



# Suite 404

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## Step Six - "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."

### Staying out of the Swamp

**A member learns to not let money, property or prestige bog us down from our primary purpose**

Time and experience proved that a policy of "no endorsements" would keep AA's doors open to the greatest number of prospective members. There are "related facilities" that provide vital services to alcoholics—hospital wards, treatment facilities, drunk tanks and clubs—but Tradition Six recommends that they should operate without endorsement, affiliation or financial support from AA groups.

Individual AA members may privately endorse related facilities or outside enterprises, but no group of Alcoholics Anonymous ought to lend the AA name to any of these. Why? Because nothing should be allowed to divert us from our primary purpose of carrying a message of hope to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Think about it. If AA were to endorse a treatment center, political party, or football team, wouldn't fans of the other team get mad? Has your home group ever fought about money at its business meeting? Have you known newcomers who were nervous about attending AA meetings in church basements?

Tradition Six helps keep us from getting bogged down in these types of conflicts. It recommends no endorsements. It warns us not to let money squabbles undermine our primary purpose, and enables us to assure newcomers about the meeting places of Alcoholics Anonymous. AA groups are in no way affiliated with the creed, politics, sect, or denomination of their landlords.

It was personal experience that helped me grasp the significance of this Tradition. When I met a rich woman who couldn't stay away from the first drink, I understood that sobriety is more than money. (I learned more about this when I was active and happy in the Fellowship while unemployed and in debt.) When the church in which my home group met burned to the ground, but the group carried its message as usual, I learned that an AA group is more than property. As for prestige, I have learned that it has a lot to do with ego, while ours is an ego-deflating program. As long as I don't get too important to serve, I'll probably be fine.

Money, property and prestige (like defects of character) are simply part of life, but they become liabilities when they eclipse my primary purpose of staying sober and helping other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

At our 35th Anniversary International Convention, the Declaration of Unity put it this way: "This we owe to AA's future: to place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united. For on AA Unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come."

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## 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.”

# MY ARMOR

Step Six suggested that he place all his defects on the table and let God sort them out.

WHILE I had no problem admitting I was an alcoholic, I didn't believe I was the kind of alcoholic who joined AA, the kind who had to stop drinking altogether, who could never take another drink. "One day at a time," they said. But I knew what that meant: "One day at a time . . . for the rest of your life." Oh, no, not me, buddy! I was pretty sure I was the kind who cut down. You know, a mild case.

My plan was to take a look at these famous Twelve Steps (whatever they were), analyze them and decide which of them I might apply to seriously cutting down. My drinking had admittedly gotten out of hand. Since I had no intention of stopping entirely, I surely wouldn't need all twelve.

A couple of the Steps seemed to be unnecessary. Six and Eight, for instance, were preparation for Steps that followed, and had been stuck in there to make an even dozen, no doubt. Step Six especially, I thought, was a useless space saver. "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."

Who wouldn't want to have their defects removed? I'd like to be a nice guy. I'd like to have people think well of me. Maybe it would help me to keep a job, maintain a friendship . . . or have a second date with the same girl.

The problem was that I hadn't identified any defects. Little did I know that I had developed, cultivated and come to depend on an army of character defects. They weren't even pests to me. They were more like beloved pets that I fed and nurtured.

Arrogance, for example, was self-confidence. I'm not lustful--I'm romantic by nature. You might call me selfish--I call it frugal. You call it gluttony--I call it lunch. If I'm intolerant, critical or judgmental of others, I call it being ruthlessly honest and painfully frank. As for my own dishonesty, I denied it. "I pride myself on my personal integrity." In other words, I lied!

When, after months of attending AA meetings, I finally did stop drinking, got a sponsor and decided to apply the Steps to my life, I discovered that taking the Twelve Steps is an entirely different experience than reading them or hearing them read.

Step Six is an extremely significant part of the process. In fact, *(Continued on page 4)*



WE AT INTERGROUP ARE **HONORED AND HUMBL**ED TO SERVE  
THE FELLOWSHIP OF BROWARD COUNTY!  
YOUR OVERWHELMING GENEROSITY DURING THIS TIME  
OF CRISIS ARE TRULY A DISPLAY OF **GRATITUDE IN ACTION**.  
WE APPRECIATE YOU ALL SO MUCH, AND KNOW WE COULDN'T DO  
IT WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT! **THANK YOU AND BLESS YOU ALL!!!**

## Recovery Word Puzzle

TEAMS BENS  
TRIPSEEP COV  
TEALDER  
EROYLISSU  
FIDDINEETI  
SHYTENDSOI



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

TRAIPCAPEE  
YAGWEAT  
DOCTPETER  
RYSEEDTOD  
REEFCONNEC  
DARCCEONCA

## Volunteer Opportunities

Our first **Sober Camping Conference** will be in January 2021.

