



SUITE 404

BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.

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VOLUME 2
FEBRUARY 2021

Step 2 —*“Came to believe a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.”*

True North

How an old-timer found his HP on the high seas

I got sober on September 1, 1956, when I was 24 years old. I still attend the same meeting where I started, the Empire Way Group in Seattle. There are two major differences from that time to now: the group has grown tenfold, and I moved up from the back of the room to the front row in order not to miss the experience, strength and hope shared by our wonderful younger members.

Often, members ask me if I ever met Bill W. I tell them yes. I first met him in 1964, when I visited GSO and Nell Wing asked me if I wanted to meet him. Before I could answer, she escorted me back to his office. I was also with Bill in Toronto in 1965. In 1967, I was a Panel 17 delegate and spent a week with him at the Conference. At the 1968 Conference, Bill W., the delegate from Eastern Massachusetts, May C., the trustee from Eastern Canada, Rollie D., and I were speakers at the opening dinner.

Bill talked about the Traditions when he said, “These traditions are not fixed absolutely. There may be room for improvement. However, they should not be lightly cast aside, they bear on our unity, survival and growth under God’s grace. There is a love among us that passes all understanding and that will sustain us through all the trials that lie ahead, no matter how formidable.”

Bill had suggested that we read the Sermon on the Mount. I did and learned about a loving God. My father had been a hopeless alcoholic and died alone in a hotel room on skid row. A neighbor couple and I were the only three persons present at his funeral. No other friends, no relatives. But I never doubted that my father loved me, so when I was saying the “Our Father” at the end of meetings, it just seemed plausible that God loved

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Your Intergroup bookstore
will remain open on
Monday, February 15th
1-6 PM
(President’s Day observed)



Concept II

The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.

Tradition Two — “For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern.”

The Rub

I bristled a bit at a recent district meeting where a lively discussion took place on the subject of identification. "Let's find out what AA says--we'll call New York," said one person. Why is it that so many members often think of "New York" as the ultimate authority? (My service sponsor exhorted me to never use the term "New York" when referring to the General Service Office--which just happens to be located in New York City. She taught me well; I still cringe every time I hear the expression.)

Up until 1955 or so, GSO was called "Headquarters" by none other than Bill W. himself, who wrote in *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* that "you might think AA's headquarters in New York would be an exception. Surely, the people there would have to have some authority. But long ago, trustees and staff members alike found they could do no more than make suggestions, and very mild ones at that." Bill repeatedly stressed that "Headquarters" was not the boss--the groups were--and still are. Problem is, they don't know it.

Why do we alcoholics, who don't like anyone telling us what to do, persist on asking an AA entity to tell us what to do? We don't like rules, regulations, or mandates (for ourselves) but sometimes we want a rule or two to enforce on someone else and justify our own position?

In his September 1945 Grapevine article titled " 'Rules' Dangerous but Unity Vital" (reprinted in *Language of the Heart*), Bill W. writes that "rules and regulations seem to be little good for us. . . . Were we to proceed by rules, somebody would have to make them and, more difficult still, somebody would have to enforce them." He adds that in AA "*human authority*, be it ever so impartial or benign, seldom works long or well in our affairs."

Aye, there's the rub!--human authority. We resisted it then and still do today because we've come to believe in an ultimate authority as expressed in our group conscience. So, if I want to exercise some authority in AA, I can join a home group and take part in the group's conscience.

And if I still feel like slinging some weight around, I take a close look at the "short form" of Tradition Two which contains the addendum, "Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." This, in itself, is another rude awakening.

— L.C., Pittsburgh, PA

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Suite 404 is a monthly publication of Broward County Intergroup, Inc. (BCI).
The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of BCI or AA as a whole.
We welcome your stories, news and comments. The deadline for submission is the 15th of each month.
Material may be edited for space and content and cannot be returned.
Please send your submissions to help@aabroward.org.

(continued from page 1)

me too.

