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VOLUME 7
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Step Seven - "Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings."

The Ex-Mother-In-Law

In her mind, she needed to punish the awful woman who took her kids, but her Higher Power had a better idea

At two years sober, I wrote down my Step Seven. I prayed with my pastor and my sponsor that my shortcomings be removed. I felt as if a burden were lifted after we prayed, as if I were on that "pink cloud" all over again. I tried to convince myself that I would no longer be selfish, judgmental and impatient, that I would be able to let all my resentments float away.

A year later I still resented the same people. My biggest resentment was for my former mother-in-law. She had taken care of my kids for 10 years while I was busy getting drunk. I hated her for everything she did right, and for everything she did wrong.

My kids had ended up with her when I went to jail and their father went to rehab. My phone calls from jail went unanswered. When I got out, I didn't call very often, because I knew she wouldn't answer. I got on with my life, which entailed two more rehabs, another visit to jail and a stay in a homeless shelter. In my mind, life was an uphill battle that I just could not win.

But I wanted my kids back. I knew I would have to get sober and stay sober. Instead, I drank to forget, and the resentment got bigger and bigger.

When I got into AA, it was tough just to get myself to meetings and hold down a job. I remember sitting in meetings crying, telling everyone I just wanted to be a mother. During those first years of sobriety, I prayed for my kids. Some nights I'd be jarred out of a deep sleep by nightmares. I dreamed my kids were drowning or lost or hurt.

I didn't get to hear their voices until I had 18 months sober. That was a long 18 months. But I put myself in the center of AA. I did service work. I made coffee for my home group. I worked the Steps. I talked to other alcoholics who had been through what I was going through, and that made the pain bearable.

Recovery brings massive rewards. At three years of sobriety, a judge awarded custody of my kids back to me. My joy was quickly overshadowed by hate and thoughts of revenge. I was going to punish this woman who kept my kids away from me. I would keep her from seeing them, just like she had kept them from me.

My resentment for this woman started as a snowball and became an
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**Your Intergroup
Bookstore will be
closed on July 3rd
in observance of
Independence Day.**

Concept VII

The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.

Tradition Seven - "Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

AA Is Not Big Business

In gratitude, Bill explains a plan to preserve AA. . .but not to rule it!

THANKSGIVING is coming. And with it, Tradition Week. I never felt happier.

Our traditions are set down on paper. But they were written first in our hearts. For each of us knows, instinctively I think, that AA is not ours to do with as we please. We are but caretakers to preserve the spiritual quality of our fellowship; keep it whole for those who will come after us and have need of what has so generously been given to us.

We learned our lesson about money early. We feared organization lest we solidify and destroy ourselves as a *movement*! At the same time we faced the moral and humane obligation to make our program instantly available to all who asked for it. And they came in ever increasing numbers.

Yes, we've had need of money and we've had to provide services. But we've resolved never to allow either money or the management of our necessary affairs to obscure our spiritual aims. The same loving God whose Divine Wisdom has shown us that one desperate and shaky drunk, fumbling for a nickel to call for help, looms larger than any 'organization' we shall ever have, or need!

At Cleveland, July last, 7000 AAs set their approval to the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. We took our destiny by the hand. Alcoholics Anonymous had grown up.

Three of those Traditions define the "Services" of Alcoholics Anonymous and outline our collective responsibility for them--management responsibility and money responsibility. The Tradition also says that our trusted servants shall never govern; that they shall always be directly accountable to those they serve.

Last month I broadcast to you the members of Alcoholics Anonymous--an urgent appeal. It was a plea that you take full money responsibility for your AA Headquarters--the Alcoholic Foundation and its AA General Service Office at New York. We who work in your Headquarters are delighted with the result. Groups who never helped before have now done so. New groups, very small groups, institutional groups not really under any obligation, have made sacrifices. If this keeps up, our deficit at Headquarters will be a thing of the past. Never have I been so encouraged about the future of our Services. Your generous and responsible action makes a fitting setting for the news I am about to give you.

For twelve years, warmly aided by great friends, Dr. Bob and I have stood sentinel over your Headquarters. We have been holding these valuable assets in trust for you--your General Service Office, your book "Alcoholics Anonymous", your principal magazine *The A.A. Grapevine*, your public relations, your common funds. We have never asked you to take any direct responsibility for them. But times have changed. Alcoholics Anonymous is now grown. Its founders are perishable. We cannot be your guardians always.

