



ROOM 502

BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.

305 South Andrews Avenue, Room 502,
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VOLUME 9
SEPTEMBER, 2015

STEP 9: "Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others."

Alone with my ex

During a coerced meeting with a bitter ex-wife, a Ninth Step emerges

I HAD been sober around six months, and one day my daughter came to a meeting. She said, "I'm going out to visit Mom. I want you to come with me." I had not spoken to my ex-wife in over 20 years. So, I really did not know what to expect.

When we arrived at the house my ex-wife was in the yard working. When she saw me, she did not speak to me. She spoke to our daughter, but the words were for me. She screamed. "I don't want to see that man. I don't want to hear anything he has to say. And if he doesn't leave my property, I'll call the police."

I left there very angry, vowing never to return. The memory of our separation and divorce returned. She had been awarded the kids, house, car, furniture, and anything else of value. I was locked up in jail, I could not appeal in court, and received nothing.

When I returned home I called my sponsor. He said, "Just do AA and leave the rest in God's hands." He reminded me that I had made a commitment when I took the Third Step. "Let Go and Let God," he said.

My sponsor got me busy doing service work, chairing meetings, speaking, and going on Twelfth Step calls with him. He was also with me as I did Steps Four through Nine.

When I'd been sober around 16 months, my youngest son called. We had talked and written to one another while he was in school, and he had now returned home to stay. He said he wanted to see me; I said OK. We met after a meeting, and he said, "We are going out to visit Mom."

I told him what had transpired the last time I had seen his mother. I let him know that I was not going to go through that again. He replied, "It's OK, Dad. I talked to Mom and she said it would be OK."

I said a prayer, we left the clubhouse, and I returned to the home I once owned. I had not been inside the house for over 22 years.

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Made Direct Amends

Concept IX

Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

Ninth Tradition

Tradition 9 - AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

A FIRM COMMITMENT TO UNITY

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September 2000 Vol.0 No. 0

Former Trustee-at-Large Dean R. presented the following talk on Tradition Nine at a 1998 General Sharing Session

IT is impossible to contemplate that AA, as such, ought never be organized, but when we create service boards and committees directly responsible for those they serve, there are really no rules and no laws; services provided are dictated by the needs of others.

The opening line of Tradition Nine, as reflected in the writings of Bill W. in an August 1948 Grapevine editorial, sets forth: "The least possible organization, that's our universal ideal. No fees, no dues, no rules imposed on anybody."

This statement and definition of Tradition Nine would lead us to believe that AA was operating in anarchy. We all know that is not true. The impossible contradiction works--AA as a whole should never be organized at all. But we proceeded to set up a Conference of recognized and identified areas in 1951 and proceeded to create boards and committees to assist in providing services to alcoholics and AA groups world wide.

It was explained early in my service experience that AA was the most unorganized, organized Fellowship that ever existed, and so it is.

With our informed group conscience, we have throughout the history of AA been able to weather discord and negativism because of our firm commitment to unity, with the underlying knowledge that failure to maintain unity, and pursuing an unsafe course of AA, will lead to its demise and ultimately to the jeopardy of our individual sobriety.

While we do not recognize and have resisted, sometimes violently, the idea of any type of general organization efforts that would hinge on government, we have resolutely and persistently insisted upon organizing special services to assist members of our Fellowship to be more effective and available to carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic.

The general services that AA provides at the group, district and area level, as well as at the General Service Office, are carried out without authority to order any AA member or group, as they are autonomous.

We make suggestions based on shared experience. We recognize that we cannot dictate to fellow members individually or collectively, and choose not to do so.

AA is truly a society without organization as such; sacrifice is the basis of service, and founded on the spiritual principles, AA is a true Fellowship, with only one purpose--to carry the message of recovery to the alcoholic.

The good will of our Fellowship that we enjoy throughout the world in large measure is directly due to services that we provide through our service structure. May each of us continue to sacrifice in following the spiritual principles and maintaining those principles over personalities and may we continue to carry the spiritual message that was freely given to us so that we may freely pass the AA message on to the suffering alcoholic.

