



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 2023

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

My belief your belief

When I was a newcomer, some people were very aggressive in attempting to tell me that my Christian understanding of a Higher Power was a problem. They said I had to abandon my beliefs to accept "AA's concept."

To this day, I don't know what they meant. But this made my initial journey into the program, and the question of God, more problematic and challenging for me than it needed to be. I wondered for a long time if I could still be a Christian and be a part of this AA thing. I have also heard people hammering newcomers with a very specific concept of God, a very Christian-sounding version, insisting that newcomers had to believe in a particular concept of God to be a part of the program.

I learned from my sponsor that my beliefs about God weren't a problem. He helped me through those vulnerable and troubling first months of sobriety. He struggled intensely with his own concept of God and he openly shared those struggles with me. He was an atheist at the time he worked with me, while I was a Christian with a strong faith.

My faith alone, however, was not able to keep me sober. I needed AA.

I never tried to convert my sponsor and he never tried to convert me. He took me through the Big Book. I was desperate to hear what he and the Big Book had to say. We bonded over that mutual connection that the disease of alcoholism creates in us. For me, my faith and understanding of a Higher Power was strengthened, as was my faith in AA and in the Twelve Steps. His work with me has helped my own program of sobriety give fruition to the Promises presented in the Ninth Step.

I can't say what happened for him on the God-front but he always shared with me how much he valued our time together. We are good friends to this day. I got to give him

(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.”

Anything to Be Cool

I am a twenty-two-year-old recovering alcoholic. I began drinking and taking drugs when I was fourteen years old. It was the year 1994 and the rebellious songs of Green Day and Offspring surrounded the world of the fourteen-year-old. We were a generation inspired by the skater crowd, the nineties version of the sixties' greasers and the eighties' punk rockers. To be in the cool crowd, you had to wear clothes eight sizes too big, walk cool, smoke cigarettes and pot, and drink beer. In those days, I would have jumped off a 100-foot cliff if it meant I could be considered cool. Drinking a petty beer or smoking a little joint was an insignificant hurdle for me on my road to social acceptance. After all, I was invincible and the worse the action, the more attention I would receive. I attended the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) classes and sat through countless drug-prevention speeches, but those did not apply to such a cool rebel without a cause.

Just eight years later, I found myself unable to complete the simplest of tasks without an anxiety attack or to stick with a job for more than two months before getting fired for my habitual tardiness. Today, with the help of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, my life consists of re-learning how to complete a full day without acting on my impulses. I am bombarded with feelings of pain and strife that I cannot even begin to explain. I have watched this disease take the life of my aunt and destroy the lives of my mother, grandparents, uncles, and cousins. To this day, I am amazed that you can watch a loved one die a slow and painful death from alcoholism, only to go home at night and consume the same death potion yourself. Most of all, I am saddened by the ignorance and denial in our society.

I believe that it is only through my willingness to completely turn my life over to AA that I have the chance of recovering a life of any value. This is a program that has not only saved millions of lives, but has single-handedly reshaped and almost eliminated the absolute helplessness that this willing-to-recover alcoholic used to experience. This is a program that, through faith and action, slowly allows an alcoholic to recover from spiritual, physical, mental, and financial bankruptcy.

Alcoholics Anonymous, I believe, is built on the foundation that no matter what one's religion, race, creed, gender, or degree of hopelessness, its members will do anything in their power to help. Therefore, I can walk into a meeting anywhere in the country and find a room full of the broke and the rich, the powerful and the powerless, the famous and the ordinary citizen. Anonymity makes us all equal and everyone feel welcome. This anonymity is what gave me the courage to walk through those doors. It's what gives me the strength to keep coming back.

--ELLIOT H. | MANHATTAN, MONTANA Copyright © AA Grapevine, Inc., June 2004, Reprinted with permission.

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)

his seven-year sobriety chip soon after he had to disconnect his brother from life support. His brother was an alcoholic who was unable to get the message of AA.

I sponsored a lot of guys. Of those guys, the only one who is still sober, to my knowledge, was an atheist when I started working with him. He was still an atheist when he moved away from Sacramento and got a new sponsor. We struggled with the Third Step. I let him explore his reactions to the concepts presented in the Big Book. I didn't try to convert him. I listened to what he had to say, just as my sponsor listened to me.

I don't know where my old sponsee stands on God now, but I have watched the Ninth Step Promises come into his life. He participates in service work and helps others to get sober and stay sober.

To this day, I believe my experience with my sponsor, and my only sober sponsee, send an important message about this very contentious issue of spirituality in the program. I believe that it is of paramount importance to honor and give space for the process that each person must engage in to work through the issue of faith and a Higher Power in AA. To me, a critical aspect of the program is presented in the words, "God, as we understand Him."

