Intergroup
bookstore
**now open on
Saturdays**
9 AM—1 PM

**NEW WHERE & WHENS
ARE HERE**

COME GET THE LATEST EDITION FOR YOUR GROUP

MEETING CHANGES

Monday

Focus on Sobriety moved to University Pavilion Hospital, 7425 N University Drive in Tamarac, rear.

First Step Sobriety in Pompano changed the time of Monday meeting to 7:30 PM, rather than 8 PM.

Tuesday

Veterans In Recovery moved out of Margate. They now meet at the Twelve Step House at 8:15 PM. CCC, 205 SW 23rd St., Ft Lauderdale.

Splinter Group meets one day a week on the beach in Pompano - Tuesday, not Thursday! (as printed in Feb. directory)

Thursday

Living Young & Sober is finally meeting again. They are now at the Lambda Clubhouse in Fort Lauderdale at 7:30 PM. 1231 E Las Olas Blvd., rear alley, room 3. ORFYP

Conscious Contact which met at St. Anthony's in Ft. Lauderdale has MOVED. They now meet at St. Sebastian's Church, 2000 SE 25 Ave., Ft. Lauderdale 33316 (Harbor Beach Inlet).

Our Charge which meets in Hollywood, will now meet at 8 PM, rather than 8:30.

Friday

South Florida Group is now meeting again, one day per week at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 1925 N. 60th Avenue (441) in Hollywood. 8 PM, OSP

Saturday

Early Risers which meets at Cleveland House on Hollywood beach will now meet at 9 AM on Saturday, rather than 7.

Daily

441 Group in Margate, the 10 PM meeting no longer meets.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES from page 6: entirely, recognizes, conference, character, enterprise, endorse, prestige, breakfast, founders, fathers—Stay sober and laugh.



G R A T E F U L

FOR SOBRIETY, SERVICE AND SUNSHINE

Thank you to all the volunteers in the county that help make Broward County AA and all our sober events the most fun and fabulous!



Upcoming Events

- June 4** **Founder's Day Picnic** hosted by District 9 General Service- Snyder Park, 3299 SW 4th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, 11 AM—4 PM, tickets \$8 advance, \$10 at park, kids eat free, DJ, volleyball.
- June 24** **Unity Breakfast XII** - Plantation United Methodist Church, 1001 NW 70th Ave., hosted by Intergroup, District 9 General Service & Broward County Institutions Committee. Breakfast followed by a Speaker meeting. Tickets now available \$8. Breakfast at 9 AM.
- July 7-9** **FCYPAA** - 36th Florida Conference of Young People in AA, St. Augustine, FL to book a room, pre-register for \$15, more details go to www.fcypaa36.com.
- July 21-23** **South Florida Area 15 General Service Assembly**, Hyatt Regency Sarasota, free to attend. Come see what the upside down triangle is all about.
- July 27-30** **61st Florida State Convention**, Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, for more info go to www.Floridastateconvention.com—Registration \$35.
- Aug 12** **Carry the Message Day**, Free service event hosted by Intergroup, General Service and Institutions of District 9. NSU, Terry building, 3200 S. University Drive, Davie.