—Dean R., El Reno, Okla.—

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Continued from Page 1

Within a short period of time I found myself alone with my ex in the living room. Then something happened. Instead of an awkward silence, my mouth opened and out came Step Nine. I apologized for my past actions (never mentioning anything she had done). I asked her what I could do to atone for my past behavior.

She said, "Treat your children like a father should. And continue to do whatever it is that you're doing."

On the way home my son said, "Dad, I have prayed for a long time that one day you and Mom would just speak to one another. But I had given up. I knew how Mom was, and you were still drinking. However, when I saw you and Mom talking and laughing I knew it was a miracle and I was filled with a great happiness."

Tears of joy flowed from my eyes. I realized that God had done for me what I could not have done for myself.

Today, I still remember that day. And the countless other days over the past 15 years when all I needed to do was to "Let Go and Let God" work his miracles. James, and First Corinthians, thirteenth chapter.

—Douglas M., Covington, Ky.—

Reprinted from *Grapevine*
September 2000 Vol.0 No. 0

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

My favorite passage from: **Alcoholics Anonymous, (Page 275-276) "The Keys of the Kingdom."**

"A.A. is not a plan for recovery that can be finished and done with. It is a way of life, and the challenge contained in its principles is great enough to keep any human being striving for as long as he lives. We do not, cannot, outgrow this plan. As arrested alcoholics, we must have a program for living that allows for limitless expansion. Keeping one foot in front of the other is essential for maintaining our arrestment. Others may idle in a retrogressive groove without too much danger, but retrogression can spell death for us. However, this isn't as rough as it sounds, as we do become grateful for the necessity that makes us toe the line, and we find that we are compensated for a consistent effort by the countless dividends we receive.

A complete change takes place in our approach to life. Where we used to run from responsibility, we find ourselves accepting it with gratitude that we can successfully shoulder it. Instead of wanting to escape some perplexing problem, we experience the thrill of challenge in the opportunity it affords for another application of A.A. techniques, and we find ourselves tackling it with surprising vigor.

The last fifteen years of my life have been rich and meaningful. I have had my share of problems, heartaches, and disappointments because that is life, but also I have known a great deal of joy and a peace that is the handmaiden of an inner freedom. I have a wealth of friends and, with my A.A. friends, an unusual quality of fellowship. For, to these people, I am truly related. First, through mutual pain and despair, and later through mutual objectives and newfound faith and hope. And, as the years go by, working together, sharing our experiences with one another, and also sharing a mutual trust, understanding, and love—without strings, without obligation—we acquire relationships that are unique and priceless.

There is no more aloneness, with that awful ache, so deep in the heart of every alcoholic that nothing, before, could ever reach it. That ache is gone and never need return again.

Now there is a sense of belonging, of being wanted and needed and loved. In return for a bottle and a hangover, we have been given the Keys of the Kingdom."

I was shown this passage very early in my sobriety, and whenever I need, or someone else needs "A pick me up", I go straight to this passage.

—Hope S., Ft. Lauderdale, FL.—

From Party Girl Extraordinaire to Ordinary AA

I first came to AA at 20 years of age, and I lasted 9 months. I still worked in a bar, and I still associated with my old friends. I thought I could do it my way. Eventually at Christmas time I got feeling real sorry for myself, and the old, "Pour me, Pour me another drink" took hold. So again my drinking took over. I lost my children. I knew I couldn't be there for them, and I allowed them to be adopted. Not long after, I committed an armed robbery while drunk, and spent the next 5 years in prison. I'd like to tell you I was sober those 5 years, but like any alcoholic would, I found a way to drink. I got out, and tried to stay sober, but I'd married an alcoholic, so it wasn't to last. Eventually, I moved to Florida from my home in Indiana, and then I began my downward decent into the coldest, loneliest, most horrifying period of my life. I began again, making my living off of my looks, and other talents, and had cards printed up that advertised me as "Party Girl Extraordinaire". Party Girl I was. You were sure to have a good time with me. At least until I got irritated with you, and then I'd probably sock you one, and take your money. When I think now, of all the strangers, I allowed into my room while I was completely out of control on drink, I shudder.

