



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

VOLUME 11
NOVEMBER 2020

Step Eleven - "Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for the knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out."

The Tedium and Terror She finds a way to connect with her Higher Power—even on Mondays

STEP ELEVEN: Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

A section from "A Vision For You" from our Big Book is often read at the end of our AA meeting. The words "abandon yourself to God" resonated for me today, and I pondered their meaning. As I learned early in my AA journey, a place to start is with a dictionary.

Abandon: "to give up with the intent of never again claiming a right or interest in." How do I do this? How do I give up myself with the intent of never again claiming a right or interest in? The Third and Eleventh Steps are my guideposts. In the Third Step, I begin the practice of offering myself to God to take me and to do what God wants with me. Fortunately, the Third Step Prayer also includes the removal of my difficulties. That's the part of the prayer I like best because, in the face of problems, my default position is run and hide, to take off in a full flight from reality. To pray for the removal of my difficulties gives me comfort that I can stay where I am and wait for the difficulties to be removed.

The Eleventh Step provides straightforward directions on how to abandon myself to God. All I need do is to pray for knowledge of God's will for me and the power to carry that out. Simple, right? It's easy to practice the Eleventh Step when I'm on day four of a two-week vacation in Hawaii walking along the beach. The decisions of the day are reduced to where to have breakfast and when to take a nap. OK God, got it, I'll let you decide.

But on a typical Monday morning as I contemplate a week of work, I am not inclined to pray simply. Then my anxious thoughts fill me with dread and my serenity is gone. My prayers become more like those of the wanderer in the desert looking for water. I implore God to let me win the lottery and be relieved of the tedium and terror of work. So far, those prayers for immediate wealth have not been answered.

(continued on page 4)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Tradition Eleven	2
Volunteer Opportunities	3
Anniversaries	5
Things We Cannot Change	6
I AM Responsible	7
Meeting Changes	8
Upcoming Events	8

Do you, or someone you know, NEED A BOOK?

Many books have recently been donated to the InterGroup office, and are available to you at no cost, while supplies last.

(Conference and non-conference approved)

Concept XI

The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants.

Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

Tradition Eleven “Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.”

Tagging and Posting

The more he used his thumbs, the more he learned about anonymity

I walked into my first AA meeting looking over my shoulder, hoping no one I knew would see me. In my work as a firefighter and paramedic I had treated alcoholics, and I thought they must just be weak or morally corrupt. All the while, I would get off a shift at 8:00 in the morning, start drinking at 9:00, and by 10:30 I could barely make it up the stairs.

Then my whole world crumbled. Because of my last drunk, I needed a lawyer. He directed me to AA, the very last place I wanted to go. I thought AA was a bunch of shriveled old men and women supporting each others' misery. But that first meeting was led by a wonderful young woman. The room was full of nice, successful people who had something I had not known for a very long time—serenity.

I was amazed. After a few short months, I was shouting from the mountaintop about what I had found. I heard the statement read at meetings that AA members have “the right to maintain their own anonymity at whatever level they wish.” But I assumed that sort of anonymity only applied to famous people.

As I got involved in the program, I was asked to attend a conference committee. So I launched a social media page and invited conference attendees to post photographs and stories. At one of our committee meetings, the group brought to my attention that this page could cause anonymity problems. But I adamantly supported the page. I argued that the General Service Conference had not made a determination on anonymity as it applied to digital social networks, not knowing that it actually had.

A man on the committee read the Long Form of Tradition Eleven: “Our names and pictures as AA members ought not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed.” I felt like I had been hit with a bucket of cold water. I took the page down and began doing research on anonymity. I saw that I had not understood its importance.

My sponsor helped me understand the humility and spiritual significance of the Traditions. I learned that Tradition Twelve tells us that while we have the right to maintain our personal anonymity at whatever level we wish, we also have the responsibility to protect the anonymity of fellow members.

Recently, I sat on the steering committee of a large convention. In the months leading up to the event, I noticed anonymity problems in my social media feed, which included a photograph of a half dozen people smiling for the camera with other people clearly visible in the background. The photo tagline read: “Having a great time at the AA picnic.” In another instance, a person had taken a clip of the AA website banner and “tagged” all of their AA friends.

None of the people who made these posts were being malicious. They had no idea they were doing anything wrong. Like me, they did not understand the significance of anonymity as it applies to social media. Many of us do not know that the 2013 General Service Conference found that “social media and all forms of public communications are implicit in the last phrase of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven, which reads: ‘... at the level of press, radio and films.’”

