



SUITE 404

BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.

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

Pesky Little Defects

As recovering alcoholics it's easy for us to talk about our character defects. After all, listing our defects and asking to have them removed are two major steps on our journey in sobriety and spiritual living. In my case, having lived most of my adult life in AA and going through the Steps four times with four different sponsors, I thought I knew just about all there was to know about myself.

But every now and then one pesky little defect kept coming up in conversations with the significant people in my life. And most notably, it was always the other person who dragged this defect out of the shadows of my subconscious and into the light of my day. Here's how it all started this last time.

I was sitting at the kitchen table of my lifelong friend Bob. We had been friends since Little League, and he knows about as much about me as I do about him. Besides our friendship of more than 50 years, I've been sponsoring him since 1993. That day at the table, Bob said, "John, you were once the most self-centered person I had ever known." Now, in my mind I was thinking, Wow, this is great. What Bob is really saying is a great compliment. He's saying, "John, what a remarkable success you've made of your recovery—going from the most self-centered person on earth to the utterly selfless guy you are today."

Like so many other alcoholics, I have the tendency to hear things that people didn't say. This, of course, is yet another character defect that I had unknowingly carried around with me, sort of like a birthmark that I never want to look at.

A few months after my conversation with Bob, I read in the newspaper that a certain author was coming to our town to talk about his wildly popular bestselling book. This guy, like me, was a newspaper columnist and author. His success was on a national

(continued on page 3)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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



Happy 88th Birthday AA!

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."

Holding Fast to Our Primary Purpose

WHEN I GOT sober some years ago in Tucson, Arizona, I was unable to understand the importance of the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous to my sobriety. Since then, I've seen more people get glazed eyes when that topic is mentioned at a meeting than any other--with the possible exception of "the importance of service." These phrases are sometimes known as "room emptiers."

But as my own recovery process began, the Traditions took on a meaning that was special and personal--not, however, before I got a few knocks on the head!

After several months of sobriety, I decided from the Olympian heights of my pink cloud that not only was AA the answer to everything that ailed *me*, but if only a few clever men (such as I) pushed hard enough, AA could change the world overnight, defeat evil, and allow good to finally triumph.

My sponsor in Tucson suggested quietly that I might want to read *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* to find out how the Traditions had been formed in the Fellowship. I agreed, although I secretly doubted that the book would be of any real help to such a zealous missionary as myself. I read the book and discovered anew the meaning of humility. Everything I had thought of had already been thought of, earlier in AA's history.

I learned that the Twelve Traditions did not come out of some twentieth century "burning bush"; they came from the school of hard knocks. I discovered that AA is the way it is because that is the way AA works best.

The co-founder of AA wrote the following about pioneer members' thinking in those early, heady days of success with the program, when they, too, felt that maybe--just maybe--the world could be their oyster: "If alcoholism could be licked, so could any problem! . . . Having learned to live so happily, we would show everybody else how . . . Our principles might transform the world!"

But alas, the best-laid plans of mice and alcoholics often go astray. Yet how providential for those of us who followed that the founders' first flush of enthusiasm faded with experience. AA *did* involve itself in education, politics, hospitals, clubs, "Twelfth Step houses." But as the founders tell us, "The moment we lent the AA name to any outside enterprise, we got into trouble, sometimes very serious trouble." AA, at that point in its history, had not yet learned to mind its own business. The lesson, however, was finally learned, and with it, a paradox: The more we stick to our primary purpose, the more influence we have.

(continued on page 6)

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)

scale, while my success as an author was regional. But my keen alcoholic mind swiftly came up with a plan to change all that.

Although I had never read his book, I bought it and took it with me when I went to his lecture. My plan was simple: When I got to where he would be signing books, I would hand him my latest book and say something like, "Welcome to our community. This is the bestselling book in this area and I wanted you to have it," sort of like a key to the city. Then he would of course read my book on his trip home, and when he went back to work at his big-city newspaper he would write about me and my book in his column, and my sales would skyrocket, and I would be on my way to stardom.

But it didn't work out that way. He spoke for about two hours and answered questions from the mostly little-old-ladies-in-knit-sweaters audience, so that by the time the 700 or so attendees lined up for the signing and I—not wanting to jostle the old ladies—was number 700, I couldn't take it any longer. With my head hung low, I shuffled out to my car and into an alcoholic pout.

This, then, was the night I came to believe that maybe I was, as Bob had said, the most self-centered person on the planet. While 699 other people had had a great time, I had sat with my mind racing: Should I sign my book? Would that be presumptuous? Would he even accept my book? Would he read it? What if he hated it?

That night was a few months back, and I've replayed it in my mind dozens of times. Why didn't it bother me that I was using other people, places and things to get what I wanted that night? After all, wasn't I Mr. Sobriety himself? Was I so caught up in what I wanted that I justified any means possible to get what I wanted? Was I really like the guy on the Titanic who pushed the women and children out of his way at the lifeboats?

