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BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.

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VOLUME 9
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Step Nine - "Made direct amends to such people wherever possible except when to do so would injure them or others."

Beyond 'I'm sorry'

I was just out of rehab and getting involved in AA in my community. I got a sponsor, and I told him about the mess I'd left behind on my last drunken spree. I work as a freelance graphic designer and was in the middle of several projects for an ad agency. It was St. Patrick's Day and I'd decided to tie one on because, after all, I'm Irish-American.

My drinking spree went beyond the holiday and continued for another four or five days. I avoided my wife, daughter, home and work. I went from bar to bar until my ATM card wouldn't work anymore. After I came home I lay in bed, very sick. I kept hearing calls on the answering machine from my client, pleading with me to get ahold of him. I didn't. I did have enough sense to throw myself into rehab with the help and support of my wonderful wife.

I told my sponsor about the jam I'd left my client in by avoiding his calls and the pending projects that I was working on. He suggested that I make amends to the client. I said, "what, walk into his office and apologize? I don't know if I can do that."

My sponsor said, "No, you'll do more than that. You'll walk into his office, apologize, then you'll offer your services at no charge until you make up for the damage you created."

I said, "Uhhh . . . I'll have to think about that."

A couple of weeks or so later, the thought of that amends popped into my head as I was driving home at about 10 in the morning. It became increasingly obvious to me that this was the right time to walk into that office and do what I needed to do. Yikes!

I was scared to death. What if he gets angry with me? what if he throws me out of his office? what if . . . Then I thought of something that might help: praying. I live in a mountain community, and as I was driving up the highway I saw beautiful views below the cliffs. I pulled off the road into a turnout, got out of the car and got down on my knees. I asked my Higher Power to help me and to remove my fear. I asked him for his will, not mine, and to speak his words through my mouth as I made this amends. I finished praying, stood up and turned around. There was a vast, beautiful view as I gazed down the mountainside. I felt very much

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Your Intergroup Bookstore will be closed on the following Mondays, September 2 for Labor Day and on September 30 for Annual Inventory.

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.

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

Paving the Way

It's always fascinating to learn just how people came to Alcoholics Anonymous. In my case, I looked AA up in the phone book and called our local central office. Thank goodness, some service board or committee put it there! The person on the other end of the line took my number and had an AA member call me back for the one-on-one, language-of-the-heart introduction that began my incredible journey in sobriety.

At my very first AA meeting, I was warmly greeted and taken to the literature rack at the front of the meeting room. My greeter selected some of the pamphlets for me to take home. I could relate not only to the AA members but to the AA literature as well. Thank goodness, some service board or committee wrote, published, and distributed these pamphlets!

Although I only planned to attend one meeting a week, I went to more because I had a car and some other newcomers didn't. One would call and ask if I planned on going to a meeting that night and I'd say yes in spite of myself. So, I picked up a meeting list which helped us find meetings--where and when. Thank goodness some service board or committee gathered the information, printed and circulated this list!

Many of my AA friends--and yours too, I'm sure--found the Fellowship in a variety of ways, and not a few are due to some kind of service board or committee whose efforts facilitate our Twelfth Step work. Correctional, Treatment, and Hospitals and Institutions committees arrange for institutional meetings and bridge the gap between a facility and an individual AA or a group.

In some instances, a doctor or member of the clergy recommended AA to their patient or parishioner; Cooperation with the Professional Community committees most probably paved the way. Some AA members were exposed to a radio or TV program, not necessarily produced by AA but by someone who has benefited from the work of a Public Information committee. All these dedicated endeavors of service boards or committees make our Twelfth Step work possible.

The preliminary work done by AA service boards and committees directly responsible to those they serve (you and me) is invaluable to the future of the Fellowship. I might not be here today if they hadn't put Alcoholics Anonymous in the phone book!

—Lois C., Pittsburgh, PA

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Things we cannot change.....

Tess, Blanca

They will be missed. May they Rest in Peace.



Recovery Word Puzzle

D A P L E G N I
D I V A D O E
M A P R Y I R
S A D E M U S
R Y U N J E O
T E N N I C M E N A A



Unscramble
the letters.
Answers to
puzzle can be
found on
page 7.

