



Suite 404

BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.
Oakland Commerce Center
3317 NW 10th Terrace, Suite 404
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
Phone 954-462-7202, 954-462-0265; www.aabroward.org

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Step Twelve - "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

No Experts Required

When I came to Alcoholics Anonymous 27 years ago, I had trouble reading and writing. I was probably at a sixth grade level then. I was unable to speak in front of anyone because of my fear of people and poor self-esteem. I started doing service work at three months sober, taking patients from the local treatment center to AA meetings in my van. When I was six months sober, I was taking meetings into a couple of the treatment centers in our area, though I still did not fully understand AA. I have been involved in service the entire time I have been sober. I do not have to be an expert in anything to carry the message, just have the willingness to do the work. I want to ensure that AA will be around for my children, my grandchildren and my great-grandchildren.

For the first 17 years of my sobriety, I was married to an active alcoholic who caused plenty of chaos in my family. If I had not been involved in AA fully, I probably wouldn't have stayed sober. I always held positions in my home group and at the district level and I did my best to make sure I was at business meetings, district meetings and area assemblies.

In 2003, I lost my job for health reasons and had to file for disability. I became the Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community chairperson for our district. I put a large plastic tote of AA pamphlets and Grapevine magazines in the back of my vehicle. When I saw a doctor's office or library or clinic, I would drop some off and get their contact information. I built a list of contacts for our district and made sure that we continued to carry the message in their facilities. I was in a bad spot in my life at the time. I was about to get divorced; I had lost a good job; and I also had lost my health. But I stayed busy in AA.

The longer I stayed sober and took on different challenges of service work, the better my reading and writing became. I also became a foster parent for nine years and got involved with CASA (court-appointed special advocates), which allowed me to get out of myself. I've had the pleasure of being the secretary for

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The Intergroup Bookstore
will be closed on
December 25 and
January 1st in
observance of
CHRISTMAS DAY
and
NEW YEAR'S DAY

Concept XII

The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

Tradition Twelve - “Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”

RESTRAINT OF TONGUE AND MOUSE

The spirit of AA's anonymity Traditions online

Recently, I harmed a fellow AA by using email carelessly and in a way that went against the spirit of our anonymity Traditions. Here's what happened:

Early one morning, I sat down at my computer to spend some time on a website I visit to find out information about things going on in local AA. As I clicked on various links, I came across a document that had some content I thought needed to be corrected.

Thinking that I was being helpful, I sent an email to the webmaster of the site. I pointed out the problem and insisted that the document be removed from the website. I included a note to the person who had created the document, suggesting that revisions be made before putting the document back up on the website.

I also copied half a dozen or so other AA members on the email, thinking that they might be interested and that they should be informed about the situation. It was early morning, and I needed to get out of the house and on my way about my day, so the email I sent was pretty brief and to-the-point.

The AA member who had created the document replied to everyone, apologizing for any problem with the document and agreeing to make some changes. A revised version was posted shortly, and it seemed that all was well.

But then I received a personal reply from the fellow AA who had originally posted the document. It was addressed to me only, and it asked if it had really been necessary for me to include so many people when I distributed the email to address the situation. My fellow AA member felt criticized in front of others and was distressed and unhappy with the way I had handled things.

I felt terrible. I knew that this good AA member hadn't meant to cause harm. The document posted had been intended to generate enthusiasm and interest about an AA event that the member was responsible for organizing, and my fellow alcoholic had only the best in mind for AA when the document was put together. I realized that I had responded in a way that was heavy-handed, clumsy, and not very thoughtful.

I knew about the limitations of email--how the nuance of a smile, a kind tone of voice, and a friendly handshake are missing. The email I had sent and copied to others had been quick and brief--making it come across as cold and business-like. Through a series of exchanges, I made amends and reflected on the lessons.

I realized that how I use email can go against our anonymity Traditions, even when everyone addressed in an email exchange already knows that all involved are in AA. It really had been unnecessary for me to include so many people on the email that I sent.

