



SUITE 404

BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.

3317 NW 10th Terrace, Suite 404, Oakland Park, FL 33309
Phone 954-462-0265, 954-462-7202; www.aabroward.org

Email: help@aabroward.org

VOLUME 3
MARCH 2021

Step 3 - "Made a decision to turn our will and our life over to the care of God as we understood Him."

I Kissed My Baby Goodbye

A mother goes to jail at nine months sober, yet finds a beautiful way to get through it

I was nine months and one day sober when I was sentenced to two years in prison for my fourth DUI. I was 29 years old, married, and the mama of a redheaded baby boy. I thought my life was over. But I had yet to find out what old-timers already know: Happiness is in the journey, not the destination.

On Nov. 9, 2011, I got sober for what I hope to be the final time. I'd been trying to get and stay sober since I was 22, but the only thing that I'd done perfectly over the years was to return to AA every time I fell flat on my face. I was doing well for a while: I was sober, married, working fulltime, and had a baby. Life got good and I got comfortable. I forgot where I came from; I forgot how bad it would get once I picked up that first drink. Gradually, I stopped doing all of the things that were keeping me sober, and I started drinking again.

I'd been going to court twice a month after I got sober again and I lived in constant fear. Not knowing what to do, I went to see my sponsor. She told me to pray to have God's will work in my life. That was not the answer I wanted to hear! I was facing some serious jail time, and that was the best she could tell me? But I did it anyway. I was angry when I was sentenced to two years in jail.

I called up my sponsor, crying and yelling, and she told me I was at a turning point in my sobriety: Either God is everything, or he is nothing. She added that I had to accept that either he has a plan for me (and it's far greater than anything I could ever imagine) or he doesn't. What was it going to be? I was desperate. I was out of ideas, and I didn't know what else to do, so I decided to trust and turn my will and my life over to God.

I kissed my husband and my baby goodbye, and I went to serve my time. I served 363 days in the county jail, and I was never alone because I had God and the people of Alcoholics Anonymous with me every step of the way.

Leaving my husband and my baby was the hardest thing that I've ever had to do, but I had to clean up the wreckage of my past before I could be

Continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Tradition Three	2
Word Puzzle	4
Committee Updates	4
Monthly Meetings	5
Anniversaries	5
Meeting Changes	8
Upcoming Events	8



Concept III

To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. — the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional "Right of Decision."

Tradition Three - "The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking."

Tasting Is Not Drinking

An AA has a reminder of the cunning nature of alcoholism while on a trip with his wife

A few years ago, my wife and I were in Galena, Ill. for a weekend. Galena is a kind of tourist town with bed and breakfasts, motels, trendy stores and antique shops. There is also a winery retail store. When I was drinking, I seldom drank wine. It was one of the few things I did not drink.

While we were there, my wife wanted to go to the winery to get some wine for her brothers and sisters. I said OK since I never drank it anyway.

Now, I had always heard that there would be times in every alcoholic's life during which he would be powerless over the first drink. I always thought that was meant for other people. I have a good program. I work the Steps, go to meetings, and pray. It won't happen to me, I figured. Until I got to Galena.

We went into the wine shop at 11 a.m. The store was filled with bottles of wine and all the accessories: decanters, cork screws, wine racks. There was a bar with about four or five people sitting at it, sampling wines.

A guy behind the bar was talking about the fruitiness and bouquet of various wines. The reality was that they were drinking at 11 a.m. for free.

I felt myself being drawn to the bar like a magnet, and for a brief moment I thought, "Tasting is not drinking." It would be OK. I was frozen, afraid to move. I started sweating and was really scared. I really wanted to go over and drink the wine. I took a few deep breaths, and asked the man upstairs to get me out of there.

I walked over to my wife and told her that I could not stay there. I went outside and sat on the front step. It was about October, about 40 degrees and windy. I sat there for 20 minutes and thanked my higher power for getting me out of there.