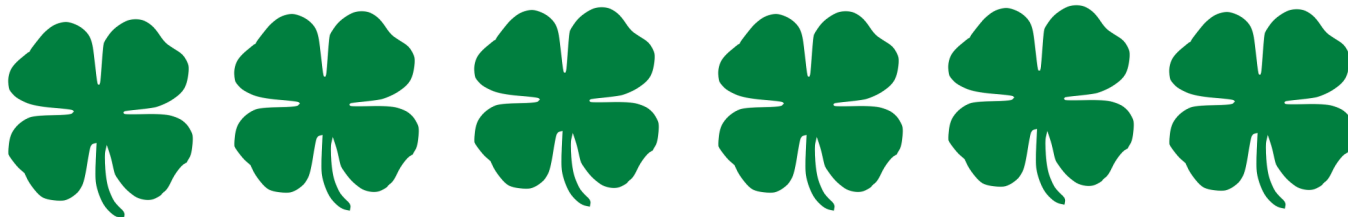
The program presents us with a question and then leaves a nurturing space for us to examine and investigate the question. I believe that it's more important for our sobriety and for our relationship with a Higher Power to sincerely examine and explore the question and the concept of God than it is to come to any particular answer.

As a faithful Christian, I'm not threatened by other conceptions of God, nor do I think a person's program of sobriety is compromised by a different understanding of God than mine, even if it's simply a "Group Of Drunks" or "Good Orderly Direction." As my understanding of the program teaches me, I judge a person by their works. If someone is working with others, carrying the message and reaching out to newcomers, I see an understanding of God that works.

I've met people all across the spectrum on the God issue. These are people who have overcome many challenges in their own lives and yet have made a potent impact in the lives of others. I have witnessed the Ninth Step Promises come to fruition for individuals representing all dimensions on the spectrum of faith. I have to believe what my experience tells me, that the founders of AA were wise to include "as we understood Him," in the Third and Eleventh Steps. These words create an important part of the recovery process: The nurturing space to explore the question of God within oneself.

PHILLIP T. | SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Copyright © AA Grapevine, Inc., May 2017, 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 Treasurer

PO Box 590835
Ft Lauderdale, FL 33359-0835

District 9 General Service

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

Recovery Word Puzzle

TREELASI
TEENSNRGT
TOONICENCN
DARNITLOATI
LURESLOBIE
GRAINCONE



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.

STANDINOO
RASHPETTI
STEERROONCN
PSYULIVERO
NOBSSUMISI
SNIDECOI

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

NEXT PLANNING MEETING

Wednesday, March 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!



Your Intergroup Office is planning to have a presence at the

Big Book Seminar in Boca held on Mother's Day Weekend, again.

We are in need of some volunteers to help us move and transport books to and from the hotel. Please call Mary if you can help. 954.462.0403

SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER



A.A. Birthdays

March Celebrants

Spiritual Principles

Carol P. ~ 9 yrs.
Jennifer M. ~ 13 yrs.
Lorna V. ~ 24 yrs.

By the Book

Beginners

Patrick R. ~ 32 yrs.
Don G. ~ 15 yrs.

Men's Independence

Jim W. ~ 34 yrs.
Matthew I. ~ 19 yrs.
Terrence W. ~ 14 yrs.
Adam O. ~ 10 yrs.

Margate Group

Janet M. ~ 39 yrs.

Express Group

Diane ~ 11 yrs.
Tom M. ~ 33 yrs.

Women's Step Into

Sobriety

Betsy B. ~ 14 yrs.
Debbie D. ~ 19 yrs.

Entirely Ready

Pat W. ~ 22 yrs.

Splinter Group

Elizabeth C. ~ 6 yrs.

Dania After Work

Denise R. ~ 22 yrs.

Coral Ridge Group ~

53 yrs.

Into Action

Sharon G. ~ 37 yrs.

5:45 Happy Hour

Dana ~ 28 yrs.
Rick ~ 31 yrs.

Serenity Altogether

Bob H. ~ 32 yrs.
David J. ~ 40 yrs.

Davie Women's

Group ~ 43 yrs.

East Naples Men's

Gary G. ~ 29 yrs.
Jerry T. ~ 22 yrs.
Mike R. ~ 18 yrs.
Tony C. ~ 23 yrs.
Jim H. ~ 39 yrs.

Coral Ridge Group

Tracie D. ~ 14 yrs.

One Day at a Time

Roger S. ~ 27 yrs.

Friends of Pat C.

Debbie O. ~ 8 yrs.
Lauren C. ~ 12 yrs.
Peggy R. ~ 27 yrs.

Let's Do Lunch

Bunch

Joe G. ~ 32 yrs.
Richard B. ~ 11 yrs.

Surrender is

Freedom

Ellen M. ~ 32 yrs.

Sobriety on Two

Laura B. ~ 27 yrs.

Saturday Morning

Awareness

Lisa M. ~ 16 yrs.

Thursday Night Study

Philip S. ~ 16 yrs.

Sober Today

Bill D. ~ 38 yrs.

Oakland Park

Fred S. ~ 58 yrs.
Ken P. ~ 16 yrs.

Rule 62

Marge M. ~ 33 yrs.

Friends of Ralph C.

Chris ~ 40 yrs.

Women's Honesty

Maria M. ~ 12 yrs.
Erica C. ~ 35 yrs.
Elizabeth P. ~ 38 yrs.
Deana ~ 10 yrs.

We Came To Stay

Cheryl L. ~ 28 yrs.

