



SUITE 404

BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.

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VOLUME 2
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Step 2 - "Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

Chubby gods, skinny gods

When I first got sober, I seemed to be always sitting at a Second-Step table. Everyone there had their God. They talked about him like he was a cherished friend. Or more like a magical genie that granted them sobriety every day. They talked about "finding" him. Did they mean in a God catalog? They didn't say.

One day I sat there and thought, Maybe I'll just skip this Step. That night I went to bed and said to myself, What am I going to do about this "God thing"?

The next day I sat at yet another Second-Step table. Was everyone on the Second Step? This table had a few old-timers and they swore up and down that they kept relapsing until they found God. I cringed, wondering how a relapse was going to fit into my highly scheduled life. When you're newly sober, there's no room in your schedule to use the bathroom some days. At the table, one person said the Second Step is the foundation of the rest of the Steps. Without a good foundation in a building, they said, it's sure to crumble. Without the Second Step, my house would disintegrate underneath me. I wasn't ready for that kind of wreckage. How would I find time to clean up?

Later that night I talked to my peers in the halfway house about their Gods. They all said they were not too worried about it. Soon after that, one of them relapsed and had to move out.

As I kept coming to the AA tables, I soon noticed who had a God and who didn't. Those without a God seemed to do OK but they would fight a lot and gossip. Others, I didn't see any more. Some would leave and come back with horror stories of going back out. I went home confused. I said to myself, What am I going to do about this "God thing"?

One day I was gifted a small amount of time to be by myself with nothing to do. Idle time is scary for a newly sober alcoholic. Thankfully, I had no money. So I went to the library where I saw a poster of a church in Italy. The church was ornately decorated. I knew there must have been a reason they put so much work into that building. Oh, that's right, God!

I looked up "religions" while I was at the library. I got out a stack of books, some of them with names I could not even pronounce. Gods of every size, shape and color. Some Gods had the iconic, skinny look of

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**Don't forget to
bring your cash to
AA's Got Talent
so you can get
tickets to the
50/50 Raffle!!**

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."

Stepping Up, Then Stepping Aside

After I put some days together in AA, my sponsor brought up the subject of service work. This term was familiar to me from listening to others and from attending the business meetings he suggested. I was excited that my sponsor thought I had grown and was ready to be of service as our group's GSR (general service representative). After all, "we must give it away in order to keep it." I was about to find a whole new meaning to that phrase.

My sponsor had a different form of service work in mind for me. He was thinking along the lines of ashtrays, mops, chairs, tables, and trash clean up rather than holding an elected position. My feelings were hurt. I knew I was qualified for much greater things. Cleaning ashtrays was. . .demeaning. I did not say that out loud, but the thought must have been clear. My sponsor informed me that I must learn to crawl before I could learn to walk. He was always making cryptic statements like that to confuse me. What could I possibly learn from picking up and cleaning ashtrays? What did that have to do with service work? My sponsor let me know that there were lessons to be learned and I was just to show up.

I learned a lot during my month on ashtrays and, in fact, began to enjoy the job. I learned about becoming a part of the group and felt that I did belong. Then my sponsor told me it was time to move from ashtrays to mop. I was a little hurt, but I agreed to do both. My sponsor vetoed that idea. "Another member needs that job and you need to mop."

Mopping was not nearly as enjoyable as ashtrays. I did not feel as much a part of the group with mops as I had with ashtrays. I learned that my ego had suffered. The jobs that people saw me doing were far more enjoyable than those I did when no one was there to see me. This same lesson came out in a different way when my sponsor suggested I chair my first meeting.

I was excited. Now here was a sure sign of growth. I arrived early and chatted with everyone. I shared how nervous I was. The jeering response took away much of my fear. Sitting at the head of the table I opened the meeting in the usual manner and then asked if anyone had a topic. After that second moment of silence, I picked some topic at random and called on someone. After that person spoke, I made a brief comment and called on someone else. I continued chairing the meeting in this manner.