So the hour is come when you must take these things into your own keeping. We ask that you guard them well for the future of Alcoholics Anonymous may much depend on how you maintain and support these life-giving Arms of Service.

Anticipating that you will happily accept this new responsibility, the Trustees, Dr. Bob and I propose *The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous*; a body of State and Provincial representatives who will sit yearly with our Foundation Trustees as their traditional guide. We have long considered and will soon present a detailed plan designed to bring this great change about.

Alcoholics Anonymous *has* come of age. It's a great Thanksgiving!

—Bill W.

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HAVE A SAFE, SOBER AND HAPPY 4TH OF JULY



Recovery Word Puzzle

NE **E** D S R U N A W
 S T A G **R** I **H** M E N
 B A B **E** R L A E
 B E S D I R L **T**
 I C **D** G L E N N I
 S T E E R A R **K** A C



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

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

Unscramble the read letters above to discover the holiday message below.

-----!

Volunteer Opportunities

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

NOW CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Electronic planning meeting to be held on Thursday, July 16th at 6:30 PM. Please call or email for ID to 954.462.0403 or help@aabroward.org

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



The bookstore is still open on a limited schedule,

Monday—Friday 1-6 PM,
 with mask — one person at a time.

Place your order in advance by phone, email or online at www.aabroward.org for shipping or come by and shop.

SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER



(continued from page 1)

avalanche. I hired a lawyer to keep her away. I complained to my sponsor about her on a daily basis. I reveled in the idea that she would be alone now, never to see the kids again.

Then a judge gave her visitation rights. I bristled with anger! I stood on the porch one day talking to my sponsor on the phone about it. Finally, she told me she was done listening to it. With no one to talk to, I just paced on the porch.

Suddenly, a feeling of remorse came over me. For some reason my mind replayed the things I had done and not done during all those years she was caring for my kids. I felt grateful that she had kept them all together and not let them become wards of the state. Having seen the situations of other alcoholic parents, I knew that my kids could have had it a lot worse.

As I paced the porch that day, I remembered the words of Step Seven: "Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings." I remembered my prayer. A tear formed in my eye as I realized God was answering it. I played a part in this hate. If I didn't change, nothing would change. Hatred was consuming me, stealing my serenity. I decided that I did not want to feel this way anymore. I called her and said that the judge was right, that she should see the kids. I apologized for everything I had done to her. She accepted my apology.

Today we have a good working relationship. Sometimes resentment creeps back up on me. These are the days I call her and we talk. I see she is as human as I am. Knowing now how tough motherhood is on a daily basis makes me grateful that she stepped up and did my job for 10 years. If she needs something, I am there. If her car breaks down, I offer mine. When she calls, I answer the phone. Now she gets to be the grandmother she always wanted to be, and I am OK with it, thanks to God and Step Seven.

—April P., Monongahela, Pa.

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Things we cannot change.....



Susie S. and Conrad

They will be missed. May they Rest in Peace.



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

COVERMYTIMELINE.COM

General Service Office, NY
PO Box 459, Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10164-0371
212.870.3400

Bridging The Gap
877.207.2242

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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

July Celebrants

Broward Men's

Jay ~ 4 yrs.
Joe A. ~ 5 yrs.

Oakland Park

Mary W. ~ 29 yrs.
Mike M. ~ 24 yrs.
Mark W. ~ 17 yrs.

Free and Easy

Larry H. ~ 40 yrs.
Linda M. ~ 32 yrs.

Westside Men's

Eric S. ~ 21 yrs.
Richard R. ~ 29 yrs.

Men in Recovery

Harry O. ~ 30 yrs.
John D. ~ 10 yrs.
Richard W. ~ 10 yrs.
Casey M. ~ 19 yrs.

Serenity Altogether

Ken M. ~ 14 yrs.
Doug C. ~ 28 yrs.
Fred L. ~ 40 yrs.

Rule 62

Vickie T. ~ 34 yrs.

Ft. Lauderdale

Women's Group

Nancy B. ~ 31 yrs.
Diana H. ~ 20 yrs.
Pam ~ 24 yrs.

Don't Forget

Doug W. ~ 9 yrs.

B.A.L.L.S. Group

Elias G. ~ 17 yrs.
Richie ~ 31 yrs.
Nick ~ 5 yrs.
Randall ~ 25 yrs.

Happy Destiny

Liz A. ~ 12 yrs.
Sharon S. ~ 11 yrs.

Women's Journey

Carole L. ~ 14 yrs.
Ebony ~ 12 yrs.
Mona Lisa ~ 7 yrs.