D E A D N O B N A
T R I P N O T E U A
L I R E R O T U
L A C Y F E L G R U
R I C S N E D O
T E M P L E C O

Volunteer Opportunities

44th Annual Intergroup Picnic will have their next planning meeting

Sunday, September 22nd at 2 PM (following Intergroup meeting)

Twelve Step House, 215 SW 23 Street, Fort Lauderdale 33315

District 9 Archives is planning for the Early Timers Meeting (*to be held in October*)

Saturday, September 28th at 2:00 PM

at the 441 Group, 1452 N State Rd. 7, Margate, 33063

District 9 General Service Spaghetti Dinner last planning meeting is

Wednesday, September 4th at 7:00 PM

Skyline Chili, 2834 N University Drive, Sunrise 33322

District 9 General Service is hosting the Quarterly Area Assembly in October

Planning meeting is Tuesday, September 17th at 6:30 PM

Hidden Woods at Deer Creek Clubhouse, 207 Deer Creek Blvd., Deerfield Beach 33442

2019 Gratitude Dinner, to be held in November, has the next planning meeting on

Sunday, September 29th at 1:00 PM

at the Pompano Beach Group, 110 McNab Rd., Pompano Beach 33060

Pick up a commitment today!!

SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER



Local Readers Share.....

I was your average maintenance drinking drunk. I realized I had to have alcohol to move from deep depression to functioning depression. My dependence caused me to put my need for Alcohol above all others.

After doing my fifth step, my obvious list of amends was in front of me. I had plowed through the lives of those I loved, oblivious of their needs and blind to their importance in my life.

My 9th step was pretty well laid out for me. I had a yeomen's task in front of me. My sponsor helped me divide up the task, starting with the hardest amends, and working backwards. He also made sure my mind was in the right place when I attacked each amends.

At 30 years sober, I was able to hold up my head and face the world. I thought my slate was clean. But then life happened to me. A close friend in AA stopped communicating with me. I asked what I had done, but no response. I felt sad, helpless, and abandoned. I turned this over to my Higher Power, realizing I had done all I could.'

I woke up one morning, from dreaming, and realized I had abandoned some good people when I got sober. These friends drank, but not like alcoholics. I had abandoned them because of my initial fear of being around any alcohol at all! That very morning, I was going to a lecture at Cheekwood in Nashville. I seldom participated in this type of event. I was bored.

I got out of my car, turned around, and there was my friend whom I had dreamed of. It had been thirty years since I had seen she or her husband. She smiled, as did I. I said immediately, "You may not believe this, but I have been dreaming about you!"

She responded in a gracious Southern way...she was flattered.

I explained that I was addicted to alcohol and though I had always thought the world of she and her family, I was initially scared to be around any drinking. That is why I hid from a lot of people initially. We chatted some more. She expressed her appreciation for giving her that piece of the puzzle. She had not understood why I moved away. She wished me good health in my recovery. We went into the Hall and sat together during the lecture.

So many times I find that if I am in a good state of connection with my higher power, the opportunities for amends will present themselves. Grace is given to me if I seek it.

— John, Ft. Lauderdale

*A very special thanks to Ken W., Lin F. and Steve B.,
who did a wonderful presentation of traditions
1,2 and 3 at our first Traditions Workshop, and to
everyone who attended and participated.*



General Service Office, NY

P.O. Box 459
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New York, NY 10164-0371
212.870.3400

Bridging The Gap

877.207.2242

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954.462.7202

BCIC

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

Area 15 General Service

Treasurer, PO Box 1784
Pompano Beach, FL 33061

District 9 General Service

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

AA BIRTHDAY'S

September Celebrants

Broward Men's

Angel M. ~ 2 yrs.
Joe C. ~ 4 yrs.
Justin ~ 3 yrs.

Oakland Park

Wayne ~ 33 yrs.

Joy of Sobriety

Steve H. ~ 31 yrs.
Randall L. ~ 11 yrs.

Let's Do Lunch

Carmen R. ~ 30 yrs.
Darius ~ 5 yrs.

Mountain Group

Lisa D. ~ 37 yrs.

Riverside Group

Sheldon V. ~ 32 yrs.

B.A.L.L.S.

Tim B. ~ 16 yrs.
Chino ~ 18 yrs.
Alan P. ~ 34 yrs.

Friends of Joe

Jim N. ~ 41 yrs.
Nadine ~ 10 yrs.
Collette D. ~ 32 yrs.

Happy Destiny

Melissa M. ~ 6 yrs.

Women's Honesty

Jami F. ~ 7 yrs.

Beyond Your Wildest Dreams

Aileen W. ~ 24 yrs.

Hollywood Men's

Leon ~ 12 yrs.

Pride 5:45

Lois O. ~ 44 yrs.

Focus on Sobriety

Sally D. ~ 50 yrs.
Karen D. ~ 18 yrs.
Jen L. ~ 10 yrs.
Patty K. ~ 21 yrs.