After the meeting my sponsor took me aside and spoke to me at length about responsibility. He explained that my job as chairperson was to prepare a topic; to briefly introduce it in general terms; and then to turn it over to the group for discussion. By speaking after each person I was waving my flag and being important—at least in my own mind. I wanted to be someone important and did that by presiding over the meeting.

My sponsor was correct. I can do the right thing for the wrong reason. Although I may look good, I may not be practicing the principles of the program. I can actually be practicing personalities while being in service work. "Certainly I will represent my group at that. Just give me a minute to dust off my flashing neon name tag and I will be right there."

The purpose of service work, as I understand it, is to get out of self. But I can turn that around in a millisecond. It is clear that I must learn how to give without demand for attention or payment. I must learn to be of service without announcing my reign. I must learn that others can be right—and that I may be wrong. I must also give them room to be wrong. At other times I must learn to compromise.

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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.

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someone who needed medical attention. One God was chubby. One had a belly I could rub for good luck. There were male Gods, female Gods, cat Gods and dog Gods. There were planet Gods too, but I was too fair-skinned to worship the sun. When I was a child, I thought King Neptune was the God of swimming.

Back at the Second-Step table again, someone said that God was everywhere. Could it be that simple? I seriously doubted whether God was at the crack house or those sleazy after-hours clubs I used to frequent.

I scanned the tables at my next meeting. I saw a man who looked like Neptune from the library books. He had Vietnam and Jesus patches all over his vest. I thought he must have all the God answers. As he spoke, at first he made a lot of sense. Then he started to quote verses out of the Bible in a "hell and damnation" tone of voice. Some got up to refresh their coffees as he spoke. I got the impression from this guy that his God was working for him. This man had 30 years of sobriety. I also gathered from the others that this man's God wasn't their God. He wasn't mine, either. Scripture written in some Old-World language was not for me.

That night, as I lay awake in bed, I got the overwhelming urge to go out and get a drink. Not having any money, and being tired from my highly scheduled day, I white-knuckled my bed sheets and hoped the feeling would go away.

I woke up in the morning from a drinking dream that felt so real. As I washed my face, I realized I had not actually gone out to drink, I had only dreamed it. I knew I needed to get a God soon.

In group therapy at the house, we touched on the subject of God. One cranky older woman refused to seek a God. She said this was her 15th rehab. A young girl with dreadlocks and a ladybug backpack chose a unicorn for her Higher Power, which was how people referred to their Gods. It says in the Big Book that we can call him that, which makes God seem like a new concept but not as "new age" as having a unicorn as a Higher Power.

I went to an open meeting to listen to a woman who had been a waitress in Detroit's Playboy club in the 1950s. It was hard to imagine her as a young beautiful girl, let alone a Playboy bunny. She told many stories of what she had done and seen during her drinking days. A lot was edited out, she told us. She said that she had trouble with the whole "God thing" until the old-timers made it real simple. My interest was sparked. She spoke my language. They simply told her she was not God and no man was. God is a power greater than ourselves that can keep us sober.

I sort of understood all that. But I didn't understand where I could get acquainted with him. Was there a God meet-up? Would my God have a name? Would he be mad at me for all the stupid things I've done?

The former Playboy bunny said I should talk to God even if I didn't know him. Every day, she said, "Talk to him. Pour your heart out. He's the only one who really understands you. Eventually, you won't feel uncomfortable doing it. It will be second nature to reach out to God. In the beginning, we are all strangers. With time, friendship with God blossoms, as it does with every friendship."

That night in bed, I spoke uncomfortably to him about my day and our new relationship. I didn't know how this relationship would work but I had faith in what people told me.

Now I've been sober four years. I am not uncomfortable at all talking to my God. It's second nature. Through the years, I've had hardships and cravings but God has somehow helped me. I don't know how it works, but my faith in God is constant and communication with him is comforting.

