



SUITE 404

BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.

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VOLUME 6
JUNE 2021

Step 6 - "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."

An Embarrassment of Riches

I once heard at a local meeting that coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous. When I hear this kind of "miracle" story at AA meetings, I always credit it to childishness, grandiosity, and magical thinking. So the story I am about to tell is embarrassing. But there's no getting around the facts.

Twenty years of drunken enthusiasms delayed my lifelong dream of being a working writer. Ten years sober, I graduated from a well-known writing program, started submitting manuscripts to different markets, and also started nosing around for a day-gig to keep my bills paid while I was beating a path to the best-seller list. I'd worked the AA program one day at a time long enough to know I already had more than I needed, and contented sobriety did not depend on getting what I wanted. But what I wanted was worth working for, and I needed a reliable paycheck until fame and fortune came calling.

So I shopped for an interview suit, picturing myself hawking high ticket appliances or electronics in one of the local mega-stores, something that wouldn't require much more than being affable in exchange for good commissions. People needed and wanted these things. I needed a paycheck and time to pursue my passion. It seemed like a righteous enough exchange at the time.

Gnawing doubts set in when I brought home my new clothes, along with a few newspapers carrying the classifieds. Knocking on doors with résumé in hand never contributed much to my self-esteem. One step at a time, I told myself. And easy does it. If necessary I'd make the phone calls tomorrow. Hanging up my new threads, I took a deep breath to quiet my heart, but was swept by a wave of dread about waiting in lines to get the third degree from people I didn't like for a job I didn't really want.

I was too smart, too well-educated, too promising to have to humble myself for a paycheck. It was the old tunnel vision of fear and pride that had run my life for years. I was viewing the world through the wrong end of a telescope. I knew this. I'd done several Fourth and Fifth Steps. So I got down on my knees and asked God to help me not act on what I knew to be character defects.

Asking for help on my knees was nothing new. I did it and still do it every morning. And I still don't have any idea Who or What I'm asking. I just feel better after, and my life sometimes works out in ways that

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SHOP LOCAL

**DON'T FORGET ...
WE SHIP ANYWHERE
IN THE U.S. AT
PRIORITY RATES AND
DELIVER LOCALLY**

Concept VI

The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

Tradition Six - "An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

Facing Our Fears

I'm grateful that when I came into AA there were plenty of examples around to teach me the principles we are to practice in order to change our lives. The man who became my sponsor was talking at coffee one day about how he'd been studying the Twelve Traditions and learning to practice them in his daily life. I was interested and listened to what he had to say, although I really thought the Twelve Traditions had no practical application on a personal level and were certainly for people with more sobriety than I had. I secretly figured maybe someday I would "graduate" to the Traditions after I had "mastered" the Twelve Steps. After all, they came *after* the Steps in the "Twelve and Twelve."

This man talked about placing the common welfare of his family above his own wants and desires, and of placing the welfare of his employer's business and the team above his own selfish desires for personal success. He explained the concept of self-support in a way that I had not heard before by describing the spiritual principle of recovering alcoholics paying our own way in society. The more he talked, the more interested I became. I began discussing these principles with this man while we began to work the Steps. I didn't wait until after I took the Steps to learn. One thing that he told me regarding Tradition Twelve was that someday one of the toughest things I would have to do would be to stand up for these principles and lovingly place them before the personalities in a whole group and tell them that I felt that they were wrong. He said that I would someday be the minority voice and that I would have to walk through the fear of rejection that plagued me because nobody else would do it for me.

That day did come at a Saturday night meeting I had grown to love. It was full of long-timers and AAs whose sobriety I greatly respected. The format for the meeting was that you receive a ticket when you walk in and the first half of the meeting is a discussion by lottery. If your ticket is pulled you get to go to the podium and share on any recovery topic or experience that week relating to how you stayed sober. The second half is a speaker meeting with a break in between.

