



# Suite 404

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**Step Nine** - "Made direct amends to such people whenever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others."

## IT WAS ALL NEW TO ME

**Involvement in the California young people's committees gives a former loner direction**

BEING a teenage alcoholic often places a person into an interesting set of circumstances when he sobers up. I joined AA when I was 18 in the Midwest. There were very few young people and no organized young people's groups, committees or conferences for me to attend. For me, identification happened slowly and opportunities to get involved in committee-level service came even more slowly. Even becoming a sponsor took a while. People who asked me were often 10-15 years older than me and were either not serious about recovery from alcoholism or had life problems I had never experienced. For an alcoholic whose life depends on Twelfth Step work, times were sometimes rough.

None of this was new to me since I was just coming out of foster care and had been largely unsuccessful in any kind of social environment. I had often felt alienated and alone as a combined result of my alcoholism and my life's path. On one hand, AA gave me a place to be. On another, it sometimes lacked the accountability that a person gains from true peers. Old-timers were just happy I was coming to AA and staying sober. They shared their experience with me, which was usually related to how their kids were like me. It wasn't until I found Young People's AA (YPAA), that people started to say things like, "I am about to finish my last college class and I am still sober!" When I started to hear those kinds of things, it started me on a path from an 8th grade education all the way to a master's degree. I am 31 years old now and have 13 years of sobriety, made possible by AA's Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, sponsorship and heaps of service work.

I got involved in YPAA after I moved to San Diego, Calif. There people kept talking about a committee for young people called the Greater San Diego Young People in AA (GSDYPAA). I lived pretty far from where they met and later became involved with a more local committee that formed called the North San Diego Young People in AA (NSDYPAA). All of a sudden, I had great amounts of responsibility. Initially, I took the commitment of program chair, which meant that whenever we hosted a dance, dodge ball tournament or campout, I set

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The Intergroup Bookstore  
will be closed on  
**Monday, September 7**  
in observance of  
**LABOR DAY.**  
Have a safe, sober  
Holiday!

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

## Finding a Voice

### **Sometimes the group conscience gets lodged in the group's throat**

Our Ninth Tradition talks a great deal about AA at the Trustee level, which can be intimidating to some AAs. But I'd like to highlight just four words from the long form of this Tradition: "authorized by the groups."

Our operational service structure, as handed over to us AAs by Bill and Dr. Bob, took place with the dawn of our Third Legacy. This Legacy, laid out in our Service Manual, turns over the entire down-the-line authorities of AA to the collective conscience of all the AA groups, which, of course, are comprised of individual members.

Individual members, by becoming active in a group and attending the group's business meetings, exercise their right to be heard in the group conscience. Even a newcomer, joining the group and attending his or her very first business meeting, has a powerful voice in the worldwide affairs of AA.

Regrettably, the group conscience can become lodged in the throat of a group, never getting any further than the church basement. I have witnessed groups becoming just as self-involved and self-centered as any individual AA member who never lifted a chair or made a pot of coffee.

Unless a group is organized enough to have business meetings, a way to reckon its own group conscience, and an active, elected GSR (general service representative) to carry that group's conscience to the district level, such a group could be compared to a member who just doesn't drink, and goes to meetings, but does not work the Steps or become an otherwise active member.

Just as we individuals have the Twelve Steps to maintain our own spiritual fitness, our groups have the Traditions to maintain their primary purpose.

Our groups play an important part in worldwide AA and in carrying its message far and wide. Each member helps shape the group conscience. The group's elected GSR makes sure it's understood at the district and area levels, and that it's part of the delegate's thinking, which he or she takes to the annual General Service Conference of AA. Delegated with the full authority of the groups, the Conference is responsible for developing and maintaining all the services needed to carry AA's message of hope and recovery. At the bottom of our upside-side down organizational structure, the trustees, taking their authority from the Conference, take actions that allow the GSO staff to carry out the day-to-day operation of those services.

**BY: DANNY S. | CENTERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**

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## Recovery Word Puzzle

D I N E L A T E A  
P R I S S H O P S N O  
T A G O N E T E I  
R E D N E T O M A T S  
S A P H E R D L I E  
G A L D E E D E T



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

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

## Volunteer Opportunities

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

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** Join us for the next planning meeting

**Thursday, September 17th** at 6:30 PM on Zoom

ID—928 7774 1153 PW—770647



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

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** Our next planning meeting will be held

after Intergroup meeting on Zoom **Sunday, September 20th at 2 PM.**

ID—973 0221 4054 PW— 511045

**Florida State Convention** coming to Fort Lauderdale again in 2022!

First planning meeting will be **Saturday, September 26th at 9 AM** on Zoom

ID —882 8429 1768 PW—FSC2022



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](http://www.aabroward.org) for shipping or come by and shop.

**SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER**



(continued from page 1)

up the meetings that were attached to the event. Later I became a treasurer, and I kept track of an account and a ledger--all new to me! Finally I became our bid package chairman. We were bidding to host the state young people's conference.