—MICHELLE B. | HAZEL PARK, MICHIGAN

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Recovery Word Puzzle

DEEHULCS
OTINNOFADU
PLEADERS
SOILGRINE
TUDDEBO
TRENISTE



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.

PRIFHSIDEN
GROOMFINCT
AGELNNIC
SECROPOMIM
STOOPSINI
FYGRULELEC

The 2023 [Intergroup Appreciation Banquet](#) will be having their

NEXT PLANNING MEETING

Wednesday, February 22nd at 6:00 PM

at your Intergroup Bookstore, 3317 NW 10th Terrace, Suite 404, Oakland Park

WE are humbly requesting donations for the raffle at our Appreciation Banquet in April.

Are you or someone in your group a hairdresser, nail tech or massage therapist?

Do you have access to restaurants or vacation rentals that can be comped?

WE APPRECIATE ALL AND ANY SUPPORT!



Happy Valentine's Day!



SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER



A.A. Birthdays

February Celebrants

Spiritual Principles

Roy C. ~ 6 yrs.
Kerry W. ~ 38 yrs.
Joe F. ~ 40 yrs.
Laurey T. ~ 40 yrs.

New Life Group

Rod ~ 6 yrs.

East Naples Men's

Donald M. ~ 22 yrs.
Richard P. ~ 30 yrs.
Howard M. ~ 11 yrs.

New Day

Ernie F. ~ 36 yrs.

Pompano Beach

Susan ~ 12 yrs.

Early Risers

Victoria L. ~ 12 yrs.

Easier Softer Way

Richard W. ~ 7 yrs.
Chris W. ~ 8 yrs.

Saturday Morning

Awareness

Ryan T. ~ 9 yrs.
Ann P. ~ 31 yrs.
Jon J. ~ 41 yrs.

Living in the Solution

Giselle ~ 3 yr.
Elena ~ 13 yrs.

Brothers All Living Life Sober (Balls)

Carlos R. ~ 30 yrs.

Free To Be

Bob M. ~ 10 yrs.

Into Action

Beth D. ~ 40 yrs.

Dania After Work

Sherri D. ~ 13 yrs.
Cathi D. ~ 5 yrs.

Tamarac Group

Anne B. ~ 17 yrs.
Victor T. ~ 23 yrs.

Russian Alcoholics

Dmitriy T. ~ 7 yrs.

Women's Honesty

Catherine P. ~ 21 yrs.
Peggy ~ 50 yrs.

Coral Springs As Bill Sees It

Milinda B. ~ 17 yrs.

Let's Do Lunch Bunch

Duayne K. ~ 17 yrs.
Robert S. ~ 41 yrs.
Daniel F. ~ 16 yrs.
Jim A. ~ 21 yrs.
Robert A. ~ 33 yrs.

Living in the Solution Virtual

James G. ~ 4 yrs.

Oakland Park

Sandy P. ~ 52 yrs.
Pete B. ~ 35 yrs.
Jerry N. ~ 21 yrs.

Mountain Group

Kathy L. ~ 41 yrs.
Mike J. ~ 37 yrs.

Women's Noontime Boost

Priscilla M. ~ 21 yrs.

Came to Believe

Laura M. ~ 19 yrs.

Westside Men's

Greg G. ~ 15 yrs.

Don't Forget

Jay L. ~ 42 yrs.

Express Group

Reggie J. ~ 13 yrs.
Diana P. ~ 10 yrs.
Annie G. ~ 35 yrs.

Melrose Park

George G. ~ 16 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.)

Big Book Quote of the Month:

"...for deep down in every man, woman, and child, is the fundamental idea of God. It may be obscured by calamity, by pomp, by worship of other things, but in some form or other it is there."

Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 55

BCIC

Broward County Institutions Committee will hold their next meeting on
**Saturday, February 11th
At 10:00 AM**

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

The next **Intergroup Meeting** will be held on
**Sunday, February 26th
at 1:00 PM**

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



Pink Cake Box

January Celebrants

not previously mentioned.....