After I had been sober a number of years, as an avocation, I became a Coast Guard licensed charter boat captain in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Washington. My vessel didn't have a GPS or radar, but it did have a compass. I learned about the true north and magnetic north, and a lot of other things about the compass. There is a place up near the North Pole, I don't know where, from which I can find my bearings and find directions. An incredible energy emanates from that place and it travels all over the world. I've experienced it, I've used it and it has brought me safely through rough water, fog and storms.

I can't see God or touch God any more than I can see or touch that incredible energy coming to my compass. But all these years after Bill talked about and wrote about God in Step Seven in the "Twelve and Twelve" and so many other places, I can relate to his power and energy flowing through me. My group has provided me with power and energy, and my sponsor has provided the same. Equally important, God, as I understand him, has provided the power, the energy, the love and sense of direction similar to that of the compass in the boat. It was there all along. Like the compass, I can take advantage of it or not. The choice is mine.

— Ralph B., Seattle, WA

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Let's Celebrate Love!



Happy Valentine's Day!

Tradition Two Checklist

- 1. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?*
- 2. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibility?*
- 3. Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?*
- 4. Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?*
- 5. Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?*
- 6. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?*

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Bridging The Gap

877.207.2242

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BCIC

P.O. Box 22701
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Area 15 General Service

Treasurer, P.O. Box 311
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

District 9 General Service

P.O. Box 100126
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310

Recovery Word Puzzle

DUGSETSEG
KRASSEEP
HARTTYIOU
TEERSIPSND
INPATCULOB
TACMENGI



Unscramble the letters. Answers to puzzle can be found on page 7. Words for this puzzle have been used somewhere else in this edition of Suite 404.

KPPUCI
AGELGUNA
TEARSNEBLC
SEGYTRINEO
SCRAHEE
TOVINANITI

The 65th Florida State Convention

will be hosted by District 9 at

**Ft. Lauderdale's Beautiful
Harbor Beach Marriott Resort & Spa**

August 3-7, 2022



*A lot of planning is required to pull this off so go get involved...
lots of great opportunities for service!*

Some Committees of Interest: Registration, Hospitality, Transportation, Golf, Greeters, Security, Merchandise, LGBT, Archives, Alanon, Grapevine, Program, Decorations, Accessibilities, Graphics

NEXT PLANNING MEETING February 20th at 9 AM on Zoom

Meeting ID: 882 8429 1768 ~~~~~ Passcode: FSC2022

Future planning meeting Dates:

Saturday, March 20th

Saturday, April 24th

Saturday, May 22nd

Saturday, June 19th

Saturday, July 24th

For more information contact Karen V., Convention Chair at 954.554.0346 or at Chair2022FSC@gmail.com



The bookstore is still open only on a limited schedule,
Mon-Fri 1-6 PM and masks must be worn.

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

We accept cash, checks or credit cards .

SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER



A.A. Birthdays

February Celebrants

Brothers All Living Life Sober (Balls)

Carlos R. ~ 28 yrs.

Free To Be

Bob M. ~ 8 yrs.

Into Action

Beth D. ~ 38 yrs.

Dania After Work

Sherri D. ~ 11 yrs.

Cathi D. ~ 3 yrs.

Tamarac Group

Anne B. ~ 15 yrs.

Russian Alcoholics

Dmitriy T. ~ 5 yrs.

Women's Honesty

Catherine P. ~ 19 yrs.

Peggy ~ 48 yrs.

Coral Springs As Bill Sees It

Milinda B. ~ 15 yrs.

Let's Do Lunch

Bunch

Duayne K. ~ 15 yrs.

Robert S. ~ 39 yrs.

Daniel F. ~ 14 yrs.

Jim A. ~ 19 yrs.

Robert A. ~ 31 yrs.

Dermot ~ 45 yrs.

Oakland Park

Sandy P. ~ 50 yrs.

Pete B. ~ 33 yrs.