Regardless of how I might have answered these questions back then, today I know that night changed the way I look at how self-centered I can still be. It changed the way I look at my life in recovery. Not because it was on a scale like the tragedy of the Titanic. No, it wasn't like that. I wasn't on that doomed ship. But now when I think of how I lived my life before that night, it becomes for me like being on the Titanic, looking over the edge at the lifeboats and the deep dark sea below—and making a choice.

BY: JOHN Y. | RUSSELL, PENNSYLVANIA

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HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL THE SOBER DADS!



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

Bridging The Gap
877.207.2242

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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

DCNENTYE
GICNTFIAISN
IVEINTAITI
SRETEGPI
VDPILAERTINO
ERPNEIO



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.

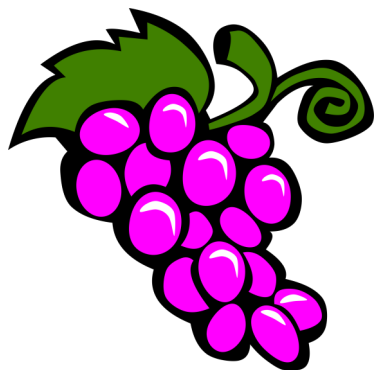
HNORPSISPSO
TGCTONINEN
PTMTOEITNA
NDMOETENI
CPEATSYMLAHI
RUNESGECOA

[The second Gratitude Dinner Planning Meeting](#) will be held at:

Saturday, June 10th at 1:30 PM

12 Step House, 205 SW 23rd St, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Yes, there will actually be a Gratitude Dinner again this year. It will be held at the First Baptist Church on Broward Blvd. on November 11th. Only 500 tickets available, so sign up to reserve your tickets!



For a limited time only subscribe to

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One on One: AA Sponsorship in Action

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NEW APRIL WHERE & WHENS ARE IN!

SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER



A.A. Birthdays

June Celebrants

Living in the Solution

Lesley A. ~ 4 yrs.
Marshall B. ~ 5 yrs.
Nancy S. ~ 5 yrs.
Shaunarae ~ 5 yrs.
Pat D. ~ 7 yrs.
Joe H. ~ -8 yrs.
Lloyd G. ~ 12 yrs.
Pete S. ~ 25 yrs.
Stan S. ~ 32 yrs.
Marilyn M. ~ 49 yrs.

Oakland Park

Gene S. ~ 14 yrs.

East Naples Men's

Wes R. ~ 35 yrs.
Stan S. ~ 32 yrs.
Pete S. ~ 25 yrs.
Wade B. ~ 23 yrs.
Ralph O. ~ 22 yrs.
Luis F. ~ 20 yrs.

Serenity Sisters

Jolie ~ 1 yr.

Living in the Solution (virtual)

Marilyn M. ~ 49 yrs.
Paula B. ~ 38 yrs.
Shaunarae ~ 5 yrs.
Pat F. ~ 5 yrs.

Empowered Women

Debbie B. ~ 35 yrs.
Julie D. ~ 5 yrs.
Heather ~ 15 yrs.

Ft.Lauderdale Women's

Nancy S. ~ 10 yrs.

Serenity in the Park (E)

Patricia B. ~ 19 yrs.

Mountain Group

Dawn D. ~ 7 yrs.

5:45 Happy Hour

Sandy S. ~ 33 yrs.

Sunlight of the Spirit

Shannon A. ~ 11 yrs.

Sunshine Group

Richard H. ~ 14 yrs.

One Day at a Time

Adelina S. ~ 11 yrs.
Denise R. ~ 6 yrs.

Meditation at the Rock

Melissa S. ~ 6 yrs.
Ken K. ~ 12 yrs.

Good Morning God

Matt M. ~ 14 yrs.

I Came To Stay

Floyd G. ~ 9 yrs.

Straight Talk

Mark O. ~ 32 yrs.

B.A.L.L.S.

Drew ~ 10 yrs.

Men's Independence

Ken W. ~ 20 yrs.

Y.A.N.A.

Bruce P. ~ 30 yrs.

Other Notables

Lynda Z. ~ 27 yrs.
Sharon M. ~ 41 yrs.
Kevin M. ~ 30 yrs.
Lee B. ~ 37 yrs.

441 Group

Jill W. ~ 15 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:**

"In our belief any scheme of combating alcoholism which proposes to shield the sick man from temptation is doomed to failure. If the alcoholic tries to shield himself he may succeed for a time, but he usually winds up with a bigger explosion than ever. We have tried these methods. These attempts to do the impossible have always failed."

Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 101

May Celebrants

not previously mentioned.....

Rule 62 Group

Jan ~ 16 yrs.
Pat ~ 17 yrs.
Diane ~ 20 yrs.