If I had a concern to raise with a fellow member while I was at an AA meeting, I would never dream of going up to them, inviting a half dozen other people to join us, and then proceeding to tell them all what I thought was wrong with something my fellow member had said. Likewise, I wouldn't make a conference call to raise questions about something another member had done. I would simply talk to that person, one-on-one.

The spirit of Tradition Twelve calls on us to address each other as equals who deserve dignity and respect, and to practice a genuine humility. But instead, I acted like the AA Traditions police, and I had done so in front of others.

Ironically, the thing that had prompted my concern over the web posting in the first place was something in the document that made me concerned about Tradition Eleven.

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Recovery Word Puzzle

KGAWNANIE
SLIPCRIPEN
LIPSRUEO
VIPTENUI
CAVETDOSA
KESH DANHA



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

KITWONGERN
DOILYHA
PRONESITADE
SAPMNTTOTEI
SLEEPNOSIBR
TARSEWE



*Have a blessed, sober and happy
Holiday Season!*



*Thank you so very much to all the
amazing trusted servants and customers
who always support the Intergroup office.*



We absolutely could not do it without you!

Volunteer Opportunities

9th Annual AA's Got Talent show will have the next planning meeting on
Saturday, December 14th at 1:30 PM
at the 101 Club, 700 SW 10th Street, Pompano Beach

First planning meeting for the **57th Intergroup Appreciation Banquet** will be
Thursday, December 12 at 6 PM at the
Intergroup Bookstore, 3317 NW 10th Terrace, Ste. 404, Oakland Park

Pick up a commitment today!!

SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER



(continued from page 1)

my home group and my district, and just now, I was elected as area secretary. That's not bad for someone who had problems reading and writing when he came to the rooms of AA 27 years ago. I can read and write much better than when I came in, and I no longer fear people like I used to. All I had to do was step up and try, and God took care of the rest.

— Ed M., Shawnee, KS

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(continued from page 2)

Most of the time, when we think about anonymity and new media, we tend to focus on Tradition Eleven and the issue of last names, pictures, and the Internet.

Is the Internet the same as "press, radio, and films"? Do we need to guard our own and others' anonymity when posting to social networking sites? Is an obscure AA website, most likely accessed only by AA members, something that we need to police with diligence to make sure there are no anonymity breaks on it?

We can have disagreements and spirited discussions about these sorts of questions. Not all of us view them the same way. But if we feel a need to address something we see, we need to remember the spirit of Tradition Twelve and respond with humility and a spirit of equality. So, the next time I see something posted on the Internet that moves me to raise these issues with a fellow member, I pray that I will remember to pause and do it the old-fashioned AA way--by making a simple phone call so that one alcoholic can talk to another.

-- Anonymous

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General Service Office, NY

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

Bridging The Gap

877.207.2242

Broward Co. Intergroup, Inc.

3317 NW 10th Terrace, Ste 404
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309
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

December Celebrants

Broward Men's

Corey ~ 16 yrs.
Eric L. ~ 16 yrs.
John B. ~ 44 yrs.

Women's Honesty

Kirstie ~ 8 yrs.

Joy of Sobriety

David R. ~ 27 yrs.
Jason W. ~ 5 yrs.

Serenity Altogether

Paul R. ~ 25 yrs.

Y.A.N.A.

Sarah N. ~ 23 yrs.
Paul W. ~ 15 yrs.

One Day at a Time

Ernie B. ~ 33 yrs.

Meditation at the Rock

Antonette Z. ~ 3 yrs.

Pembroke Pines Last Stand

Suzanne J. ~ 14 yrs.

Mountain Group

Mark J. ~ 22 yrs.

Sunlight of the Spirit

Tom J. ~ 31 yrs.

Margate Group

Adam B. ~ 8 yrs.
Dennis B. ~ 34 yrs.

Express Group

Nereida ~ 8 yrs.

Sober Sisters

Alexis ~ 6 yrs.

Other Notables

Gay M. ~ 30 yrs.
Dani A. ~ 10 yrs.
Laura F. ~ 20 yrs.
Nancy F. ~ 18 yrs.
Luanne C. ~ 34 yrs.
Allison B. ~ 8 yrs.
Dennis W. ~ 19 yrs.

Imperial Pt. Sunday Nt.