### **NOW CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS**

Electronic planning meeting to be held on June 11 at 6:30 PM. Please call or email for ID to 954.462.0403 or [help@aabroward.org](mailto:help@aabroward.org)

The **2020 Gratitude Dinner** to be held on October 30 in Ft. Lauderdale  
will have their next planning meeting on Zoom

**Sunday, June 28 at 1 PM**

Check [District9aa.org](http://District9aa.org) for Log-in ID or call 954.462.0265 as date approaches

Our **45th Annual Intergroup Picnic** to be held on October 25 is

### **NOW CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS**

First planning meeting to be held on Saturday, July 18. Please call or email for ID or attendance details if interested to 954.462.0403 or [help@aabroward.org](mailto:help@aabroward.org)



The bookstore is still open on a limited schedule,  
**Mon-Fri 1-6 PM**, with social distancing guidelines.

Please just call, email or place the order online  
and we will get it ready for pickup or shipping.

No cash at this time; only checks or credit card, please.

## SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER



(continued from page 2)

I've come to think of the Sixth Step as the "gateway Step."

After taking Step Five, I had a list of people to whom I owed amends. I would deal with them at Steps Eight and Nine. The list at hand now was the list of my character defects, my shortcomings. These were the manifestations of self that had placed me in a position to be hurt and to hurt others.

These were the elements of my personal armor I had gathered over my life. I put them on and wore them as if into battle. They may have been heavy and awkward, but I believed that they protected me.

Step Six suggests I place them all on the table and let God sort them out, ask God to decide which I need and don't need. There may be things I consider short-comings that my Higher Power has some use for, just as there may be things I consider virtues that need to be cleared away for my spiritual well-being.

My meditation was once interrupted by what I considered some worldly and less than spiritual thoughts. I was so irritated by this that I shared it with my wife and exclaimed, "I need to ask God to remove my lust." Her response was, "Don't you dare!"

Evidently she had some use for such distractions and considered them beneficial.

On the other hand, as an artist, I have long considered pride in my work a necessary tool of the trade. And though pride has its usefulness in craftsmanship, it is a total liability in spiritual matters. The Big Book refers to the "leveling of our pride."

That doesn't mean evening it out like we might "level" a sand lot, it means like they level an old building to build a new one in its place. It has to be destroyed.

The Seventh Step Prayer says, "I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows."

So Step Six may be the greatest act of courage in the whole twelve-step process: a total act of faith. I have to trust that God will see the big picture and make the right choices. Funny thing is, without all that armor, it's a lot easier to move. In fact, I feel like dancing through the rest of the Steps.

—Doug R., Tujunga, CA

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## Things we cannot change.....



*Phil C. and Linwood F.*

*They will be missed. May they Rest in Peace.*

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Treasurer, PO Box 1784  
Pompano Beach, FL 33061

**District 9 General Service**  
P.O. Box 100126  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310

# AA BIRTHDAY'S

## June Celebrants

### Sunlight of the Spirit

Shannon A. ~ 8 yrs.

### Sober Sisters

Fran G. ~ 36 yrs.

Linda E. ~ 4 yrs.

### Secular and Sober

Laura H. ~ 10 yrs.

### Lambda Rising

Gary D. ~ 21 yrs.

### Friends of Pat C.

Mary Y. ~ 9 yrs.

### Westside Men's

Rick R. ~ 25 yrs.

### Meeting in Print

Matt M. ~ 11 yrs.

### I Came To Stay

Floyd G. ~ 6 yrs.

### B.A.L.L.S.

Drew ~ 7 yrs.

### Men's Independence

Ken W. ~ 17 yrs.

### Y.A.N.A.

Bruce P. ~ 27 yrs.

### Other Notables

Lynda Z. ~ 24 yrs.

Sharon M. ~ 38 yrs.

Kevin M. ~ 27 yrs.

Lee B. ~ 34 yrs.

### East Naples Men's

Wes R. ~ 32 yrs.

Stan S. ~ 29 yrs.