A young man called me recently, very concerned that anyone would discover his “secret” that he was drinking too much. If we are to thrive as a Fellowship, we must have a safe place for people to come. Everyone who approaches the doors of AA should know that we will do everything in our power to protect anonymity. That protection includes social media and other forms of digital media. When filming or taking pictures, please be mindful that people may object to appearing in your images.

We all need to remember that protecting anonymity is our responsibility. Even if we don't mind that others know we are in AA, announcing it to the world may not look like the “thankful contemplation” Tradition Twelve mentions.

—David P., *Newport News*, Va.

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Recovery Word Puzzle

DENTADO
NICESOSID
MEETLOCPANT
NIMPOCUG
BREDCULM
CLIPTIMI



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

NOONGRIH
FEEDNOCCIN
BEANSTRECL
NINESOSLEL
NICENECVOEN
STEERGYNOL



Volunteer Opportunities

Our first [Sober Camping Conference](#) will be in January 2021.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Join us for the next planning meeting

Thursday, November 19th at 6:30 PM on Zoom

ID—241 331 6306 PW—6Hzur4



Florida State Convention coming to Fort Lauderdale again in 2022!

Next planning meeting will be on Zoom but not until **JANUARY!**

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 for shipping or come by and shop.

SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER



(continued from page 1)

When I can remember my days of early sobriety, I am reminded of how the grace of God saved me. At that time, my little world was falling apart and I was consumed with fear. I asked God for help and found myself in a meeting of AA. It was there I discovered that I had a loving God in my life. It was there I discovered I was not alone. It was there I discovered the tools that led to a spiritual awakening.

And now, with time in recovery, I often forget the results I discovered when I abandoned myself to God with just a few days of sobriety. If God can keep me sober, then imagine what would happen if I prayed for knowledge of God's will for me and the power to carry that out.

Through the work of the Twelve Steps, I can now relax and take it easy and know that, just for today, I don't have to worry. God is with me and will show me the way.

— Michele C., Davis, CA

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End of the Rainbow

I attended my first steering committee meeting of my home group because AA was important to me. I was feeling responsible for the continuation and health of my group. Only six months had passed since my last drink. I knew that the reason I was sober was because these people had passed on to me the gift of sobriety. I couldn't bear to think what would happen without that gift.

I was surprised when the committee suggested I become secretary. Surely I didn't have sufficient sobriety for such a position. The committee assured me that because of my consistent attendance and record of sobriety I was qualified to hold the position. I was amazed that attendance and sobriety were the only qualifications required. I wondered if someone with more sobriety and AA experience shouldn't take the position.

In hindsight, fifteen years later, I feel good about the decision to serve and the motives for accepting the position. They were made with humility and gratitude. I was encouraged by the committee's confidence in my sobriety. I took that confidence to mean that I might be sober for a while. That was such a relief, for I had no confidence in myself. I began to feel like my sobriety had some stability. Becoming involved in group service gave me feelings of security and stability.

Service revealed some areas of my inventory that were in sore need of maintenance. Drinking wasn't my only shortcoming. I also possessed some character defects which, when given spotlight and audience, couldn't resist displaying their repertoire and range. Pride, fear, self-centeredness, self-righteousness, grandiosity, and arrogance all got their turns on the stage. My thinking got so twisted I came to the conclusion that I had done my duty to the group and could retire permanently from service.

(continued on page 6)

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

November Celebrants

Broward Men's

Jack P. ~ 50 yrs. (RIP)
John M. ~ 11 yrs.

Express Group

Larry C. ~ 39 yrs.
James ~ 9 yrs.
Joe T. ~ 9 yrs.
Mike ~ 6 yrs.
J.T. ~ 27 yrs.

Joy of Sobriety

Bill P. ~ 18 yrs.
Mark H. ~ 14 yrs.

Serenity Altogether

Bill N. ~ 46 yrs.

Y.A.N.A.

Marie H. ~ 5 yrs.

Sunshine Group

Mikey M. ~ 6 yrs.

Davie Women's

Jewel P. ~ 6 yrs.

Sober Sisters

Trish F. ~ 36 yrs.
Terri ~ 11 yrs.
Rachel ~ 18 yrs.

Oakland Park Group

Joel C. ~ 39 yrs.
Damien S. ~ 15 yrs.
Dan I. ~ 33 yrs.