Other Notables

Marlene P. ~ 4 yrs.
Scott W. ~ 26 yrs.
Ed B. ~ 22 yrs.
Peter H. ~ 22 yrs.
Katia L. ~ 12 yrs.

Don't Forget

Bob S. ~ 37 yrs.

Free and Easy

Thom F. ~ 45 yrs.

Just For Today

Carol B. ~ 29 yrs.

Dania After Work

Barbaree K. ~ 37 yrs.

Sober Women of Parkland

Betsy N. ~ 8 yrs.

Tamarac Group

Barry G. ~ 24 yrs.

WOMEN'S HONESTY GROUP ~ 47 yrs.

SOBER TODAY CLUB ~ 8 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.)

BRIDGING THE GAP

has a new number

724-680-0430

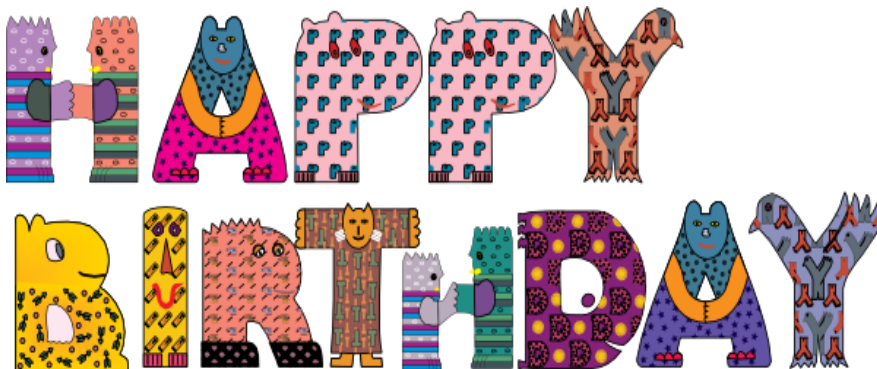
**BCIC - Broward County
Institutions Committee**

**Next Meeting:
September 14 - 10:00 a.m.**

Twelve Step House
205 SW 23rd St.,
Ft. Lauderdale

**Next
Intergroup Meeting**

Twelve Step House
205 S.W. 23rd St., Ft. Lauderdale
**SUNDAY, September 22nd
at 1:00 p.m.**



August Celebrants not previously mentioned

Women's Step by Step

Karo ~ 11 yrs.
Jeanne B. ~ 9 yrs.
Melissa ~ 13 yrs.
Lisa S. ~ 18 yrs.
Lisa F. ~ 28 yrs.

Meditation at the Rock

Jennifer R. ~ 5 yrs.
Ken ~ 23 yrs.



(continued from page 1)

at peace. I really don't know if I had a spiritual awakening that morning, but it certainly felt like something of that nature.

I got back in the car and drove to my client's office, a little more comfortable now. I walked up to the front desk and the receptionist said, "Hi, Rick," as if she had just seen me the day before. I took a seat and had to wait before I entered the bigwig's office. He came out and said, "Hi, Rick. Come on in." I sat down in his office, quickly asked my Higher Power to be with me once again, took a deep breath and began.

I told him that I have a problem with alcohol, that I'd just come out of rehab and that I'm in recovery. I told him that I was fully aware of abandoning my responsibilities to him and the projects, and that I had jeopardized the relationship and reputation between his company and the clients. I told him that I was sorry. He responded with, "I'm so glad that you're taking care of your life. How is your family?" Wow, I thought to myself. He's not as angry as I thought. I then told him that I needed to make up for the mess that I created, and I offered my services at no charge for a couple of work days. He seemed to be caught off guard for a few seconds, then said, "Okay, if you feel that you need to do that." So that's exactly what I did.

I had no ulterior motive when making this amends, nor did I ever expect to work for that agency again. But I have to end this story now, because I need to get back to work on a fairly big project for that very client.

— Rick M., CA

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Thoughts to consider on Tradition 9.....

1. Do I try to "boss" things in AA?
2. Do I ever resist formal aspects of AA because I see them as authoritative?
3. Do I try to understand and use all elements of the AA program — even if no one makes me do so —with a sense of personal responsibility?
4. Do I exercise patience and humility in any AA job I take?
5. Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any AA job?
6. Why doesn't every AA group need a constitution and bylaws?
7. Have I learned to step out of an AA job gracefully—and profit thereby—when the time comes?
8. What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?

Taken from the TraditionsChecklist, ©The AA Grapevine, Inc. revised July 2018

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.