Assembling a bid package was an arduous process. We had to negotiate contracts with potential hotels, present up-to-date treasury records, and demonstrate participation in our area assemblies, area committees and intergroup. We organized a skit to show our unity as a committee at the state conference. We got to dance, act, recite poetry or sing, relaying the AA message in dramatic fashion. What a rush, and what a great fit for a young person in AA! Most of us were in tears by the end. We didn't even expect to be picked to host the All California Young People in AA (ACYPAA) Round Up; we just knew what we had all been through together. One person had had a suicide attempt; another's father was in the hospital after an alcohol-related incident; some had graduated from universities; I myself had gotten married. We had fought in business meetings, and now we cried together. It was a beautiful experience for all of us.

Leading up to the conference, we had been active in service all year. We had thrown dances and other fun events and we had co-hosted events with local districts and area committees. We spoke on hospitals and institutions (H&I) panels, and participated in Bridging the Gap commitments. I was working full-time and finishing graduate school during all of this. What a ride!

At the Saturday night main meeting at the ACYPAA conference, the ACYPAA advisory council was going to announce which of the 11 California bid cities had been awarded the conference for 2010. The council was made up of young people who had all hosted the conference in the past; they were seen as a leadership body to a lot of us. Amid an enthusiastic crowd of 2,700 people screaming, "Where are we going?" our committee waited, holding hands and standing up on our chairs.

Then a member of the council walked up to the microphone with his cell phone, which had the song from our bid skit playing over the loud speakers! Our whole committee started jumping up and down, hugging and crying.

Being chosen to be custodians of AA's message for the young people of California for this year's ACYPAA both humbled us and overwhelmed us. God's touch was palpable.

We spent all year planning the conference. We are still fighting and crying and hugging, as happens in AA committees working toward a common goal with varied experiences. We looked for the best ways we could serve, and traveled all over doing outreach for the conference. California is a big state and there were a lot of young people to get the word out to.

I have to say, though, nothing satisfies me more than when I visit a meeting in a small desert town that knows nothing about ACYPAA. I get to share this message with a newcomer--who looks and talks an awful lot like I did in my early Midwest meetings, when I was out of touch and had no idea what God had in store for me down the road.

BY: KANSAS C. | OCEANSIDE, CALIF. Copyright © AA Grapevine, Inc., February 2010, Reprinted with permission.

## HAVE A SAFE AND SOBER HOLIDAY!!

**General Service Office, NY**  
PO 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

## September Celebrants

### Broward Men's

Angel M. ~ 3 yrs.  
Joe C. ~ 5 yrs.  
Justin ~ 4 yrs.

### Oakland Park

Wayne ~ 34 yrs.

### Joy of Sobriety

Randall L. ~ 12 yrs.

### Free and Easy

Thom F. ~ 46 yrs.

### Mountain Group

Lisa D. ~ 38 yrs.

### Riverside Group

Sheldon V. ~ 33 yrs.

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

Tim B. ~ 17 yrs.  
Chino ~ 19 yrs.  
Alan P. ~ 35 yrs.

### Into Action

Karen D. ~ 19 yrs.  
Patricia M. ~ 11 yrs.

### Rule 62

Frannie C. ~ 3 yrs.

### Sober Women of Parkland

Betsy N. ~ 9 yrs.

### Tamarac Group

Barry G. ~ 25 yrs.

### Friends of Joe

Jim N. ~ 42 yrs.  
Nadine ~ 11 yrs.  
Collette D. ~ 33 yrs.

### Happy Destiny

Melissa M. ~ 7 yrs.

### Women's Honesty

Jami F. ~ 8 yrs.  
Helen ~ 38 yrs.  
Michele B. ~ 14 yrs.  
Marissa ~ 10 yrs.

### Beyond Your Wildest Dreams

Aileen W. ~ 25 yrs.

### Hollywood Men's

Leon ~ 13 yrs.

### Pride 5:45

Lois O. ~ 45 yrs.

### Focus on Sobriety

Sally D. ~ 51 yrs.  
Jen L. ~ 11 yrs.  
Patty K. ~ 22 yrs.

### Just For Today

Carol B. ~ 30 yrs.  
Mike B. ~ 21 yrs.  
Eddie D. ~ 15 yrs.  
Nancy A. ~ 18 yrs.

**WOMEN'S HONESTY GROUP ~ 47 yrs.**

**SOBER TODAY CLUB ~ 8 yrs.**

### Other Notables

Marlene P. ~ 5 yrs.  
Scott W. ~ 27 yrs.  
Ed B. ~ 23 yrs.  
Peter H. ~ 23 yrs.  
Katia L. ~ 13 yrs.

### Don't Forget

Bob S. ~ 38 yrs.

### Dania After Work

Barbaree K. ~ 38 yrs.

### Downtown Dry Dock

Kathy R. ~ 14 yrs.  
Marlene A. ~ 14 yrs.  
Jessica ~ 7 yrs.  
Paul ~ 3 yrs.  
Mitch ~ 32 yrs.  
Walt ~ 37 yrs.

### Tuesday Night Step

Marty L. ~ 36 yrs.

