



# 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](http://www.aabroward.org)

Email: [help@aabroward.org](mailto:help@aabroward.org)

VOLUME 9  
SEPTEMBER 2022

**Step 9** - *"Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others."*

## Good Neighbors

My home group met at one of the local clubs in our area. Although we were not affiliated with the club, we rented their meeting room. In early 2007, we learned that the club was closing its location and moving; however, at the time we could not be guaranteed a meeting place at the new location. Our group began to research other possibilities, and we found a meeting place at a church. There was a meditation group meeting upstairs at the same time as our meeting, but the church official did not think this would be a conflict, as long as we were quiet.

As we prepared for the move in March 2007, we began to discuss, in our group conscience, how we would announce anniversaries, and how we would deal with the clapping that goes on during those announcements. Keeping in mind the Fourth Tradition, "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole," we concluded that it would be difficult for our group to accept a location in which we might interfere with another group already meeting there—especially a meditation group. We decided to explore other meeting place options.

We found a space near another AA group that met on the same night. The situation was ideal: there would be plenty of room for all who attended our meeting, we could use the facility's coffee equipment, and we would not have to change our meeting day or time. We were very happy with the outcome, and the move took place.

All was going well, and we began to attract a different membership because of the new area. The group grew. We continued to meet every week. Then we heard through the "grapevine" that the other group's members were resentful because our meeting had affected their meeting's attendance considerably; some of their members had begun to leave and come over to our home group. (We met a half hour earlier than the other group, which met

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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

**Your Intergroup Bookstore will be CLOSED on Monday, September 5th for Labor Day.**

### 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

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.

DANNY S. | CENTERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Copyright © AA Grapevine, Inc., September 2004 Reprinted with permission.

*Have a safe and happy  
Labor Day Weekend!*



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](mailto:help@aabroward.org).

(continued from page 1)

literally one block away from ours.) One of our members, who was invited to speak at their meeting, later told us that she could feel the resentment coming from that group.

We began to discuss this issue in our group conscience meetings. It was obvious that we owed that group an amends, as we had never considered how our move would affect it. After some discussion, our group decided that essentially we had broken the Fourth Tradition and that we did owe an amends. But what were we willing to do to make it up to them? Were we willing to move our meeting time if they asked us to? Were we willing to move our meeting night, if that was possible? Would these changes affect our home group members' ability to attend our meeting? All of these questions were discussed at length, and our group concluded that we would be willing to do whatever we needed to do to make things right. Step Eight says: "Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all." We contacted the secretary of the other AA group and asked permission to attend their group conscience meeting. We were given permission to do so, and four of our home group members attended.

Their group conscience meeting seemed like the longest one I had ever attended, and we were last on their agenda. I was taught that making amends must be brief and concise, so most of my personal amends lasted only long enough to make the amends and leave. This time it really dragged on, but I had no idea of the spiritual awakening the other home group members, and I, would experience. As Step Nine instructs us, we made "direct" amends; then we asked the aggrieved group what we could do to make it right. A long discussion ensued, and their members asked that we change the time of our meeting, so that people could attend both meetings. Their group conscience concluded that the most important goal that both groups could have in mind was the newcomer being able to attend both meetings back to back. This was indeed the Fifth Tradition in action: "Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." We agreed to go back to our group and vote on a new time that would enable members of both groups to attend their meeting and ours.

We voted to move our meeting time. Finally, both groups were happy with the solution we had found thanks to The First Tradition: "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity."

Through this experience, I saw how the Steps and Traditions came together for the good of both groups. Ours broke the Fourth Tradition because we were not mindful about whether our move would affect any other group. After we made the amends, the reality of the Fifth and First Traditions came alive for both our groups. We have become closer, we have experienced the Steps and Traditions in action, and many of our members now attend both meetings. The outcome of this experience was better than I could ever have imagined. I definitely felt God working among our groups through the Second Tradition: "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." It felt like a spiritual awakening, only this time it was about AA unity, and not about my own personal recovery.

CINDY S. | ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

Copyright © AA Grapevine, Inc., June 2012 Reprinted with permission.

**General Service Office, NY**

Post Office Box 2407  
James A Farley Station  
New York, NY 10116-2407

**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

# Recovery Word Puzzle

LAIRTYLEL  
SEEDPINISNLAB  
COOTEMU  
FEETREINR  
TIMONETADI  
LEAFDITAIF



*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.*

DOCCUNDEL  
SEENCOCONI  
TARNOTIDI  
GAVRDIGEE  
TRYLICED  
OHYATTRUI

2022 Intergroup Picnic has been reserved for Sunday, October 30th



## NEXT PLANNING MEETING

will be held following the next monthly meeting at the Twelve Step House

**Sunday, September 25th at 2:00 PM**

Come join a committee and find out where you can do service!