Women's Step by Step

Karen V. ~ 39 yrs.

Mountain Group

Jolynn J. ~ 12 yrs.

Live, Laugh, Love

Leslie B. ~ 12 yrs.
Juliya ~ 22 yrs.

Women's Honesty

Becky P. ~ 38 yrs.
Marcia S. ~ 24 yrs.
Rachel ~ 12 yrs.

Coral Springs Men's

Steve B. ~ 28 yrs.

Meeting in Print

Rhonda D. ~ 16 yrs.

Friends of Pat C.

Mare C. ~ 23 yrs.
Maria W. ~ 8 yrs.

Sands of Serenity

Laura W. ~ 22 yrs.

Meditation at the Rock

Mary S. ~ 21 yrs.

Other Notables

Emma L. ~ 31 yrs.
Bill F. ~ 29 yrs.
Richard H. ~ 40 yrs.

Free to Be

Dara ~ 10 yrs.

Joy of Sobriety

Bob ~ 35 yrs.

Bikers in Recovery

Emilio ~ 20 yrs.
Leon J. ~ 12 yrs.
Donna M. ~ 14 yrs.
Bill F. ~ 3 yrs.
Rich W. ~ 3 yrs.

Each Day a New Beginning

Michael E. ~ 11 yrs.

Surrender is Freedom

Diane R. ~ 32 yrs.

You Are Not Alone

Sharon G. ~ 21 yrs.
Janet T. ~ 18 yrs.
Marie H. ~ 12 yrs.

Lunch Bunch

Gary ~ 50 yrs.
Walter ~ 21 yrs.

Smell the Coffee

Liz J. ~ 31 yrs.
Mike ~ 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.)

**STAY SAFE
AND
STAY HEALTHY**



BCIC

Broward County Institutions Committee will hold their next meeting on

July 11 at 10 AM

at the

Twelve Step House

205 SW 23rd St., Ft. Lauderdale

**The next
Intergroup Meeting**

will be held on Zoom

Sunday, July 19th

1:00 PM



June Celebrants not
previously mentioned

Happy Destiny

Julie D. ~ 2 yr.
Heather ~ 12 yrs.

441 Group

Jill W. ~ 12 yrs.
Carla B. ~ 1 yr.

Sunshine Group

Richard H. ~ 13 yrs.

Focus on Sobriety

Marilyn M. ~ 46 yrs.



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE OUR AA'S GOT TALENT 2020, AT HOME A RAGING SUCCESS!!

PERFORMERS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND AUDIENCE—
YOU WERE ALL AN INTEGRAL PART.

YOU HELPED US RAISE OVER \$2,000 FOR YOUR INTERGROUP!!



*"It may be that when we no longer know
what to do, we have come to our real work
and when we no longer know which way to
go, we have begun our real journey.*

*The mind that is not baffled is
not employed.*

The impeded stream is the one that sings."

*—Wendell Berry in Standing by Words
(from Friends of Silence)*

7th Step Prayer

*"My Creator, 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.*

*Grant me strength, as I go out from
here, to do your bidding.*

Amen."

Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 76

OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE

PLEASE GO TO 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, 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., Russell S., Nicolle

**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: unanswered, nightmares, bearable, bristled, declining, caretakers, solidify, accountable, sentinel, Broadcast, perishable, guardians — Keep dry on the fourth!

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

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
 Women's Club, 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
 4th Dimension Club, Hollywood
 Lambda South Club, Ft. Lauderdale
 Twelve Step House, Ft. Lauderdale

Each group is autonomous and every location has it's own guidelines in place. You may be asked to wear masks at all times, and you may not be allowed in due to diminished capacity. Try to practice Love and Tolerance and remember that we are ALL be affected by this pandemic together!

A complete list of Local Zoom meetings is now available for download on the Intergroup website. www.aabroward.org

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



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

Upcoming Events

JULY 2020 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION --- <https://2020convention.aa.org>

Jul. 10 -12 S.FL Area 15 Quarterly Assembly Boca Town Center Marriott, Boca Raton. This assembly will be a virtual assembly using ZOOM technology. Full workshop schedule, speakers, business meeting. See District and Area websites for more information.

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

Sept. 19 57th Annual Intergroup Appreciation Banquet Tropical Acres Steakhouse, Griffin Road in Dania, 6-10 PM, Dinner, speakers, basket raffle. Must have ticket, advance sales only. \$45. This banquet may have a live streaming option, for those afraid to venture out, with dinners for pick-up.