Ft. Lauderdale

Women's

Susan ~ 15 yrs.

True Self Group

Larry M. ~ 17 yrs.
Bonnie B. ~ 39 yrs.
Bernie B. ~ 39 yrs.

Eleventh Step Group

Maurice C. ~ 21 yrs.

Spiritual Principles

Melani S. ~ 27 yrs.

Westside Men's

Armen Z. ~ 27 yrs.
Sean M. ~ 13 yrs.
Tim A. ~ 11 yrs.

Bayview Beginners

Natalia S. ~ 5 yrs.

TGIF

Jay G. ~ 24 yrs.

Focus on Sobriety

Barbara B. ~ 24 yrs.

Happy Destiny

Sue ~ 29 yrs.

Men in Recovery

Bill W. ~ 39 yrs.
Bob G. ~ 38 yrs.
Will S. ~ 11 yrs.

Stepping Out

John P. ~ 36 yrs.
Joe F. ~ 36 yrs.
Chrissy ~ 26 yrs.
Bob R. ~ 30 yrs.

Lunch Bunch

Jimmy Z. ~ 16 yrs.
Cliff ~ 27 yrs.
Jennifer ~ 9 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, November 14th
10:00 AM**

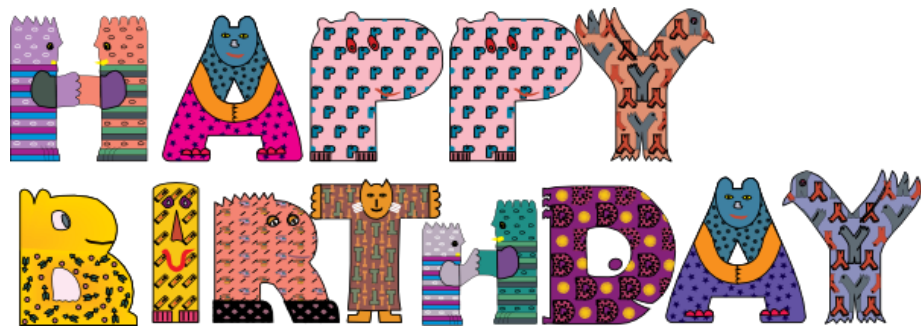
This will be a Hybrid meeting
www.bcic-aa.com

The next

Intergroup Meeting
will be held on Zoom

**Sunday, November 22nd
at 1:00 PM**

ID: 241 331 6306 PW: 6Hzur4



October Celebrants not previously mentioned

Meeting in Print

June C. ~ 48 yrs.

Focus on Sobriety

Ginger ~ 10 yrs.

Oakland Park Group

Drew B. ~ 14 yrs.
Mark B. ~ 30 yrs.
D.J. ~ 9 yrs.

By the Book Beginners

Randy D. ~ 32 yrs.

Sober Sisters

Adina ~ 4 yrs.
Tara ~ 8 yrs.

One Day at a Time

Barbara L. ~ 28 yrs.

Y.A.N.A.

Yolanda ~ 23 yrs.

Men in Recovery

Jack C. ~ 27 yrs.

Serenity Altogether

Bill H. ~ 4 yrs.

In the Solution

Sam C. ~ 8 yrs.



(Continued from page 4)

I didn't have a clue what was happening. I couldn't see that I'd been given the opportunity for sobriety, humility, and--most importantly--spiritual growth through AA service work. I was under the mistaken impression I had "given it back" to AA. I thought that I owed a debt to AA and once that debt was paid I was finished with my service obligation.

My spiritual condition worsened quickly in "retirement." Loneliness and despair returned. I went to meetings but became more and more introverted. I reached the point where I couldn't even talk at meetings. I felt deeply sorry for myself.

Then I was elected alternate GSR and in a very short time things began to look up. I began attending area assembly meetings. I began reading *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, the Service Manual, the Twelve Concepts for World Service, and *The Language of the Heart*.

My district formed a committee and did two workshops that made a huge difference in my program. The first was on the home group, the second was on sponsorship. AAs become very passionate when they talk about their groups and their sponsors. I felt like I'd found gold at the end of the rainbow. I was so inspired.

The delegates came to do Conference reports for us. We went to jails and hospitals. We went to state workshops, regional forums, and state conventions. After I completed my Ninth Step, AA began pouring Twelfth Step opportunities into my life at a rate that made my head spin.