Pete S. ~ 22 yrs.

Wade B. ~ 20 yrs.

Ralph O. ~ 19 yrs.

Luis F. ~ 17 yrs.

### Meditation at the Rock

Melissa S. ~ 3 yrs.

Ken K. ~ 9 yrs.

### Oakland Park

Gene S. ~ 11 yrs.

### Happy Destiny

Debbie B. ~ 32 yrs.

### Hollywood Happy Hour

Patricia B. ~ 16 yrs.

### Mountain Group

Dawn D. ~ 4 yrs.

### Straight Talk

Mark O. ~ 30 yrs.

### 5:45 Happy Hour

Sandy S. ~ 31 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.)*

**STAY SAFE  
AND  
STAY HEALTHY**



## May Celebrants not previously mentioned



### East Naples Men's

Frank S. ~ 58 yrs.

Randy G. ~ 40 yrs.

Walter B. ~ 30 yrs.

Noel H. ~ 28 yrs.

Mike G. ~ 14 yrs.

### Pride 5:45

Ed F. ~ 49 yrs.

### Eye Opener

Barbara S. ~ 36 yrs.

### Hollywood Men's

Leo H. ~ 49 yrs.

### Serenity Altogether

Paul ~ 7 yrs.

### D.A.W.G.

Jimmy D. ~ 29 yrs.

### Women's Honesty

Patricia L. ~ 5 yrs.

### Tough Love

Valerie ~ 36 yrs.

Marilyn ~ 42 yrs.

### Sober Sisters

Jamie ~ 24 yrs.

Daria ~ 41 yrs.

### Let's Do Lunch Bunch

John S. ~ 30 yrs.

DC A. ~ 31 yrs.

### Sometimes Quickly, Sometimes Slowly

Brodie J. ~ 1 yr.

### Secular and Sober

Aldo G. ~ 2 yrs.

### Russian Speaking Alcoholics

Victoria R. ~ 10 yrs.

### Davie Women's

Joyce S. ~ 25 yrs.



### Mountain Group

Andrea O. ~ 13 yrs.

Margaret B. ~ 16 yrs.

### Good Morning God

Amy O. ~ 12 yrs.

### Meeting in Print

Craig C. ~ 34 yrs.

Carl H. ~ 35 yrs.

Bill G. ~ 18 yrs.

### Westside Men's

Chris O. ~ 29 yrs.

Dave M. ~ 20 yrs.

Mark W. ~ 14 yrs.

## BCIC

Broward County Institutions Committee

**MAY** be meeting  
Electronically or at Twelve Step  
House.

Go to [bcic-aa.com](http://bcic-aa.com) for more  
information

**The next  
Intergroup Meeting  
Sunday, June 21**

**MAY** be held at the  
Twelve Step House

Check website and emails.





## GOODBYE TO LIN

“Clearly, our first duty to A.A.’s future is to maintain in full strength what we now have. Only the most vigilant caretaking can assure this. Never should we be lulled into complacent self-satisfaction by the wide acclaim and success that are everywhere ours.”

*(As Bill Sees It, page 207, from A.A. Today, page 106)*

**LINWOOD F.**, trusted servant extraordinaire, celebrated 48 years of continuous sobriety and passed away at 85 years old last month. He was still involved in service, of the greater whole, until a month prior to the car accident that he did not recover from. He was the absolute antithesis of complacency. Lin was a man that did receive ‘wide acclaim and success’ during his years in service to Alcoholics Anonymous, due to his application of the spiritual principles in his daily life. He was the epitome of gratitude in action, and so many of us were blessed to know him, serve with him, and call him friend.

Lin worked at the Intergroup office for over 10 years, in retirement, and then served as an Intergroup Rep for his home group. He also served on the Steering Committee for several years before becoming Chair, spoke at many events, taught traditions and concepts to groups in and out of the county, served on event committees for Intergroup, General Service, Round-ups, and State Conventions. He attended meetings over the years at the 101 Club, the Twelve Step House, Lambda South and was a member of the Oakland Park Group until 2020. He sponsored many people and mentored 100’s. He was the old timer whose behavior and sobriety many of us wish to emulate. He will be remembered always for his endless, unselfish commitment to service, his great sense of humor and truly loving spirit. He will be sorely missed.

We hope he is getting his fill of coffee at that ‘big meeting in the sky’ with all the wonderful souls who have gone before him. May he rest in peace.