During the readings and all the things we do to open a meeting the basket was passed. Then the chairperson announced that a second basket was going around for the Oak Street Center Children's Christmas Party. I was sitting in the front row so he brought one of the baskets to me and one to another person in the front row. It was expected of us to walk the basket around the room to help it get all the way to the back and then to the podium safely. As I took the basket I felt great anxiety and looked at the Twelve Traditions hanging on the wall. Tradition Six seemed brighter than the others. Here was a great cause--children at Christmas. They were our children too, because the Oak Street Center was a clubhouse where AA meetings were held. I suppose it could be rationalized that this was not an outside enterprise, but my heart said it was. A clubhouse is a related facility and the children were not AA members. I handed the basket to the guy next to me and said, "I can't participate in this."

The anxiety was growing as I felt I had to do something about this. But what? I am a people pleaser in the extreme. If I said something, I feared these people would tell me I was out of line and I wouldn't have their approval. Nobody else seemed troubled by it as I watched money dropping into the basket. As I stewed over the dilemma, the meeting began and went on as usual. However, God had a plan for me this night and my ticket number was called. My palms were sweaty as I stood up because I knew what I had to do. I had to stand up in front of a room full of longtime sober people, whom I greatly respected, and be the one to say that this was wrong. I said a quick prayer on my way to the podium. When I got there I took a deep breath and did it. I don't remember exactly what I said but it was very well received. . .until the break. At the break I was approached by several members of the majority who tried to "educate" me, told me that I was

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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. 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)

mystify and delight me. Nothing even close to Bill's mountain-top epiphany, which I've always envied. But I do have what he called, "a mighty good life" in which all the promises have, to a large degree, come true.

There was nothing special about getting down on my knees this time either. I just wanted a calm sense of direction and purpose. But no sooner had I gotten to my feet than the telephone rang.

Now we get to the spooky part. Something like this had happened a few weeks earlier, when, after being awarded a *summa cum laude* for my graduate work, I'd received a handful of rejections from publishers all on the same day. "What I really want right now," I shouted at my wife while waving the rejection letters in my fist, "is for somebody besides a bunch of college professors to appreciate my work."

Just then the phone rang. It was an AA friend. He wanted to tell me how much reading my article in a local paper meant to him at this difficult time in his life. We talked; I thanked him, hung up, and told my wife. "Did you get that?" she said and laughed. "Are you paying attention to what just happened?"

Well, maybe. But that wasn't my idea of how God worked. And anyway where was the paycheck? We were supposed to be self-supporting, weren't we?

A few weeks later, just after I'd hung up my new interview suit, dropped to my knees, and asked for help, the telephone rang again. It was the manager of the housekeeping department at the local hospital where I'd worked between semesters to pay my bills. The department was short-staffed. If I was available, they could work out something favorable to me.

Now remember, first I asked for help, then they called me. Next morning I went in and told the manager the days I was available, the hours that would be best for me (allowing time for meetings), and how much I needed to make. "That's great," she answered. "Can you start tomorrow?"

Like I said, I'm not comfortable with other people's ideas about a Higher Power being some kind of cosmic lottery or heaven-sent welfare program. My idea of spirituality is steady practice, faith, hard work, creating opportunity, and keeping an open mind. Whatever success I've had seems to have come more from saying yes to opportunity than from making things happen or doing things my way.

So this time I said, Yes, I'll do that. I'll be a janitor. If that will provide the time and money I need to live the life and do the work I most want to do, then Yes. And thank you, Lord, for thy will in my life. My plan was to keep that job for, at most, two years--time enough to get two big manuscripts that I'd been working on to market.

Well, I'm closing in on ten years at that job, and planning to don my little-used ten-year-old job-interview suit once again, this time for interviews at social service agencies for a job for which I am now completing my second professional degree. Nothing about the life I planned for myself coming out of grad school ten years ago has worked out the way I wanted. All my best work has been rejected many times over. My résumé has been shredded in several hundred offices. And I know as much about cleaning floors and disinfecting contaminated rooms as I do about staying sober, because it's experiential knowledge.

In addition to being educated almost two degrees beyond my intelligence, I still have less than I want, but more than I need. And being a janitor with a Master's degree for ten years has--along with practicing the AA program--taught me more about service, surrender, and humility than, at times, I wanted to know. But the most important gift has been learning that life's greatest rewards come from simply doing the work before me as best I can, from taking the time and trouble to be kind when the opportunity arises, and from saying yes to life: Yes, I am willing. Yes, I will do that. Yes, I wish to be of service.