BCIC

Broward County Institutions Committee will hold their next meeting on

Saturday, June 10th
At 10:00 AM

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

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

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

(continued from page 2)

Many of those early experiences, painful as they were, led to the adoption of the Sixth Tradition. It took real courage and faith to accept the idea--as a working principle of the Fellowship--that we would "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." And AA's primary purpose, of course, is to "carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

I know that my continued life on the program and the very life of the Fellowship itself depend on that principle. It reminds me that I must present myself to the still-suffering alcoholic as an expert in one--and only one--thing: What I was like as a practicing alcoholic, what happened to me when I picked up the tools given to me by AA, and what I am like now. And as the newcomer begins to identify and see a way out of his personal nightmare, the miracle begins.

Yes, we know miracles in AA, and it is easy for many of us to believe that AA has a monopoly on such metaphysical delights. We may have tried other ways to escape our drinking trap, and so perhaps we look with a jaundiced eye at *any* other attempt to help the alcoholic. We've been that route, we say. We tried the priest, the minister, the rabbi. We tried the social agencies. We tried the doctors, the psychologists, the psychiatrists. Nothing worked! So why do we need to cooperate now? Isn't it true that AA can fix any drunk? Co-founder Bill W.'s answer can be found in "Let's Be Friendly with Our Friends" (reprint of a 1958 Grapevine article). He encourages us to develop a strong and constant attitude of cooperation, to "work alongside all these projects of promise to hasten the recovery of those millions who have not yet found their way out."

So our history as a fellowship, our Traditions, and our plain common sense clearly suggest to us that we need to preserve most zealously what we are--a worldwide fellowship of men and women who help each other stay sober--yet at the same time, that we lend a helping hand to the others wishing to make a contribution in this perplexing and complex field.

And as long as we hold fast to our Traditions, no force on earth can diminish the value or hinder the happy progress of our Fellowship.

BY: F. P. | SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

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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
<https://aabroward.org/locations>**

Things we cannot change...

Carmel H.



*She will be missed by all who knew
her. May she 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

LOLA has joined the Newsletter Committee and is looking forward to bringing some fresh ideas and enthusiasm to your Suite 404, so get ready!! She may be looking for your story soon....

Answers from page 4: Tendency, Significant, Initiative, Prestige, Providential, Pioneer, Sponsorship, Contingent, Temptation, Mentioned, Metaphysical, Encourages

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 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 AM-12 PM _____ 12 PM-5 PM _____ 5 PM-9 PM _____ 9 PM-8AM _____

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

24 Hours A Day is finally meeting live again at a new location. Lady of Mercy Catholic Church 5201 Military Trail, Deerfield Beach. CD 7:30 PM

Tuesday

Men's Step Study which met at the West Broward Club in Davie NO LONGER MEETS.

NEW MEETING Serenity Sisters West now meets at Shenandoah Park, 14452 Shenandoah Parkway, Davie. CDw 6:30 PM

Wednesday

NEW MEETING The Real South Perry St. 1410 NE 26 Street, Wilton Manors. OSP 7 PM

Thursday

Then and Now which met at the West Broward Club in Davie NO LONGER MEETS.

Free Thinkers which met in Wilton Manors NO LONGER MEETS.

Butterfly Effect will begin a second meeting in July on Thursdays at 7 PM, West Broward Club in Davie. OS

Saturday

Upper Room which met at the West Broward Club in Davie NO LONGER MEETS.

Sunday

Made a Decision which meets in Southwest Ranches starts at 9 AM. (not 9:30)

Early Risers Group now has Sunday meetings at Dunkin Donuts, 6299 W Sunrise Blvd., Plantation. OD 7 AM.

Daily

Nuevo Porvenir which meets in Pembroke Pines has moved to 1601 North Palm Ave, Suite 209D.



We love our customers!



Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Jun 1-4 | EACYPAA XIX - Bayfront Hilton, St. Petersburg - to register or for more information go to eacypaa2023.com Eastern Conference of Young People—FIRST TIME IN FLORIDA!! |
| Jun 4 | Founder's Day Picnic hosted by District 9, Snyder Park, 11 AM-4 PM, 3299 SE 4th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, music, fellowship, AA Legacy meeting at 2 PM, DJ, dancing, Volleyball Tournament, \$10 Advance ticket sales, \$12 at park, Kids 8 and under eat free |
| Jun 17 | Traditions Workshop Intergroup Bookstore, 7-9 PM, Free Event, Limited Space - call to reserve your spot 954.462.0403. Traditions 10, 11 & 12. Refreshments. |
| July 8 | Customer Appreciation Day Intergroup Office 3317 NW 10th Terrace, #404, Oakland Park - sales, Refreshments and door prizes. Gift raffles! |
| July 14—16 | S.FL Area 15 Quarterly Assembly , Tampa Airport Marriott |
| Oct 29 | Intergroup Picnic Snyder Park in Ft. Lauderdale, 11 AM—4 PM, Lunch, Live band, 2 speakers, Tickets \$10 in advance |
| Nov 11 | Gratitude Dinner First Baptist Church, Fort Lauderdale. 500 seats available. More info coming. |