Joyce D. ~ 16 yrs.
Billy D. ~ 30 yrs.
Joey C. ~ 21 yrs.

Happy Destiny

Arielle ~ 8 yrs.

Women's Step by Step

Heather M. ~ 6 yrs.
Tracy S. ~ 10 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



November Celebrants not previously mentioned

Let's Do Lunch

Tom S. ~ 7 yrs.
Steve ~ 11 yrs.
Dan V. ~ 7 yrs.
Ray S. ~ 44 yrs.

Sunshine Group

Henry R. ~ 3 yrs.
Dan ~ 32 yrs.
Randy C. ~ 34 yrs.
Sonny ~ 34 yrs.
John ~ 35 yrs.

New Life Group

Edwin ~ 25 yrs.

Joy of Living

Joe C. ~ 10 yrs.
Eduardo W. ~ 8 yrs.

Vets in Recovery

Joe K. ~ 23 yrs.

Pompano Beach Group

Donna S. ~ 33 yrs.

Tuesday Nt. After Work Women's

Casey J. ~ 6 yrs.

Our Lives Are On the Line

Michael V. ~ 42 yrs.

Davie Women's

Caren L. ~ 31 yrs.

Women's Journey

Mary ~ 15 yrs.
Christine ~ 2 yrs.

Bros. All Living Life Sober

Scott ~ 7 yrs.
Rick ~ 24 yrs.

Tamarac Group

Gary L. ~ 22 yrs.
Donna L. ~ 22 yrs.
Jamie M. ~ 25 yrs.

Perry Street South

Trudy ~ 28 yrs.

Downtown Dry Dock

Kim M. ~ 15 yrs.
Phyllis ~ 11 yrs.

Other Notables

Maryann J. ~ 19 yrs.
Mary W. ~ 15 yrs.

Bikers in Recovery

Todd S. ~ 29 yrs.

No. Lauderdale Back To Basics

John S. ~ 19 yrs.

Easier Softer Way

Eddie G. ~ 37 yrs.

Surrender is Freedom

Nancy ~ 20 yrs.
Annie ~ 31 yrs.

Sober Sisters

Emmy ~ 1 yr.
Pauline ~ 7 yrs.
Jennifer ~ 8 yrs.

**BCIC - Broward County
Institutions Committee**

**Next Meeting:
Saturday, December 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, December 15
at 1:00 p.m.**

Local Readers Share.....

MAINTAINING SOBRIETY

After living a life that seemed almost exactly like what I have read, many times, in the passage "More About Alcoholism", now the most important thing in my life is staying sober. I'm now a firm believer that it's the 1st drink that gets me drunk and will destroy my life totally; spiritually, socio-economically and physically.

I stumbled through many years of my life with no direction, or inner sense of what life was about or how to live it. I was totally dependent on alcohol as my fix for everything, without realizing that it was doing the opposite of "fixing me", but was instead leading to my demise. After many years (36) of alternating between sobriety, being dry, and countless detoxes and treatment programs, I was finally blessed with the gift of desperation and complete demoralization.

Finishing my last treatment and having several years of living sober I am determined to maintain sobriety to the end. With the gifts of fellowship (love and support), the time and motivation to attend meetings daily, a wonderful sponsor and so many friends on the same journey, I have hope and faith that this is my destiny. By following this path laid out for me, I have attained a life of spirituality that is happy, joyous and free.

— David H., Ft. Lauderdale

Things we cannot change.....

Donnie W. (recent paid special worker)

He will be missed. May He Rest in Peace.



Twelve Tips for a Sober, Joyous Holiday Season

Holiday parties without alcohol may still be a dreary prospect for new A.A.s. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober. Here are some tips:

1. Line up extra A.A. activities — meetings, speaking, phone answering.
2. Entertain A.A. friends, especially newcomers.
3. Keep A.A. phone numbers with you at all times—and USE THEM!
4. Find out about special holiday parties, meetings, or other events at groups in your area, and go. If you're shy, take a newer member.
5. Skip drinking occasions you're nervous about. Remember your drinking talent for making excuses? Put it to work for you in sobriety.
6. If you must attend a drinking party, and can't find a fellow A.A. to come with you, keep some candy handy.
7. You don't have to stay late. Plan for an "important date."
8. Go to church. Any Church.
9. Don't sit around brooding. Catch up on reading, letters, walks.
10. Remember, one day at a time. Don't start now to worry about all those "holiday temptations."
11. If you can't give material gifts this year, you can give love.
12. "Having had a ..." You already know the Twelfth Step!