Mountain Group

Sarah O. ~ 32 yrs.

Serenity in the Park—

SWR

Donny ~ 4yrs
Brigit ~ 2 yrs
Manny ~ 2 yrs
Tony C. ~ 10 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:

"As soon as a man can say that he does believe, or is willing to believe, we emphatically assure him that he is on his way. It has been repeatedly proven among us that upon this simple cornerstone a wonderfully effective spiritual structure can be built."

Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 47

BCIC

Broward County Institutions Committee

will hold their next meeting on

Saturday, March 11th
At 10:00 AM

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

February Celebrants

not previously mentioned.....

Thursday Night Study

Brian H. ~ 35 yrs.

Surrender is Freedom

Sheryl F. ~ 22 yrs.

Serenity Sisters

Eileen M. ~ 15 yrs.
Robin ~ 35 yrs.

Serenity in the Park—

East

Chris ~ 24 yrs.
Durke ~ 25 yrs.
Sharon ~ 7 yrs.
Jorge ~ 5 yrs.

Dania After Work

Gary C. ~ 20 yrs.



Photo: Cake 'Em

The next **Intergroup Meeting**
will be held on

Sunday, March 26th
at 1:00 PM

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

AN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS PRAYER

Almighty God, I humbly pray,
Lead me, guide me through this day.
Cast out my selfishness and sin,
Open my heart to let You in.
Help me now as I blindly stray
Over the pitfalls along the way.
Let me have courage to face each task,
Invest me with loving patience, I ask.
Care for me through each hour today,
Strengthen and guard me now, I pray.

As I forgive, forgive me too,
Needing Your mercy as I do.
Oh, give to me Your loving care,
Never abandon me to despair.
Yesterday's wrongs I would seek to right,
Make me more perfect in Your sight.
Oh, teach me to live the best I can,
Use me to help my fellow man.
Save me from acts of bitter shame.
I humbly ask it in Your name.

-Anonymous

PLEASE CHECK THE LISTING OF YOUR
GROUP ON OUR
WEBSITE FOR ACCURACY
AND LET US KNOW OF ANY
NECESSARY CHANGES AT YOUR EARLIEST
CONVENIENCE
<https://aabroward.org/locations>

BIRTHDAY CORRECTION NOTICE

Our January Newsletter posted the wrong information for two of our wonderful trusted servants from the One Day at a Time Group. The correct number of years of sobriety should have been:

Mena ~ 26 yrs.

Paulette ~ 28 yrs.

Traditions Workshop Coming..

Intergroup Office on Saturday, 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....

Elias G. and Vinny W.



They will be missed by all who knew them. 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.

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.	Jerrod 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.	Melinda

Answers from page 4: earliest, strengthen, connection, traditional, rebellious, ignorance, donations, therapist, cornerstone, previously, submission, decision

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

I AM
RE-

WHEN ANYONE, ANYWHERE, REACHES OUT FOR HELP,
I WANT THE HAND OF A.A. ALWAYS TO BE THERE. AND FOR THAT: I AM RESPONSIBLE.

SPONSIBLE....

NAME: _____ GENDER: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

PREFER: VOICE: _____ TEXT: _____ EMAIL: _____ CITY OF RESIDENCE: _____

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

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

NEW MEETING at the West Broward Club. Men's Step Study at 7 PM. 8396 A State Rd. 7, above the transmission shop.

Thursday

NEW MEETING Brothers in Sobriety meets at Calvary Church in Coconut Creek, 4690 N State Rd 7. CDm 6 PM.
NEW MEETING Entirely Ready has replaced the Freedom Group. It meets at the South Florida Wellness Network, 5225 NW 33 Ave., Oakland Park. OSPST 7 PM.
Sermon on the Mount which met at Sober Today Club in Hollywood NO LONGER MEETS.
Spiritual Walk is now meeting again in Ft. Lauderdale at the First Christian Church, 201 SE 13th Street. CD 7 PM.

Friday

NEW MEETING Drop the Rock meets at the West Broward Club in Davie, OST 7 PM. 8396 A State Rd. 7, above the transmission shop.
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. 205 SW 23rd Street, Ft. Lauderdale
Hollywood Happy Hour has changed their location and day—they now meet only on Monday.

Saturday

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. 700 SW 10 St. and Dixie Hwy.

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. 8396 A State Rd. 7, upstairs.
441 Group now has a meditation meeting at 3 PM. Village Plaza, 1452 N SR 7, Margate

Daily

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 until daylight savings time is over, since the park closes at sunset.

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Mar 11 | Traditions Workshop to be held at the Intergroup bookstore. 7-9 PM. Free event, fellowship, light Refreshments, traditions 7, 8, and 9 to be discussed. |
| Mar 13 | 43 year Anniversary Party Davie Women's Group starts at 6 PM. Potluck. St. David's Catholic Church, 3900 S. University Drive, Davie |
| Apr 16 | Victor E Annual Picnic Snyder Park, Caldwell Pavilion, 11 AM—4 PM, 50/50 Raffle, Speaker at 2 PM, Magic Bus Band and plenty of food. Free family event. 3299 SW 4th Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale |
| 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 |