If I had stepped the other way, I probably wouldn't be here now. At that moment, I was truly powerless over the first drink.

One of the old timers who goes to the same meetings as I do, says that the AA program is like insurance. On that day in Galena, I used my insurance.

— Paul K., Bolingbrook, IL

Copyright © AA Grapevine, Inc., February 1998, Reprinted with permission.

For each petal on the
shamrock
This brings a wish your way
Good health, good **LUCK**
& happiness
For today and every day.



Irish Blessing

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. The deadline for submission is the 15th of each month. Material may be edited for space and content. We welcome your stories, news and comments. Please send your submissions to help@aabroward.org.

(continued from page 1)

in the present. My sponsor told me that there were people in jail that I could help, and I thought she was crazy! But God is clever, and he placed in my path a girl who was three days sober and was filled with fear. In jail, I had the honor and privilege of taking her through the Steps. After she went home, there was another girl who needed help. So again I was able to give back what had been so freely given to me—in the last place that I could ever have expected. That was an incredible gift.

Today I know that God has a plan for me, and it's far greater than anything I could've ever imagined. If going to jail for a year was what it took for me to get sober, then I'll take it. And if I can help even just one woman with my experience, then it has all been worth it. I have 26 months sober today, and that has nothing to do with me. That's God working. Today my life is beautiful, and I get to be a part of it—because I'm sober.

— Amber M., Roseville, CA

Copyright © AA Grapevine, Inc., October 2014, Reprinted with permission.

This Hurts Us More Than It Hurts You

A disruptive member forces a group to grow

This hurts us more than it hurts you." Many of us remember something like this being said when we were children and about to get spanked. Perhaps we have even said it to our kids when they needed punishment. It was never more meaningful to me, however, than when our AA group had to take action against a member of our Fellowship.

Our "Problem Member" (PM) came to his first meeting with our Twelve Step Study group about three years ago. He was barely able to speak, with long pauses between words, and referred to written notes. He shared that he had been diagnosed at a VA hospital as having chronic alcohol dependency and organic brain syndrome. Little did we realize at that time the difficulty the latter disease would cause our AA group.

PM gradually improved over the ensuing months and began to grasp the essentials of the Twelve Steps. He prepared voluminous notes on each Step, and after we read the Step at meetings and got to the sharing portion, he would read what he had written. This would go on for much of the remaining time of the meeting. We were largely happy about his mental improvement and worked on our patience, tolerance, acceptance, and love of fellow to let him share to the best of his ability. Divisions arose, however, among the members as others wanted to share and there was insufficient time. Some members began fussing with the meeting leader. This unpleasantness began to ruin the atmosphere and we started a series of "bummed-out" meetings. Some members declined to lead meetings; others left for more harmonious groups. Those who stayed remained divided between those who wanted to let PM speak as long as he wanted and those who wanted to cut him off.

We had a group conscience about the problem and voted to limit sharing to five minutes per person. We read this group rule at the beginning of each meeting, and for about a year and a half everyone, including PM, pretty much adhered to it.

Then, six months ago, PM wouldn't stop sharing when the leader noted his time was up. He argued with the leader. He began taking a second five-minute session. Sometimes, he even went for a third. Many members spoke to him individually and collectively. The former DCM spoke to him for four hours one night about problems with his sharing, but he continued talking past the limit. Membership dwindled, arguments ensued. Those of us who stayed didn't get much out of a meeting with members shouting at PM and at each other.

(continued on page 6)

General Service Office, NY

P.O. 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 10 Terrace, Ste. 404
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309
954.462.0265

BCIC

P.O. Box 22701
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335

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

A.A. Birthdays

March Celebrants

Sober Sisters

Sharon G. ~ 35 yrs.
Denise R. ~ 21 yrs.
Attracta ~ 2 yr.

5:45 Happy Hour

Dana ~ 26 yr.
Rick ~ 29 yrs.

Serenity Altogether

Bob H. ~ 30 yrs.
David J. ~ 38 yrs.