Jerry N. ~ 19 yrs.

Mountain Group

Kathy L. ~ 39 yrs.

Mike J. ~ 35 yrs.

Women's

Noontime Boost

Priscilla M. ~ 19 yrs.

Came to Believe

Laura M. ~ 17 yrs.

Westside Men's

Greg G. ~ 13 yrs.

Happy Bob ~ 18 yrs.

Don't Forget

Jay L. ~ 40 yrs.

Express Group

Ashley J. ~ 11 yrs.

Reggie J. ~ 11 yrs.

Diana P. ~ 8 yrs.

Annie G. ~ 33 yrs.

No. Lauderdale

Back to Basics

Victor T. ~ 20 yrs.

Melrose Park

George G. ~ 14 yrs.

New Life Group

Rod ~ 4 yrs.

Bob D. ~ 13 yrs.

East Naples Men's

Donald M. ~ 20 yrs.

Richard P. ~ 28 yrs.

Howard M. ~ 9 yrs.

Serenity Altogether

Ernie F. ~ 34 yrs.

Mike L. ~ 43 yrs.

Pompano Beach

Susan ~ 10 yrs.

Early Risers

Victoria L. ~ 10 yrs.

Easier Softer Way

Richard W. ~ 5 yrs.

Chris W. ~ 6 yrs.

Saturday Morning Awareness

Ryan T. ~ 7 yrs.

Ann P. ~ 29 yrs.

Jon J. ~ 39 yrs.

Living in the Solution

Giselle ~ 1 yr.

Elena ~ 11 yrs.

Each Day a New Beginning ~ 18 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,
STAY SOBER &
STAY HEALTHY
PLEASE**



BCIC

Broward County Institutions Committee will hold their next meeting on

**Saturday, February 13th
10:00 AM**

Twelve Step House,
205 SW 23rd St., Ft. Lauderdale
AND on Zoom

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

**Sunday, February 21st
1:00 PM**

Zoom ID 241 331 6306 PW 6Hzur4



January Celebrants.....

(not previously noted)

Other Notables

Mary S. ~ 39 yrs.

Donna T. ~ 27 yrs.

Davie Women's

Erika T. ~ 7 yrs.

Tamarac Group

Cassie F. ~ 1 yrs.

Sober Sisters

Alexis R. ~ 1 yr.

Plantation Happy Hour

Mark B. ~ 1 yr.

Serenity Altogether

Kelly ~ 3 yrs.

No. Lauderdale Back to Basics

Bart C. ~ 12 yrs.

Downtown Dry Dock

Larry M. ~ 9 yrs.

Deerfield Beach

Greg B. ~ 5 yrs.

Sunlight of the Spirit

Trish R. ~ 4 yrs.

Sunday AM Together

Mike O. ~ 30 yrs.

Joann P. ~ 10 yrs.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF EBBY

In his seventieth year, and on the twenty-first of March, my friend and sponsor Ebby passed beyond our sight and hearing.

On a chill November afternoon in 1934 it was Ebby who had brought me the message that saved my life. Still more importantly, he was the bearer of the grace and of the principles that shortly afterward led to my spiritual awakening. This was truly a call to new life in the spirit. It was the kind of rebirth that has since become the most precious possession of each and all of us.

As I looked upon him where he lay in perfect repose, I was stirred by poignant memories of all the years I had known and loved him.

There were recollections of those joyous days in a Vermont boarding school. After the war years we were sometimes together, then drinking of course. Alcohol, we thought, was the solvent for all difficulties, a veritable elixir for good living.

Then there was that absurd episode of 1929. Ebby and I were on an all-night spree in Albany. Suddenly we remembered that a new airfield had been constructed in Vermont, on a pasture near my own home town. The opening day was close at hand. Then came the intoxicating thought: If only we could hire a plane we'd beat the opening by several days, thus making aviation history ourselves! Forthwith, Ebby routed a pilot friend out of bed, and for a stiff price we engaged him and his small craft. We sent the town father a wire announcing the time of our arrival. In mid-morning, we took to the air, greatly elated--and very tight.