**HAPPY  
FATHERS DAY**

## OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE

**PLEASE GO TO [WWW.AABROWARD.ORG](http://WWW.AABROWARD.ORG) FOR ALL UPDATES**

*We are updating the website throughout this crisis to the best of our ability. Thank you to everyone who has kept us informed. We have compiled a short list of local groups’ electronic IDs for those who are looking for a local meeting online. We will not post this list to Website because of affiliation, but will share with you if you call 954.462.0403 or email [help@aabroward.org](mailto:help@aabroward.org), so that we may still be acting in accordance with our purpose, as a “clearinghouse for the convenience of members”.*

## 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., Vickie T., Howie K., Lewis G., James H., Gerry B., Don W., Eric P., Tara D., Denise J., Robert M., Susan S., Drew B., David S., Bonnie T., Robert H., Sally S., Anonymous II, Michael E., Stephen W., Marla A., Ernie F., HBeta, Brian H., Steven L., Robin S., Barbara S., Jenae R., Jerilynn D., Fran C., Women's Step by Step, Rachel L., Michael T., Alexander W., Gary S., Dave J., Patrick M., Patrick C., Mary C., Patsy K., Joe G., Nancy S., Al G., Ann L., Glen P., Richard M., Ali S., Erich N.

**WE HAVE NEVER NEEDED YOUR SUPPORT AS  
MUCH AS WE DO NOW!**

Please consider becoming a faithful fiver today. Have your bank send us an Auto payment every month from your account or

**DONATE NOW ON OUR WEBSITE USING PAYPAL**

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE: basements, prospective, related, seriously, identified, dishonesty, appreciate, gateway, protected, destroyed, conference, accordance

**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](mailto:help@aabroward.org)



## MEETING CHANGES

The following meeting locations have confirmed with us that they are now holding some meetings face-to-face:

441 Group, Margate  
 Bottom Line Group, Deerfield  
 Pompano Beach Group, Pompano  
 Sober Today Club, Hollywood  
 The Sunshine Cathedral, Ft. Lauderdale  
 St. Benedict's Church, Plantation  
 Sterling Room, Davie  
 West Broward Club, Davie  
 Our Place 2, Tamarac

The following Clubs have confirmed that they plan to open as per dates shown:

4th Dimension Club, Hollywood—June 8  
 Lambda South Club, Ft. Lauderdale—June 15  
 Twelve Step House, Ft. Lauderdale—June 15

**WEAR MASKS!**

**STAY SAFE!**

**BE RESPONSIBLE!**

**STAY SOBER!**

Does your group have a gift basket or  
 gift certificate to be raffled at our  
**57th Annual Intergroup Appreciation Banquet?**

Please call or email to let us know, so that we can  
 make start making our raffle plans.

**954.462.0403** or email [help@aabroward.org](mailto:help@aabroward.org)



Thank you for your continued support....we are looking forward to another great evening!

## Upcoming Events

- Jun. 5-7** **FCYPAA** The 2020 Young People's Convention has been POSTPONED until June 25-27, 2021. They look forward to a wonderful Convention in Weston next year.
- Jun. 7** **District 9 Founder's Day Event** will be celebrated on ZOOM this year, instead of the usual picnic. Please check [www.district9aa.org](http://www.district9aa.org) for more information.
- Jun. 20** **Carry the Message Day** will be held in a ZOOM platform. District 9 General Service, BCIC and Intergroup service event. Please check [www.district9aa.org](http://www.district9aa.org) for more information.
- Jun. 27** **AA's Got Talent 2020, At Home** Intergroup Fundraiser 7-9 PM with performances live through ZOOM and a 50/50 Raffle. Tickets are \$10 and must be purchased no later than Thursday, June 25, so that virtual ticket holders can receive Zoom ID for entry.
- Jul. 10 -12** **S.FL Area 15 Quarterly Assembly** Boca Town Center Marriott, Boca Raton. This assembly will have some ZOOM participation in addition to live meetings. See District and Area websites for more information. Workshops, speakers, business meeting on Sunday.
- Aug. 6-9** **Florida State Convention** Jacksonville has now postponed the 2020 convention until 2021. For more information you can go to [www.64.floridastateconvention.com](http://www.64.floridastateconvention.com)
- Sept. 19** **57th Annual Intergroup Appreciation Banquet** Tropical Acres Steakhouse, 6-10 PM, Dinner, speakers, basket raffle. Must have ticket, advance sales only. \$45.