Davie Women's Group

~ 41 yrs.

East Naples Men's

Gary G. ~ 27 yrs.
Jerry T. ~ 20 yrs.
Mike R. ~ 16 yrs.
Tony C. ~ 21 yrs.
Jim H. ~ 37 yrs.

Coral Ridge Group

Tracie D. ~ 12 yrs.

One Day at a Time

Roger S. ~ 25 yrs.

Friends of Pat C.

Debbie O. ~ 6 yrs.
Lauren C. ~ 10 yrs.
Peggy R. ~ 25 yrs.

By the Book Beginners

Patrick R. ~ 30 yrs.
Don G. ~ 13 yrs.

Men's Independence

Jim W. ~ 32 yrs.
Matthew I. ~ 17 yrs.
Terrence W. ~ 12 yrs.
Adam O. ~ 8 yrs.

Margate Group

Janet M. ~ 37 yrs.

Tough Love

Patrick M ~ 10 yrs.

Express Group

Diane ~ 9 yrs.
Kristin ~ 5 yrs.
Tyi ~ 7 yrs.
Tom M. ~ 31 yrs.

Women's Step Into Sobriety

Betsy B. ~ 12 yrs.
Debbie D. ~ 17 yrs.

Entirely Ready

Pat W. ~ 20 yrs.

Sobriety on Two

Laura B. ~ 25 yrs.

Meeting in Print

April ~ 33 yrs.
Art ~ 38 yrs.

Saturday Morning Awareness

Lisa M. ~ 14 yrs.

Thursday Night Study

Philip S. ~ 14 yrs.

Let's Study the Book

Marilyn M. ~ 9 yrs.

Sober Today

Bill D. ~ 36 yrs.

Oakland Park

Fred S. ~ 56 yrs.
Ken P. ~ 14 yrs.

Rule 62

Marge M. ~ 31 yrs.

Friends of Ralph C.

Chris ~ 38 yrs.

Women's Honesty

Maria M. ~ 10 yrs.
Erica C. ~ 33 yrs.
Elizabeth P. ~ 36 yrs.
Deana ~ 8 yrs.

Coral Ridge Group

51 yrs.

We Came To Stay

Cheryl L. ~ 26 yrs.

Mountain Group

Sarah O. ~ 30 yrs.

Splinter Group

Elizabeth C. ~ 4 yrs.

Let's Do Lunch Bunch

Joe G. ~ 30 yrs.
Richard B. ~ 9 yrs.

Surrender is Freedom

Ellen M. ~ 30 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, March 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, March 21st
1:00 PM**

Zoom ID 241 331 6306 PW 6Hzur4



February Celebrants..... (not previously noted)

Thursday Night Study Group

Brian H. ~ 33 yrs.

Dania After Work

Gary C. ~ 18 yrs.

Surrender is Freedom

Sheryl F. ~ 20 yrs.

Recovery Word Puzzle

CULPNIBTOIA
CHORSKMA
MUSTEARNG
DYRLUGALA
NICERASUN
FLATIEBUU



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.

ROYJUEEN
PHISNAPSE
NOTENINCVO
WRASNSE
NOGTECITN
ROCTNEELA

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 March 20th at 9 AM on Zoom

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

Future planning meeting Dates:

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



(continued from page 3)

Another group conscience. PM attended. We decided to enforce the five-minute rule by making violators "silent members" for a period of four meetings (this was PM's suggestion). We also added rules that prohibited arguing with the leader and second sharing during the same meeting. Members who broke the rules would get an official warning and finally be expelled.

This was the part with which we had the hardest time. It ran against everything we had ever thought about AA being all-inclusive, and there was the obvious concern about the Third Tradition. Was tolerance, carried to an extreme, ever a fault?