Somehow our rather tipsy pilot set us down on the field. A large crowd, including the village band and a welcoming committee, lustily cheered his feat. The pilot then deplaned. But nothing else happened, nothing at all. The onlookers stood in puzzled silence. Where were Ebby and Bill? Then the horrible discovery was made--we were both slumped in the rear cockpit of the plane, completely passed out! Kind friends lifted us down and stood us upon the ground. Whereupon we history-makers fell flat on our faces. Ignominiously, we had to be carted away. The fiasco could not have been more appalling. We spent the next day shakily writing apologies.

Over the following five years, I seldom saw Ebby. But of course our drinking went on and on. In late 1934 I got a terrific jolt when I learned that Ebby was about to be locked up, this time in a state mental hospital.

Following a series of mad sprees, he had run his father's new Packard off the road and into the side of a dwelling, smashing right into its kitchen, and just missing a terrified housewife. Thinking to ease this rather awkward situation, Ebby summoned his brightest smile and said, "Well, my dear, how about a cup of coffee?"

Of course Ebby's lighthearted humor was quite lost on everyone concerned. Their patience worn thin, the town fathers yanked him into court. To all appearances, Ebby's final destination was the insane asylum. To me, this marked the end of the line for us both. Only a short time before, my physician, Dr. Silkworth, had felt obliged to tell Lois there was no hope of my recovery; that I, too, would have to be confined, else risk insanity or death.

But Providence would have it otherwise. It was presently learned that Ebby had been paroled into the custody of friends who (for the time being) had achieved their sobriety in the Oxford Groups. They brought Ebby to New York where he fell under the benign influence of AA's great friend-to-be, Dr. Sam Shoemaker, the rector of Calvary Episcopal Church. Much affected by Sam and the "O.G.," Ebby promptly sobered up. Hearing of my serious condition, he had straight-way come to our house in Brooklyn.

As I continued to recollect, the vision of Ebby looking at me across our kitchen table became wonderfully vivid. As most AAs know, he spoke to me of the release from hopelessness that had come to him (through the Oxford Groups) as the result of self-survey, restitution, outgoing helpfulness to others, and prayer. In short, he was proposing the attitudes and principles that I used later in developing AA's Twelve Steps to recovery.

It had happened. One alcoholic had effectively carried the message to another. Ebby had been enabled to bring me the gift of grace because he could reach me at depth through the language of the heart. He had pushed ajar that great gate through which all in AA have since passed to find their freedom under God.

—Bill W.

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Things we cannot change...

Ray S., Kass C. and James Mc.

They will be missed. May they rest in peace.



Faithful Fivers are fellow 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.

(Easy to set up with your bank or through PayPal)

Thank you to our Faithful Fivers and all our Contributors! You are all so appreciated!