# SAVE THE DATE

The 2023 Intergroup Appreciation Banquet will be held  
on Saturday, April 29, 2023  
at Tropical Acres Steakhouse.

Tickets coming in November.

# SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER



# A.A. Birthdays

## September Celebrants

### Broward Men's

Angel M. ~ 5 yrs.  
Joe C. ~ 7 yrs.  
Justin ~ 6 yrs.

### Joy of SAMAobriety

Randall L. ~ 14 yrs

### Mountain Group

Lisa D. ~ 40 yrs.

### Riverside Group

Sheldon V. ~ 35 yrs.  
Patricia M. ~ 13 yrs.

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

Tim B. ~ 19 yrs.  
Chino ~ 21 yrs.  
Alan P. ~ 37 yrs.

### Into Action

Karen D. ~ 21 yrs.

### Thursday Night Study

Frannie C. ~ 5 yrs.

### Sober Women of

#### Parkland

Betsy N. ~ 11 yrs.

### Women's Honesty ~

50 yrs.

### Sober Today Club ~

11 yrs.

### Serenity in the Park

Carolina F. ~ 1 yr.  
Blake ~ 1 yr.  
Cristina M. ~ 32 yrs.

### Women's Honesty

Jami F. ~ 10 yrs.  
Helen ~ 40 yrs.  
Marissa ~ 12 yrs.

### Beyond Your Wildest Dreams

Aileen W. ~ 27 yrs.

### Hollywood Men's

Leon ~ 15 yrs.

### Downtown Dry Dock

Kathy R. ~ 16 yrs.  
Marlene A. ~ 16 yrs.  
Jessica ~ 9 yrs.  
Paul ~ 5 yrs.  
Mitch ~ 34 yrs.  
Walt ~ 39 yrs.

### Saturday Morning Awareness

Nadine ~ 13 yrs.

### Empowered Women

Melissa M. ~ 9 yrs.

### Other Notables

Scott W. ~ 29 yrs.  
Ed B. ~ 25 yrs.  
Peter H. ~ 25 yrs.  
Katia L. ~ 15 yrs.  
Carol B. ~ 32 yrs.  
Thom F. ~ 48 yrs.  
Collette D ~ 35 yrs.  
Jim N. ~ 44 yrs.

### Tamarac Group

Barry G. ~ 27 yrs.

### Focus on Sobriety

Sally D. ~ 53 yrs.  
Jen L. ~ 13 yrs.  
Patty K. ~ 24 yrs.

### Just For Today

Mike B. ~ 23 yrs.  
Eddie D. ~ 17 yrs.  
Nancy A. ~ 20 yrs.

### Don't Forget

Bob S. ~ 40 yrs.

### Sunlight of the Spirit

Barbaree K. ~ 40 yrs.

### Tuesday Night Step

Marty L. ~ 38 yrs.

### Let's Do Lunch Bunch

Michael ~ 4 yrs.  
Brett S. ~ 27 yrs.  
Steve ~ 34 yrs.  
Paul D. ~ 21 yrs.  
Carmen R. ~ 33 yrs.,  
Darius ~ 8 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.)*

*Thank you so much to  
the 65th Florida State  
Convention Committees  
for the opportunity to serve, and for the*

**AMAZING JOB!!**

### BCIC

Broward County Institutions Committee  
will hold their next meeting on  
**Saturday, September 10  
10:00 AM**

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

## August Celebrants not previously mentioned.....

### Men's Independence

Andy A. ~ 25 yrs.

### Noontime Sobriety

Dan L. ~ 16 yrs.

### Oakland Park Group

Nicole B. ~ 12 yrs.



The next **Intergroup Meeting**  
will be held on  
**Sunday, September 25  
at 1:00 PM**

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

## *Local Readers Share.....*

My last drink was given to me from the mighty sea of South Florida, on a beautiful ocean, a fishermen's delight for sail fishing. The "Cardinal Rule" onboard the ship was "to never help a woman when she is catching a fish." Any woman catching a fish should be left alone to bring in her catch.

I caught a mighty sailfish. The fish swam for his catch. I spotted my fish line and pooled me and the pole to the jagged rocks below. A shocking picture for all to see. With so much liquor under my belt, I felt no pain, but blood ran from both legs. Through it all, my hubby tossed the fish in the car alongside my bleeding legs.

It was a long ride to the hospital. I was in a coma. On a hospital table, a doctor said, "We have lost her," and the nurse replied, "I still have a flicker of life. Let's rush her to the fifth floor."

My subconscious mind heard all of this, and wanted to scream, "I am alive. I am alive!"