A sober life, a fellowship, a program, great friends, a sober wife, and a miraculous job taught me how to admit it when I made mistakes and how to ask for help when I needed it. What I've learned in going back to school is that patience, tolerance, and compassion are limited only by my fear and lack of imagination.

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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.

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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

Recovery Word Puzzle

NEODTECTN
YIMSYFT
BEARLIEL
RYNETLEI
HORSTUGIE
JONETRICE



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.

GRIPSETE
HYPENIPA
CAMPSTURNSI
NERDSIGI
VAINTIETI
CRETHRCAA

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 June 19th
at 9 AM on Zoom**

Meeting ID: 882 8429 1768 ~~ Passcode: FSC2022

Future planning meeting: Saturday, July 24th

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

**We have finally
printed some
OPEN meeting
directories for
the in-person
meetings.**

**Now available at
bookstore for
\$.25 each.**



The bookstore is still open only on a limited schedule,
Mon-Fri 1-6 PM and masks are now optional.
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

June Celebrants

Living in the Solution

Lesley A. ~ 2 yrs.
Marshall B. ~ 3 yrs.
Nancy S. ~ 3 yrs.
Shaunarae ~ 3 yrs.
Pat D. ~ 5 yrs.
Joe H. ~ 6 yrs.
Lloyd G. ~ 10 yrs.
Pete S. ~ 23 yrs.
Stan S. ~ 30 yrs.
Marilyn M. ~ 47 yrs.

Meditation at the Rock

Melissa S. ~ 4 yrs.
Ken K. ~ 10 yrs.

Oakland Park

Gene S. ~ 12 yrs.

Happy Destiny

Debbie B. ~ 33 yrs.
Julie D. ~ 3 yrs.
Heather ~ 13 yrs.

Ft.Lauderdale Women's

Nancy S. ~ 8 yrs.

Serenity in the Park - East

Patricia B. ~ 17 yrs.

Mountain Group

Dawn D. ~ 5 yrs.

5:45 Happy Hour

Sandy S. ~ 31 yrs.

Sunlight of the Spirit

Shannon A. ~ 9 yrs.

Sober Sisters

Fran G. ~ 37 yrs.
Linda E. ~ 5 yrs.

Secular and Sober

Laura H. ~ 11 yrs.

Lambda Rising

Gary D. ~ 22 yrs.

Friends of Pat C.

Mary Y. ~ 10 yrs.

Westside Men's

Rick R. ~ 26 yrs.

Meeting in Print

Matt M. ~ 12 yrs.

I Came To Stay

Floyd G. ~ 7 yrs.

Straight Talk

Mark O. ~ 30 yrs.

B.A.L.L.S.

Drew ~ 8 yrs.

Men's Independence

Ken W. ~ 18 yrs.

Y.A.N.A.

Bruce P. ~ 28 yrs.

Other Notables

Lynda Z. ~ 25 yrs.
Sharon M. ~ 39 yrs.
Kevin M. ~ 28 yrs.
Lee B. ~ 35 yrs.

East Naples Men's

Wes R. ~ 33 yrs.
Stan S. ~ 30 yrs.
Pete S. ~ 23 yrs.
Wade B. ~ 21 yrs.
Ralph O. ~ 20 yrs.
Luis F. ~ 18 yrs.

441 Group

Jill W. ~ 13 yrs.

Sunshine Group

Richard H. ~ 14 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**



**CONGRATULATIONS
ON ANOTHER
YEAR SOBER!**



BCIC

Broward County Institutions Committee will hold their next meeting on

**Saturday, June 12
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, June 13
1:00 PM**

Zoom ID 241 331 6306 PW 6Hzur4

(continued from page 3)

I also think I now know the meaning of that bumper sticker that says, "God isn't through with me yet." I've found deep contentment in incremental progress, and in providing needed services for a steady paycheck because I'm not chasing the best-seller list any more. These are miracles enough for me.

So no more phone calls, okay, Big Guy? You got my attention with that last one. It just took me this long to put it all together. Another ten years sober in AA, and who knows? Maybe I won't even be embarrassed talking about this stuff. Just the same, I think this time I'll remain:

—ANONYMOUS

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**HAPPY
FATHER'S
Day!**



(continued from page 2)

mistaken, and began sharing their perception of the truth.