PM initially agreed to the new rules and then changed his mind. As you may imagine, it didn't work. PM kept talking. He now thought his sharing was special, that we needed to hear it, and that he was "speaking for God." Newcomers would come to one boring and monotonous meeting, see AAs shouting at PM and one another, and not come back. Most felt that PM was harming those still suffering from alcoholism by souring them on AA. We asked PM to leave and he refused.

We prayed to our Higher Power for guidance. Few organizations in the world are more tolerant than AA. But we had a conflict between Tradition Three, where the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking, and Tradition One, where the group survival comes before an individual's will. We consulted the district for advice (no matter what the group conscience decides, some members will not be happy) and got General Services Office counseling (the AA group is the authority, we are on the right track). We read (the groups are self-cleansing). We checked with community resources, the AA archivist, a magistrate and desk sergeant, lawyers and police officers. But mostly, we prayed.

PM continued to talk and talk. After another group conscience, the only thing left was expulsion. Legal advice was to not touch him, because that constituted assault.

The police were called to a "meeting of citizens" (so as to not involve the AA name) where there was a problem with a participant who violated speaking rules, was asked to leave, and refused. Because our group makes a contribution in the form of rent, we are the tenants of the hall for that time once a week and can decide who is an unwelcome trespasser. The police were quiet and professional as they entered our open meeting and escorted PM out. They warned him that his return to the meeting would constitute criminal trespass.

We hated that it came to that, but all save a couple of members saw it as an act to save the group, and to continue attracting those who still suffered. It didn't seem to bother PM nearly as much as it bothered us. We grew from the experience. We learned more about the Twelve Traditions of AA. Our membership is rebounding. We certainly gained a new appreciation of the great feeling one gets from meeting where all can share equally. And we learned that God may speak to the group through the group conscience.

—Anonymous, Norfolk, VA

Copyright © AA Grapevine, Inc., April 2006, Reprinted with permission.



Things we cannot change...

Sally S. and Lauren

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: publication, shamrock, arguments, gradually, insurance, beautiful, journey, happiness, convention, answers, contingent, tolerance

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

Coral Springs Men's Group which meets at New Dawn Community Church in Coral Springs has a new address: 9955 NW 31st Street. 8:30 PM.

Buscando Humilidad is now meeting in person again at WBC in Davie. OST, Spanish, 8:30 PM

Tuesday

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

NEW MEETING Stairway to Heaven West Broward Club in Davie, OLTm 7:00 PM

Sandpebble Group that meets in Deerfield is now meeting in person again. OSP, 5:30 PM.

New Life Group which met at Pompano Beach Recreation Ctr. Is NO LONGER having the BB meeting.

Wednesday

New Life Group which met at Pompano Beach Rec. Ctr. Is now TEMPORARILY meeting at PF Insurance, 164 N Powerline Road. OSP, 7 PM.

NEW MEETING Design For Living Sunshine Cathedral, 1480 SW 9th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, OSTSP, 7 PM

Thursday

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

Donuts & Solution which met at S.FI. Wellness Ctr. In Ft. Lauderdale is not open to the public at this time.

Friday

NEW MEETING Choices Sullivan Park, 1633 Riverview Rd., Deerfield Beach, ORF 5:30 PM

Buscando Humilidad is now meeting in person again at WBC in Davie. OSP, Spanish, 8:30 PM

Saturday

New Life Group in Pompano has started a new meeting at PF Insurance, 164 N Powerline Road. OSS 2 PM.

Sunday

Halfway to the Next Step in Pompano has moved to 1768 NE 50th St., OSPm 7:30 PM.

Daily

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

Serenity in the Park Hollywood beginning March 1 will TEMPORARILY be meeting at a house NEAR TY Park, 3221 Atlanta Street, Hollywood in parking lot. Park on Atlanta Street. Time changing to 5:30 also.

441 Group All meetings are open. See www.aabroward.org for full schedule.

Stirling Room All meetings are open. See www.aabroward.org for full schedule.



**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

Mar. 6

District 9 General Service Spring Fling, check District website for details
www.District9aa.org for this virtual event.