When I woke three days later, I saw I was in a beautiful room, with yellow walls with lacy curtains. I thought I was in heaven. A nurse said, "Hello, Mrs. Miller, nice to see you again." Whether a needle was going in my arm or coming out, was unclear.

This beautiful sailfish on the wall is proof of a dream that was so real.

My oldest grandson now owns it, saying at his parties, "I don't know which story I should tell first: how the fish was caught or how my grandma almost died and never took another drink."

That's the truth. Yep!

— Lil M.



***Intergroup will not be  
holding a camping  
conference in 2023,  
despite our  
hopes and earlier plans.***

*Things we cannot change....*

**Richard M.**



*He will be missed by all who  
knew him. May he 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.	Drew B.	Kerry W.	Ed H.	Gina B.
Liz J	Gerry B.	Steven L.	Glen P.	Laura E.	Valerie J.	Marsha M.	Thomas J.	Marcy B.
Gregory C.	Robert H.	Barbara S.	Richard M.	Janine C.	Giselle P.	Maggie H.	Sandy R.	Wilma D.
Suzanne J.	Don W.	Jenae R.	Ali S.	Sheila C.	Laurel	Javier C.	Gayle K.	Anne B.
Bob H.	Drew B.	Michael T.	Kathy	Marilyn M.	Tony A.	John B.	Phyllis P.	Susan O.
Anonymous	David S.	Alexander W.	Peggy D.	Elizabeth C.	Julie L.	Arthur M.	Marcy H.	Lorna V.
Elizabeth B.	David J.	Gary S.	Peggy G.	Larry C.	Carla B.	Debra B.	Douglas R.	Walter B.
Ron J.	Bonnie T.	Dave J.	Tracy S.	Robert K.	Corinne S.	Kerry F.	Sally S.	Denis H.
Jennifer S.	Anonymous	Patrick M.	Carmen D.	Jackie P.	Jennifer E.	Craig S.	Kathleen R.	George D.
Pat R.	Michael E.	Patrick C.	Sharon G.	Gil W.	Michael P.	Paul A.	Emily P.	Steven S.
Beth D.	Stephen W.	Joe G.	Jeff H.	Nancy M.	Nancy N.	Robert M.	Christine Y.	Dianne N.
Craig G.	Marlene A.	Nancy S.	Paul	Trish F.	E - Walter	Sam B.	Barbaree K.	Laurey T.
Vickie T.	Ernie F.	Mary S.	Victoria M.	Robert A.	George O.	Dan M.	Karen L.	Adie M.
Howie K.	HBeta	Allison B.	Robert S.	Nancy G.	Gwendolyn	Stephen H.	Michael B.	
Sheldon V.	Dennis G.	Ellen F.		Deborah C.				

Answers from page 4: litteraly, indispensable, outcome, interfere, meditation, affiliated, concluded, conscience, tradition, aggrieved, directly, authority

## 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](mailto: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

Sisters Staying Sober which met on W. Atlantic Blvd. in Margate NO LONGER MEETS.

### Wednesday

Riverside Group which meets at Christ Lutheran Church on Sample in Coral Springs is now meeting at 7:15 PM.

### Saturday

Demon Slayer which met in Lauderhill at the BB&T Building NO LONGER MEETS.

### Sunday

Nama-stay which met at the West Broward Club in Davie NO LONGER MEETS.

Made a Decision is meeting again at SW Ranches Equestrian Park in SW Ranches. 5840 SW 148 Avenue. OBG 9:30 AM.

11th Step Beach Meeting which met at North Ocean Park in Pompano NO LONGER MEETS.

The Workshop Group which met at Fourth Dimension Club in Hollywood NO LONGER MEETS.

### Daily

NEW MEETING La Gran Decision is meeting live at 714-A S. Dixie Hwy. , Hallandale. 8:00-9:30 PM. OSH

Gratitud en Sobriedad is now meeting live again at the Commerce Center, 5110 S. State Rd. 7, Ft. Lauderdale, Sat/Sun ODSH, M-F CDSH, 8:00-10:00 PM.

## Intergroup Picnic Tickets Now on Sale

**\$10 each or 3/\$25 (advance only)**

## Upcoming Events

- Sept. 10**      **Carry the Message Day** hosted by District 9 is a free service event to showcase the many volunteer opportunities available in Broward County. Bring a newcomer and a dessert. 6-9 PM The Community Church, 4433 Bougainvillea Drive, Lauderdale by the Sea.
- Oct. 30**      **46th Intergroup Picnic** at Snyder Park, Caldwell Pavilion in Fort Lauderdale. Family fun, live music, volleyball, face painting, 2 speakers, 50/50 Raffle, 11 AM—4 PM. Tickets \$10 per person for lunch and first drink, kids under 8 eat free. Bulk ticket pricing ONLY in advance is 3/\$25.