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., Suzanne J., Bob H., Anonymous I, Elizabeth B., Ron J., Tim S., Lois O., Richard H., Jennifer S., Pat R., Beth D., Craig G., Sandy P., Leo H., Vickie T., Howie K., Kerry W., Lewis G., James H., Joanne D., Gerry B., Don W., Eric P., Tara D., Denise J., Howard S., Bob D., Robert H., Sally S., Anonymous II, Jane T., Fran C., Peter S., Deborah C., Women's Step by Step and Rachel L.

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

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE: pleading, avoided, primary, assumed, journey, maintenance, abandoned, reputation, ulterior, gracefully, consider, complete

I AM RESPONSIBLE....

WHEN ANYONE, ANYWHERE, REACHES OUT FOR HELP,
I WANT THE HAND OF A.A. ALWAYS TO BE THERE. AND FOR THAT: I AM RESPONSIBLE.

NAME: _____ GENDER: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

PREFER: VOICE: _____ TEXT: _____ EMAIL: _____ CITY OF RESIDENCE: _____

WILL CALL BACK: _____ AND/OR PAY A VISIT: _____

AVAILABILITY: MONDAY to FRIDAY: _____ WEEKENDS: _____

8:00am-12:00pm _____ 12:00pm-5:00pm _____ 5:00pm-9:00pm _____ 9:00pm-8:00am _____

TO COMPLETE A 12-STEP CALL, you only need to be sober one day, but you NEVER GO ALONE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE! SEND COMPLETED FORM TO: help@aabroward.org



MEETING CHANGES

Monday

Focus on Sobriety moved out of the hospital in Tamarac and into Our Place 2, 8447 W. McNab. They now meet at 7:30 PM.

Tuesday

NEW MEETING Nuevo Porvenir has added a meeting on Tuesday from 8-10 PM. Same location, Spanish. 1486 S. Palm Avenue, Pembroke Pines.

Thursday

NEW MEETING Russian Speaking Alcoholics of S. FL has added a meeting on Thursday at the Twelve Step House, 205 SW 23 St., Ft. Lauderdale, 7:00 PM, OSTR.

NEW MEETING Nuevo Porvenir has added a meeting on Thursday from 8-10 PM. Same location, Spanish. 1486 S. Palm Avenue, Pembroke Pines.

Friday

Sobriety in the Springs which met at Kiwanis Park in Coral Springs NO LONGER MEETS.

Discussion Tables which met at the West Broward Club in Davie NO LONGER MEETS.

Saturday

NEW MEETING W.A.W.A. Group meets at the West Broward Club, 8396 A State Rd. 84, Davie, 10:00 PM, OD.

Saturday Night Serenity which met at Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Plantation NO LONGER MEETS.

Sunday

NEW MEETING Nuevo Porvenir has added a meeting on Sunday from 12-1:30 PM. Same location, Spanish. 1486 S. Palm Avenue, Pembroke Pines.



Intergroup Picnic tickets
for sale NOW

\$8 each / \$10 gate

Bulk pricing available for advance purchase only.
Kids under 12 eat free.

Facilities may pay using CC or Check by calling
Intergroup.

Upcoming Events

- Sept. 7** **District 9 Spaghetti Dinner** will be at NSU, 3200 N. University Drive, Davie, Terry Building, Cafeteria, 5:30 PM. Tickets required and can be purchased in advance or at the door.
- Oct. 4-6** **South Florida Area 15 General Service Assembly** Boca Town Center Marriott, 5150 Town Center Circle, Boca Raton, FL 33486— Free workshops, speakers Friday and Saturday night.
- Oct. 12** **Early Timers Meeting** hosted by District 9 Archives Committee, NSU, 3200 S. University Drive, Terry Bldg. 5:30 PM. Free Event, 3 speakers and dessert. Full archives display.
- Oct. 27** **44th Annual Intergroup Picnic** will be held at Snyder Park, Caldwell Pavilion. Live band, games, volleyball, raffles, lots of food and double speaker meeting. 11:00 AM—4:00 PM, \$8 in advance, \$10 at gate, kids under 12 eat free. Admission to park not included.
- Nov. 1** **56th Annual Gratitude Dinner** Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, 5555 N. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale. 6-10:00 PM, Dinner 7 PM, Speaker 8:30 PM, please bring dessert. Advance ticket sales available at planning meetings and through GSRs.
- Nov. 23** **Traditions 4-6 Workshop**, presented by Broward County Intergroup, 3317 NW 10th Terrace, Suite 404, Oakland Park. Contact office to reserve your seat. 7-9:00 PM. Refreshments served.