Serenity Sisters

Adrienne ~ 14 yrs.
Deidre ~ 10 yrs.
Faye ~ 8 yrs.

Serenity in the Park (SWR)

Sarah ~ 3 yrs.
Ruben ~ 3 yrs.
Tim ~ 20 yrs.
David ~ 11 yrs.
Gia ~ 12 yrs.
Italian Tony ~ 7 yrs.
Julian ~ 7 yrs.

Bottom Line

Fred ~ 9 yrs.
Dave M. ~ 38 yrs.
John H. ~ 1 yr.
Denis M. ~ 38 yrs.
Michelle ~ 1 yr.
Donna T. ~ 29 yrs.
Kelly ~ 11 yrs.
Danny C. ~ 17 yrs.
Gerard W. ~ 30 yrs.

(Continued from Page 2)

Learning to step aside and let others serve is not an easy thing to do either. Making coffee for my group seems harmless. After all, it is a fairly anonymous task. Yet if I make coffee week after week, I am not allowing others the opportunity to serve and thereby to grow. Instead I have established a territory that is mine. Moving from secretary to chairman to treasurer of a committee or group is not moving, it is just changing titles.

There comes a time to tell myself that the best person for the job is *not* me. I must learn to move aside even when the group asks me to continue in a position just one more time. There is a time to tell myself that the person for the job is someone else. My job becomes helping another person become a trusted servant.

To make spiritual progress it is clear that I must learn to give without demanding payment. I must show others by my actions not my dissertations or my title or the number of positions I hold. Even if my group suggests I continue in a position, I must show how to move aside gracefully. Just as I want to be the best example of the Big Book that I can be, I must also be the best example of a trusted servant that I can be. I must live the program by my actions. I practice the principles of this program because that is what I want to be, not because I will have some title or special name tag to stroke my ego.

I am fortunate to have a sponsor who showed me by his example. I believe that I have a responsibility to pass that on. It starts with me. . .

—B. L. | LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

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PLEASE CHECK THE LISTING OF
YOUR GROUP ON OUR
WEBSITE FOR ACCURACY
AND LET US KNOW OF ANY
NECESSARY CHANGES AT YOUR
EARLIEST CONVENIENCE



Traditions Workshop Coming..

Intergroup Office of March 11th from 7-9 PM

Call ahead to reserve your spot. Limited seating. Free event.
Refreshments, Fellowship, Recovery
Traditions 7, 8 and 9

Things we cannot change....

Paul E.



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.

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

Allison B.	Daniel D.	Ryan W.	Don F.	Kerry W.	Ellen F.
Anonymous	Bob B.	Shannon S.	H-Beta	Marsha M.	Ernie F.
Anonymous	Lee R.	Robert M.	Patricia C.	Mary S.	Walter B.
Beth D.	Anthony M.	Susan C.	Lorraine C.	Michael E.	Marcy B.
Carmen D.	Ashley F.	Margaret L.	Fred L.	Michael P.	Nancy G.
Robert H.	Bill W.	Matthew S.	Jerrold F.	Pat R.	Marlene A.
Craig G.	Charmaine D.	Travis P.	Ken J.	Phyllis P.	Sam B.
Lew G.	Gregory C.	Teri B.	Katrina F.	Robert A.	Sharon G.
Deborah C.	Jan S.	Tim S.	James H.	Ron J.	Stephen H.
Debra B.	Jean Marie	Tim H.	Jennifer S.	Steven S.	Howie K.
Dennis G.	Jeff H.	Todd G.	John B.	Susan O.	Elizabeth W.
Don W.	Jolynn J.	Lois M.	Kerry F.	Suzanne J.	Joyce K.
Liz J.	Tom J.	Pat W.	Victoria M.	Vickie T.	