I came again to A.A. after witnessing a boyfriend shoot himself in the head, and die. I know that even as sick as I was of the life I was leading, I was doomed to forget the pain, and drink again if I did not do something. That morning, after his death, I fell to my knees and said, "OK God, you have to help me now because I don't know how to survive this. You must help me". Again, still trying to command and direct, I informed God that he would now be helping me get through this. As if he hadn't had his hand on me all along.

I would like to tell you that I never again picked up a drink, but I cannot. I had to be beaten by the police - AGAIN, and lose most of my hearing as well as my home - AGAIN, before I would again ask for help. The loneliness and sadness I possessed is beyond description, and I need not describe it, for I know you have felt it too. When I first began this journey I felt sure I would return to my old ways. I was not done. But I had some faith that, if I just went to a meeting today, and didn't pick up a drink, then maybe, just maybe I could change my life. I knew one thing. I was happy as hell to be free of the rat race.

I got a sponsor, I did the steps, and I did some service. Sure I broke a few "rules" along the way, but I did not pick up a drink, no matter what. I asked for help, and got it! With the help of many, many people, I now have a home, a job I like with pay that is respectable, my cat, a little car, I now have my brother in my life again, a relationship with a God of my understanding, a beautiful 10 month old daughter, and as of October 11, three years of continuous sobriety. The problems of today are laughable compared to the problems of getting another drink, or even food. I have done a lot of foot-work, and still I can tell you that this is the "easier softer way". I am now just an ordinary member of society, and most importantly, of Alcoholics Anonymous.

— Stacy B, 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

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.

A.A. Birthdays

September Celebrants

Focus on Sobriety

Sally D. ~ 45yrs.
Karen D. ~ 13yrs.
Jen L. ~ 5yrs.
Patty K. ~ 16yrs.

Davie Women's

Patti L. ~ 9yrs.
Naomi P. ~ 6yrs.

Serenity All

Together Group

Warren L. ~ 10yrs.
Marlon S. ~ 12yrs.

Mountain Group

Kim C. ~ 7yrs.
Mike M. ~ 8yrs.
Lisa D. ~ 32yrs.
Lois O. ~ 39yrs.

You Are Not Alone

Jim Mc S. ~ 40yrs.
Katia ~ 7yrs.
Bill C. ~ 6yrs.

Ft. Lauderdale

Women's

Kathy K. ~ 8yrs.
Nancy H. ~ 6yrs.

Oakland Park Group

Bob S. ~ 32yrs.
Carmen R. ~ 25yrs.
Carol B. ~ 24yrs.
Frank G. ~ 37yrs.
Wayne G. ~ 28yrs.

Men in Recovery

Ray B. ~ 6yrs.

Rule 62

Fran C. ~ 13yrs.

Meeting in Print

Chuck H. ~ 15yrs.

One Day at a Time

Yvonne E. ~ 5yrs.

Tamarac Group

Marla ~ 1yr.
Lindsay ~ 1yr.
Barry G. ~ 20yrs.

Lunch Bunch

Mark ~ 1yr.
Kevin ~ 11yrs.
Ed ~ 17yrs.
Cristina M. ~ 27yrs.

East Naples Men's Group

Andrew W. ~ 3yrs.
Art P. ~ 3yrs.
Tom Q. Jr. ~ 5yrs.
Kevin M. ~ 12yrs.
Tom Q. ~ 41yrs.

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

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"I hate it when somebody tells me to have a nice day — especially when I've made other plans!"

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) May celebrants should be submitted by April 15th, to be published in the May Newsletter. Thank you for your time and effort.

Word Scramble Step Nine

1. niouttister _____
2. vletaonire _____
3. osfcns _____
4. decnerup _____
5. sphuimrt _____
6. dnisesear _____
7. denmtgeju _____
8. csdislorue _____
9. gnineginb _____
10. dnaecugi _____

(answers on page 7)

BCIC Broward County Institutions Committee

Next Meeting: September 12th
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

September 20th — October 18th

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, jousting, music, games, raffles, volleyball. Snyder Park, Cauldwell Pavilion, October 11th. Tickets are available now

If you want to get involved call Mary at
(954) 462-0265 or email: help@aabroward.org.