### Let's Do Lunch Bunch

Michael ~ 2 yrs.  
Brett S. ~ 25 yrs.  
Steve ~ 32 yrs.  
Paul D. ~ 19 yrs.  
Carmen R. ~ 31 yrs.  
Darius ~ 6 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

**Saturday, September 12th  
10:00 AM**

using Zoom Technology  
[www.bcic-aa.com](http://www.bcic-aa.com)

**The next  
Intergroup Meeting  
will be held on Zoom**

ID - 958 4526 1018 PW - 335833

**Sunday, September 20th  
at 1:00 PM**



**August Celebrants** not previously mentioned

### Living in the Solution

Alison B. ~ 4 yrs.

### Men's Independence

Andy A. ~ 23 yrs.

### Noontime Sobriety

Dan L. ~ 14 yrs.

### Splinter Group

Lou P. ~ 3 yrs.





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

1. Do I still try to boss things in AA?
2. Do I resist formal aspects of AA because I fear them as authoritative?
3. Am I mature enough 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?

**TraditionsChecklist** © The AA Grapevine, Inc.



**Things we cannot change.....**



*Efraim C. and David F.*

*They will be missed.*

*May they Rest in Peace.*

### **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., Marlene A., Ernie F., HBeta, Brian H., Steven L., Robin S., Barbara S., Jenae R., Jerilynn D., Charmaine, 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, Kathy, Peggy, Tracy

**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, transfer with **ZELLE to help@aabroward.org** or

**DONATE NOW ON OUR WEBSITE USING PAYPAL**

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE from page 3: alienated, sponsorship, negotiate, demonstrate, leadership, delegated, palpable, outreach, satisfies, Intimidating, collective, otherwise.

**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 that they are holding meetings face-to-face. See website for times.

West Broward Club, **Davie**—Bottom Line Group, **Deerfield**—Women's Club, **Deerfield**—Sober Today Club, **Hollywood**  
 4th Dimension Club, **Hollywood**—Twelve Step House, **Ft. Lauderdale**—The Sunshine Cathedral, **Ft. Lauderdale**  
 Cokesbury United Methodist, **Margate**—441 Group, **Margate**—Solid Rock Church, **Oakland Park**  
 Unitarian Church, **Oakland Park**—Epworth United Methodist, **Pembroke Pines**—St. Benedict's Church, **Plantation**  
 101 Club, **Pompano Beach**—Pompano Beach Group, **Pompano Beach**—Unity Church, **Pompano Beach**  
 Our Place 2, **Tamarac**—Church by the Sea, **Ft. Lauderdale**—Underground Coffeehaus, **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.

A complete list of Local Zoom meetings is now available for download on the Intergroup website.  
[www.aabroward.org](http://www.aabroward.org)

**The Workshop Group** in Hollywood has moved from the Luther Memorial Lutheran Church to Fourth Dimension. Group meets on Sunday at 7 PM. Step or Concept each week.

**By the Book Beginners** which met at Christ Community Church in Pompano has moved to the Women's Club in Deerfield Beach. They now meet on Thursday, rather than Tuesday, still at 7:30 PM.

**Saturday Night Raw** is a NEW MEETING which meets outside on Fort Lauderdale Beach, 1100 Sea Breeze Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale Beach Park, south side, next to B Ocean Hotel. 8:30 PM.

**Lambda South Club** in Fort Lauderdale will be re-opening for physical meetings on September 8th.

57th Annual Intergroup Appreciation Banquet will be skipped due to Covid-19 and we will instead hold our

**58th Intergroup Appreciation Banquet on Saturday, April 24, 2021.**

All previously made arrangements will be carried forward. **Thank you for your continued support!**



## Upcoming Events

- Sept. 5-6 5th Annual Unity and Service Conference - VIRTUAL** from California, register online now, space limited: [unityandserviceconference.org](http://unityandserviceconference.org) Applying the concepts and traditions to your life.
- Sept. 4-6 34th Annual Tampa Bay Fall Round-up - VIRTUAL** from Tampa Bay Florida. Zoom ID # 867 0509 7962
- Sept. 12 District 9 SYS presents a Virtual Spaghetti Dinner** go to [www.district9aa.org](http://www.district9aa.org) for more info.
- Sept. 18 ICOAA2020 (National Intergroup Seminar)** will be **VIRTUAL** for the first time. This is the 35th Annual Seminar for Intergroups and Central Offices with AAWS and GV participation.
- Oct. 3 District 9 Archives is hosting a Virtual Long-Timer's event** by combining the Early Timer and Old Timer speakers into one program on Zoom. Go to [www.district9aa.org](http://www.district9aa.org) for more info.
- Oct. 9-11 Area 15 South Florida Quarterly Assembly** meeting on Zoom to include voting. Check [www.area15aa.org](http://www.area15aa.org) or speak to your GSR, ACM or DCM for more info.
- Oct. 25 45th Annual Intergroup Picnic** Snyder Park, Caldwell Pavillion, Fort Lauderdale. 11 AM - 4 PM, Food, music, fellowship, games, volleyball, raffles. \$8 in advance, \$10 at gate, kids under 12 eat free. 2 speakers after lunch.