In the light of all of this wisdom freely given to me by well-meaning old-timers, I did not change my vote or my mind. What actually happened is that I began a dialogue about the issue and the group conscience eventually decided not to pass a second basket for outside causes.

Several spiritual principles were interwoven into this situation but I owe the entire outcome to God. He prepared me by helping me become familiar with Tradition Six and how these principles work for our good and the good of the Fellowship. If not for the Twelve Steps I would not have had the faith to face my fear and be a minority voice. I did not yet know of the Twelve Concepts as spiritual principles, but I began to learn of the importance of the minority voice to the good of AA before I knew it was a spiritual principle. All of our legacies are supported by each other. It is never too soon to begin learning and practicing all of the principles in "all of our affairs."

ROGER W. | HONOLULU, HAWAII

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

Send an invitation link to Help@aabroward.org

Is your meeting looking for a new physical home?

Lambda South Club is renting space.

Call Intergroup for details.



Things we cannot change...

Kelly T. & Joe L.

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.	Ellen F.			Gwendolyn			

Answers from page 4: contented, mystify, reliable, entirely, righteous, rejection, prestige, epiphany, manuscripts, desiring, initiative, character

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

Tuesday

Joy of Living now meets at Fourth Dimension Club in Hollywood, 4425 Hollywood Blvd., rear, Hybrid 7 PM
NEW MEETING Right on Target meets in Target parking lot, 1200 Federal Hwy., Deerfield, 6:30 PM, NE corner of lot, bring a chair

Surrender Group is now meeting live again at Faith Presbyterian, 1700 NW 98th Ave., Pembroke Pines

Wednesday

Women's Primary Purpose now Hybrid, Community Presbyterian, 1920 SE 4th St., Deerfield 7 PM

Don't Forget has gone back to live meetings at the Sanctuary, 1400 N Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale.

Riverside Group has gone back to live meetings at Christ Church, 10021 W Sample Rd., Coral Springs.

Thursday

NEW MEETING Back to the Book Our Place 2, 8447 W McNab, Tamarac. OSS 7:30 PM

NEW MEETING Right on Target meets in Target parking lot, 1200 Federal Hwy., Deerfield, 6:30 PM, NE corner of lot, bring a chair

Our Charge is now meeting live again at Luther Memorial Lutheran, 1925 N State Rd 7, Hollywood

Friday

North Broward Speaker Meeting is meeting in person outside at 5 NE 44th Street, Pompano. 7:30 PM.

Oakland Park Group meets at Comm. Presby.Church, 4433 Bougainvillea, Lauderdale by the Sea. CD 8:30 PM

Sunday

Pompano Beach Group has changed the time on the 11:30 AM meeting. Now at 1:30 PM.

Daily

Free to Be now meeting in person again, but still on Zoom (NOT Hybrid) The Sanctuary, 1400 N. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale 3:30 PM

Downtown Dry Dock is now meeting live again at Sanctuary, 1400 N Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale

Off the Hook Flamingo Park, Sunrise is NO LONGER meeting on Saturday & Sunday. Now only M-F 5:30 PM.

Serenity in the Park East is now back at TY Park in Hollywood, Mon-Sat 5:30, Across from Bathrooms by gate

**PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE WWW.AABROWARD.ORG
 TO MAKE SURE YOUR MEETING IS LISTED ACCURATELY.
 IF NOT, PLEASE GET CHANGES CALLED IN
 ASAP SO THAT WE CAN TELL OTHERS.**

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| June 13
-14 | Founders Day Virtual Event District 9 takes a field trip to Akron for Founders Day https://foundersday.org/shop |
| June 25
-27 | FCYPAA (Young People) Convention Bonaventure Hotel, Weston. For more info go to District9aa.org |
| Aug. 5-8 | 64th Florida State Convention Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront in Jacksonville, FL— https://www.64.floridastateconvention.com/ |
| Aug. 14 | Carry the Message Day virtual service event for Broward County, presenting the many different service opportunities available through District, Intergroup and Institutions. |