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: awakening, principles, perilous, punitive, advocates, handshake, networking, holiday, desperation, temptations, responsible, sweater

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

NEW MEETING The Workshop Group meets at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 1925 N State Rd. 7, Hollywood. 7 PM, OD.

10 & 11 Step Winner's Circle at the Sober Today Club in Hollywood is a meditation meeting.

NEW MEETING Big Book Meditation Group meets at Parish of Sts. Francis and Clare, 2300 NW 9th Avenue, Wilton Manors at 7 PM. OMg.

Live at 5:30 which met at Sober Today Club in Hollywood NO LONGER MEETS.

Tuesday

Shoulder to Shoulder which met at the Sanctuary in Fort Lauderdale at 1:30, NO LONGER MEETS.

Wednesday

Live at 5:30 which met at Sober Today Club in Hollywood NO LONGER MEETS.

No Name Group which met at Sober Today Club in Hollywood NO LONGER MEETS.

Thursday

Live at 5:30 which met at Sober Today Club in Hollywood NO LONGER MEETS.

Shoulder to Shoulder which met at the Sanctuary in Fort Lauderdale at 1:30, NO LONGER MEETS.

Friday

The Eye Opener which meets at 9 AM in Hollywood NO LONGER MEETS on Friday.

Live at 5:30 which met at Sober Today Club in Hollywood NO LONGER MEETS.

Spiritually Based Solution which met at Blue Waters Recovery in Pompano NO LONGER MEETS.

Touristique which meets at Sober Today Club in Hollywood in now a Speaker meeting and meets at 8 PM.

Saturday

Living Sober on Saturday Night which met at the Sober Today Club in Hollywood NO LONGER MEETS.

Doing the Deal which met at Fellowship RCO in Margate is NO LONGER an AA meeting.

NEW MEETING The South Florida Group has added a Saturday meeting at 5:30 PM. OD

Sunday

Positively Sober HIV which meets at Lambda South Club in Fort Lauderdale is now an Open meeting and has changed the time to 6:30 PM.

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 4** **Sober Sisters Holiday Gathering** will take place after their regular meeting at Lambda South, Ft. Lauderdale. All women welcome. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.
- Dec. 7** **Pride 5:45 9th Anniversary Party** will have a special Anniversary Speaker, followed by Pot-luck dinner and dancing. Please bring your favorite dish ready to serve with utensils. Main Room of Bldg. B at Pride Center, 2040 N. Dixie Hwy., Wilton Manors. 5:45—8:00 PM.
- Dec. 7** **District 9 Winterfest and Ice Cream Social** at NSU Terry Bldg. cafeteria, 3200 S University Drive, Davie. Ugly Sweater Contest, and Feature Movie. 5:30 PM dinner, 7:45 PM Speaker. \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door
- Dec. 14** **32nd Annual Workshop** for Broward County Institutions Committee will be held at the Twelve Step House. Lunch and Speakers 11 AM—12:15 PM. 205 SW 23rd St., Ft. Lauderdale
- Dec. 16** **Women's Honesty Holiday Party** with invited guests from Stepping Stones. Dinner at 7 PM, followed by speaker meeting at 7:45 and gift distribution. All women welcome, but please bring a dish to share divided into two bowls. St. James in the Hills, 3329 Wilson St., Hollywood.
- Feb. 1** **9th Annual AA's Got Talent**, Coral Springs Charter School, 3205 N. University Drive, Coral Springs. 7-10 PM. Adult event ONLY. Tickets \$10, desserts and coffee
- Feb. 22** **7th Annual French Intergroup Conference**, Pat Larking Center, 520 NW 3rd St., Pompano Beach, 9 AM—9 PM. For more info: 954-695-8073 or aa-floride.org