If you are interested in becoming a faithful fiver, you can set up automatic payments from your bank account or in PayPal. You can also send payments by Zelle to help@aabroward.org

Answers from page 4: schedule, foundation, relapsed, religions, doubted, interest, friendship, comforting, cleaning, compromise, positions, gracefully

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

Monday

Margate Men's Book has moved to Fellowship Recovery Center, located at 5400 W Atlantic Blvd. in Margate. Time is the same.

NEW MEETING where the Winner's Circle was at Sober Today Club in Hollywood called **10 & 11 @ 7** OM 7 PM.

Hollywood Happy Hour now meets at the Sober Today Club in Hollywood, 2035 Harding St. OSPD 5:30 PM.

Tuesday

Back to Basics Step Meeting as a Wally P. series meets at the MCC (Sunshine Cathedral), 1480 SW 9th Ave., Ste. 7, Ft. Lauderdale. OSS 7 PM.

New Day has added a new day and meets now on Tuesday and Saturday at 9 AM. Herb Skolnick Ctr., 800 SW 36 Ave., Pompano Beach.

Thursday

NEW MEETING Brothers in Sobriety meets at Calvary Church in Coconut Creek, 4690 N State Rd 7. CDm 6 PM.

NEW MEETING The Freedom Group meets at the South Florida Wellness Network, 5225 NW 33 Ave., Oakland Park. OSPD 7 PM.

Sermon on the Mount which met at Sober Today Club in Hollywood NO LONGER MEETS.

Friday

NEW MEETING Drop the Rock meets at the West Broward Club in Davie, OST 7 PM.

Constant Thought which met at the Sunshine Cathedral in Ft. Lauderdale NO LONGER MEETS.

NEW MEETING There is a Way Out meets at the Twelve Step House in Ft. Lauderdale, small room. OBG 7 PM.

Hollywood Happy Hour has changed their location and day—they now meet only on Monday.

Saturday

Bottom Line Group is adding a Joe & Charlie Big Book Study beginning on January 14th. 823 SE 8th Ave., Ste. 100, Deerfield Beach. OBB 10 AM.

12 Steppers Men's Meeting meets at Southwest Ranches Equestrian Park, 5840 SW 148 Ave. OCCm 9:30 AM.

NEW MEETING Our Lives Are on the Line meets at the 101 Club in Pompano. OBB 7:30 PM.

Sunday

Sunday Night Step Study which met at the West Broward Club in Davie NO LONGER MEETS.

Conscious Contact now meets at the West Broward Club in Davie. OM 7 PM.

Daily

NEW ADDRESS The Sober Today Club in Hollywood has moved North to Harding Street where there is no flooding in the parking lot. The new address is 2035 Harding Street, Suite 102, Hollywood. (Still on Dixie) Door to Suite 102 and parking lot are both on N 21st Avenue.

NEW MEETING at Sober Today Club in Hollywood at 12:15 PM every day called the **Daily Dose**. ORF.

Serenity in the Park (SWR) has changed **THE TIME AGAIN**. It is back to meeting at 4:45 PM.

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Feb. 11 | AA's Got Talent! Pompano Beach Civic Center, 1801 NE 6th Street, Pompano, Auditorium. 7-9 PM. Adult only event. Desserts, coffee and fellowship followed by live performances. Don't miss the fun. \$10. Limited capacity. Presales encouraged. PLEASE BRING DESSERT AND NEWCOMER |
| Mar 13 | 43 year Anniversary Party Davie Women's Group |
| Apr. 29 | 59th Intergroup Appreciation Dinner must have ticket to attend. Adults only. 2 Speakers, 4-course meal, raffles and fellowship. Beautiful evening out at Tropical Acres Steakhouse in Ft. Lauderdale. 6-10 PM. Limited Seating. All tickets must be purchased in advance. |
| May 11-14 | Big Book Seminar 2023 in the spirit of Joe & Charlie. Boca Marriott Town Center, 5150 Town Center Circle, Boca Raton. Workshops start Thursday night. Register at bigbookseminar.org |
| May 13 | Old Timer's Meeting presented by District 9 Archives. 101 Club in Pompano |