Tom J	James H.	Brian H.	Al G.	Fred L.	Cassandre D.	Kerry W.	Ed H.	Gina B.
Liz J	Gerry B.	Steven L.	Glen P.	Laura E.	Drew B.	Marsha M.	Thomas J.	Marcy B.
Gregory C.	Robert H.	Barbara S.	Richard M.	Janine C.	Valerie J.	Maggie H.	Sandy R.	Wilma D.
Suzanne J.	Don W.	Jenae R.	Ali S.	Sheila C.	Giselle P.	Jim S.	Gayle K.	Anne B.
Bob H.	Denise J.	Jerilynn D.	Erich N.	Marilyn M.	Laurel	Javier C.	Phyllis P.	Susan O.
Anonmous	Drew B.	Charmaine	Russell S.	Elizabeth C.	Tony A.	John B.	Marcy H.	Lorna V.
Elizabeth B.	David S.	Michael T.	Nicolle N.	Chester W.	Julie L.	Arthur M.	Douglas R.	Walter B.
Ron J.	David J.	Alexander W.	Kathy	Larry C.	Amanda T.	Debra B.	Sally S.	Denis H.
Lois O.	Bonnie T.	Gary S.	Peggy D.	Robert K.	Kathryn R.	Kerry F.	Kathleen R.	George D.
Jennifer S.	Anonymous	Dave J.	Peggy G.	Jackie P.	Carla B.	Nick B.	Phillip N.	Kenneth K.
Pat R.	Michael E.	Patrick M.	Tracy S.	Dan D.	Corinne S.	Heidi A.	Charles W.	Stephen U.
Beth D.	Stephen W.	Patrick C.	Carmen D.	Robert B.	Jennifer E.	Craig S.	Emily P.	Steven S.
Craig G.	Marlene A.	Joe G.	Sharon G.	Gil W.	Michael P.	Paul A.	Christine Y.	Dianne N.
Vickie T.	Ernie F.	Nancy S.	Jeff H.	Nancy M.	Nancy N.	Robert M.	Barbaree K.	Justine H.
Howie K.	HBeta	Mary S.	Paul	Trish F.	E - Walter	Sam B.	Karen L.	Laurey T.
Sheldon V.	Ronald B.	Allison B.	Victoria M.	Robert A.	George O.	Dan M.	Michael B.	Adie M.
Stephen H.	Dennis G.							

Answers from page 4: suggested, speakers, authority, presidents, publication, magnetic, pickup, language, celebrants, generosity, reaches, invitation

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

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.

The office purchases and sells all conference-approved books and literature to groups throughout Broward County.

MEETING CHANGES

Sunday

NEW MEETING Made a Decision is now meeting at 9:30 AM at Southwest Ranches Equestrian Park, 5840 SW 148th Avenue. OBG.

Demon Slayer Group now temporarily meets at the BB&T Bldg. in Lauderhill, 1771 N SR-7 at 7 PM. OBB.

Monday

Focus on Sobriety which met at Our Place Two in Tamarac NO LONGER MEETS at that location.

Lighthouse Point Group is meeting at Galuppi's—Back Room, 1103 N Federal Hwy., Pompano, 6:30 PM. OD.

Tuesday

NEW MEETING Sober Friends (Chevreh) meets at 6:30 PM at Chabad of Nova, 8280 Griffin Road, Davie.

ORF

Pompano Young People which met on 18th Terrace in Pompano NO LONGER MEETS at that location.

Coconut Creek Group now meets at the 441 Group in Margate at 7 PM. OBG

Thursday

Rock Group which met on 18th Terrace in Pompano NO LONGER MEETS at that location.

NEW MEETING Seniors in Sobriety meets at the Medical & Dental Bldg., 2029 N University Dr., Coral Springs 10 AM. ORF

Meeting in Print which met at Our Place Two in Tamarac NO LONGER MEETS at that location.

Daily

Serenity in the Park which meets in Southwest Ranches has changed the time to 4:45 PM.

ATTENDING GROUPS IN PERSON

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.

Please practice Love and Tolerance and remember that we are all affected by this pandemic.



**DO YOU WANT YOUR ONLINE MEETING TO
SHOW UP ON THE MEETING GUIDE APP
WITH ONE-TOUCH ENTRY?**

Send an invitation link to Help@aabroward.org

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Feb. 13 | Annual Chili Cook-off Competition , 12:00 PM meeting, 1:30 PM Chili, Bottom Line Group in Deerfield, 823 SE 8th Avenue, Ste. 100. Donation \$2.00. Food and Fellowship |
| Feb. 18-21 | 57th International Women's Conference , held in Charlotte, NC will be virtual this year. Register on-line at: www.internationalwomensconference.org . |
| Mar. 6 | District 9 General Service Spring Fling , check District website for details www.District9aa.org to see if live or virtual as March approaches |