I had another spiritual experience when the principles of the Traditions began to reveal themselves to me. I'd always wondered what the Twelfth Step was referring to when it said "practice these principles in all our affairs." That meant unity, service, singleness of purpose, institutional poverty, God-dependence, and humility, humility, and more humility. Those were the principles!

The Traditions are very similar to the Steps. They are ideals on which I reflect and meditate. My job is to grow in their application and spirit; I will never achieve perfection of these principles in my lifetime. And with that realization, I'm no longer a Traditions lawyer. I no longer accuse members or groups of violating or breaking Traditions. You can break a law or a rule, but the worst you can do to a Tradition is choose not to follow it.

I'm continually amazed when we choose the path of humility shown in the Traditions. The external and internal forces pushing us the other way seem insurmountable. So when I see an AA member instinctively or consciously deciding to follow a Tradition, I get a big smile inside and thank God for the priceless gift he has given to us drunks. We wouldn't possess these gifts without his Grace.

— Glenn S., Berrien Springs, MS

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**Your Intergroup office will remain open
on Wednesday, November 11th
Veteran's Day.**

**We will be closed for
Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 26th.
We will reopen on Friday, November 27th
for your shopping convenience.**

Things we cannot change.....



*Debbie B., David D.,
and Jack P.*

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: donated, decisions, contemplate, upcoming, crumbled, implicit, honoring, confidence, celebrants, loneliness, convenience, generosity

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 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.

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

NEW MEETING Serenity in the Park meets outside in Topeekeegee Yugnee (TY) Park, 3300 N Park Rd, Hollwood. Monday-Saturday at 5:30 PM. ORF

NEW MEETING Peace of Mind meeting at Royal Palm Christian Church, 9600 Royal Palm Blvd., Coral Springs on Mondays at 5:30 PM. OD.

Building a Foundation meetings which met in Oakland Park on various nights NO LONGER MEET.

NEW MEETING The Way Out Our Place 2, 8447 W. McNab Rd., Tamarac meets on Monday at 7:30 PM. OSTBG

NEW MEETING By the Book—Hollywood Sober Today Club, 1633 S 21st Ave., Hollywood meets on Tuesday at 7:30 PM. OLTD

The 441 Group which meets in Margate has changed the 10 PM meetings to 10:30 PM on Fri. and Sat. nights.

NEW MEETING Demon Slayer meets at Fellowship Recovery Center in Margate, 5400 W. Atlantic Blvd., Saturday 8:00 PM, OST

Redeeming Grace Women's which meets in Hollywood, has changed the time from 8:30 PM to 8 PM.

Dania After Work Group has changed the time of LIVE meetings ONLY to 5 PM. Virtual meetings still at 5:30 PM.

NEW MEETING The Outsiders Gore Betz Park in Ft. Lauderdale, 1604 SW 9th Ave., Friday 8:30 PM, OD

NEW MEETING Serenity in the Park Southwest Ranches Equestrian Park, 5840 SW 148 Ave. meets 7 days a week at 5 PM.

NEW MEETING Nuts and Bolts meets at Sober Today Club, 1633 S. 21 Ave., Hollywood, Friday 7 PM, OD

A complete list of Local Zoom meetings is now available for download on the Intergroup website.
www.aabroward.org / There is a Hybrid designation for meetings that meet live and on zoom.

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.

LOCATIONS THAT CURRENTLY MEET IN PERSON - SEPARATED BY CITY

Dania: Masonic Lodge **Davie:** West Broward Club, Stirling Room **Deerfield:** Women's Club, Bottom Line

Coral Springs: Royal Palm Christian Church **Hollywood:** Fourth Dimension Club, Sober Today Club

Ft. Lauderdale: Lambda South Club, Twelve Step House, Sunshine Cathedral, Church by the Sea, Underground Coffeehaus, The Sanctuary

Margate: 441 Group, Cokesbury Methodist, Fellowship RCO **Oakland Park:** Solid Rock Church, Unitarian Church

Pembroke Pines: Epworth United Methodist Church **Plantation:** St. Benedict's Episcopal Church

Pompano Beach: 101 Club, Pompano Beach Group, Unity Church **Tamarac:** Our Place 2

Upcoming Events

Dec. 12 AA's Got Talent, Holiday Edition Another virtual evening full of talent, fun and fellowship with a holiday theme. \$10 for tickets through PayPal or calling the Intergroup office. 50/50 Raffle, too. All tickets virtual. Tickets must be purchased by December 9th—don't delay!