Broward County Intergroup's 5th Annual

AA's Got Talent

We need volunteers, bring your talents to us. Committee chairs, co-chairs, TALENT needed!

We welcome singers, dancers, comedians, musicians to sign-up:

Excluding bands due to time limitation of equipment set-up /break-down

Planning Meeting Schedule

Saturday, August 29

Saturday, September 26

Saturday, October 24

Saturday, November 21

Saturday, December 19

and lastly, Saturday, January 30, 2016

All planning meetings will be at the 441 Group, at 1:30 p.m.

441 Group, 1452 State Road 7, Margate, FL 33063

GRATITUDE DINNER PLANNING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2015

1:00 PM

Pompano Beach Group 215 S. Federal Hwy

Pompano Beach, FL 33060

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 this wonderful experience,

PLEASE join us

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

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., Timothy S., Richard S., Sam B., Mark S. Howard S., Douglas C., Jennifer S., the other Bob H., Carol B., the original Bob H., Leslie R.

and maybe YOU next time?

Please consider becoming a "Faithful Fiver." Your commitment of \$5.00 a month to your Intergroup Office will go a long way toward helping carry the message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic who reaches out.

Fill out this form and mail it in with your contribution today!

It is the still suffering alcoholic who ultimately benefits from your generous spirit!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Sobriety Date and Home Group _____

Make checks payable to:

Broward County Intergroup, Inc.

305 S. Andrews Ave., Suite 502, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

Things we cannot change,

They will be missed by all who knew them.

Bernie L., Don O.,

Frank M., Ed O., Tommer R.

Answers from page 5:

**1.restitution 2.revelation 3.confess 4.prudence 5.triumphs
6.readiness 7.judgement 8.disclosure 9.beginning 10.guidance**

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.

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.

Wednesday

Ladies Night, 8:00 p.m., 1400 N Federal Hwy, The Sanctuary, Ft. Lauderdale. **No longer meets.**

NEW MEETING The Broad Highway, 10:00p.m., Sober Today Club, 1633 S 21st. Ave., Hollywood, 33023 LT.

Friday

Friday Night Step by Step, 8:30 p.m., Memorial Urgent Care, Pembroke Pines. **No longer meets.**

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

North Broward Speaker Meeting, Parkway United Methodist Church, 100 NE 44th Street, Pompano, meets at 7:30p.m. not 7:00p.m.

Saturday

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

Sunday

Miracle on 4th Street, 7:00 p.m., Beach at Briny Ave & SE 4th Street. Pompano, **No longer meets.**

Be Still, 7:30 p.m., Sunrise Room, 4525 N Pine Island Road, Gold's Plaza. **No longer meets.**

SPANISH MEETINGS

NEW MEETING Circulo De Ganadores, 7:00p.m., Wednesday. Gulf Stream Chaplin's Trailer, 901 S. Federal Hwy., Hallandale.

Thursday

La Luz Hispana 6:30 p.m., St. Maximillian Church, 701 N Hiatus rd., Pembroke Pines. **No longer meets.**

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 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 . |
| Sept 12 | District 9 General Service Spaghetti Dinner , NSU, 3200 S. University Dr., in Terry Building Cafeteria, 6:00 p.m. Dinner, 8:15 p.m. Speaker. Tickets \$8.00 in advance, \$10.00 at the door. Bring a newcomer and a dessert. |
| Sept. 17th-20th | Broward County Intergroup is hosting the Intergroup Central Office AAWS/AAGV Seminar , Sheraton Airport Ft. Lauderdale. Workshops and General Service session Forums on Friday & Saturday night by AAWS/AAGV. No fee or registration required. |
| Sept 21 | Women's Honesty 43rd Anniversary—Speaker Potluck Dinner Meeting , 7:00 p.m. dinner, 7:45 p.m. speaker meeting, 3329 Wilson St., Hollywood. All women welcome. |
| Oct. 11 | 40th Annual Broward County Intergroup Picnic , Snyder Park Caldwell Pavilion, 3299 SW 4th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, 11:30 a.m. to Sundown. 50/50 raffle, Karaoke, Bake Off, Volleyball, Jousting, A.A. Speaker Meeting. Tickets \$7.00 in advance. |