



SUITE 404

BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.

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VOLUME 5
MAY 2023

Step 5 - *"Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.."*

Fired up

A lesson in putting God first in the Fifth Step

WHEN I finally finished writing my Fourth Step inventory, I was eager to tell my sponsor. He had been giving me a hard time about taking so long to complete it. "Come on," he said. "What are you writing-a moral inventory, or the great American novel?"

Now I was ready to move ahead. So I phoned to ask if we could get together to talk about it. When we met, I was still fired up about moving on to Step Five quickly. But he had other ideas: "You need to shift gears now," he said. "Slow down. Take time to be grateful for the progress you're making, and to thank your Higher Power."

As soon as he started talking to me that way, I knew he was right. I thanked him for helping me through these Steps and said I knew I could not work this program by myself. But then I tried to turn back to my agenda, asking him again about the Fifth Step.

"Before we get into that," he said, "I want to ask you a personal question about your concept of God. I mean do you really have a God-idea that works for you?"

"Sure," I said, "I go along with what the Big Book says. The way it talks about a Power greater than ourselves makes good sense to me."

My sponsor agreed, but added: "I suppose most of us in AA have that Higher Power idea in common. But I was asking about your own concept of God. Your idea is not the same as mine, you know. In fact, I believe that each of us has a very individualized idea of God."

Then he paused before asking: "What do you suppose your idea of God was when you were 10 months old?"

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CONCEPT V

Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

Tradition Five - "Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

The Cement That Binds Us

It seems to me, after attending meetings for the past thirty-four years, that Tradition Five has been gradually chipped away by individuals having problems other than alcoholism. Many of the meetings I have attended have discussions about other drugs; occasionally, there is not even a mention of alcohol or recovery from its grasp. At a recent convention in California, the main speaker at the big Saturday night meeting spent forty-five minutes talking about his cocaine use and never mentioned alcohol or the Twelve Steps of recovery. I find this to be more common than not nowadays.

Why is our primary purpose becoming diluted? Well, having discussed this with many young AAs, I'm told that most AA members now are "dually addicted." There seems to be a common statement issuing from most of those individuals: "I know this is an AA meeting, but drugs are a part of my story so I'm going to mention them too." And they do! Now, it can be rationalized that if "each group has but one primary purpose--to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers," then maybe that particular group's message concerns drugs other than alcohol. But what, then, is "the message" the group carries to the *alcoholic* who still suffers?

Few AA members, old-timers and newcomers, have ever read the third paragraph of the dust cover of the Big Book, wherein it tells that the AA message is to be found in the text of that book. I've noticed that many AAs read the Big Book but few study it, and fewer still follow its suggestions.

It is not uncommon to hear a member state, "I work my own program." In my home group, on Tuesday nights, we discuss the written program as it is in the Big Book and how it has helped each of us to a better way of life. We have a caveat in our opening message before the Preamble asking that only alcoholics share at our meeting. But we say that all are welcome. This seems to work pretty well and as a result we have good AA discussions certainly helpful to our newcomers.

My home group's primary purpose is to carry the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Some of those have much sobriety, because the alcoholic who still suffers is not necessarily a newcomer. However, when newcomers do show up at our home group we try to focus our discussion on what's in the Big Book and how it can help them if they are willing to follow some simple suggestions.

I think that without Tradition Five there could not be an AA program. I believe that the Twelve Traditions are the cement that binds us together into a cohesive society. For my part, I hold an informal study group at my home for newer members of my home group. We study the program so that all of us can better fulfill our "real purpose" as it states on page 77 of the Big Book.

—TOM H. | PASO ROBLES, CALIFORNIA

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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)

"For Pete's sakes," I said, "I don't know. Probably whatever had been programmed into me by my mother."

"How about when you were 4 years old?" he said.

"Same thing," I answered.

He pressed on: "What was your idea of God when you were 7?" This strange interrogation hit me hard. It helped open my mind to see that my concept of God-if I honestly faced it-was deeply ingrained in me. It was an idea that has been forming, changing and evolving in me from my earliest days.

My sponsor's questions helped me put the God idea up front in the Fifth Step process. The Step itself says that I should admit the "exact nature of my wrongs" first to God, then to myself, and then to another human being.

My sponsor said that I could, if I chose to, share some of my inventory with him (as I had been doing all along), but that I needed to find someone-he suggested a clergy member-to hear my whole story, "withholding nothing," as the book says. I told him I did not want to talk to a priest, because I had tried confession during my drinking days and it was useless.

"This isn't confession," he said. "It's the Fifth Step." Then he asked me to read the Big Book instructions again, on pages 72-75. To help me get started, he suggested that I use the phone book, select a Catholic church, then call and ask to speak to a priest. "Find out if he's familiar with the AA program and its Fifth Step," he said. "If so, make an appointment, and bring your written inventory."

I followed directions, and met a priest in the church rectory. It was a long session, but time passed quickly. There were no interruptions. He listened intently and asked a few questions. When I was finished, he told me we had turned all this over to God and I was forgiven. But now, he said, I must resolve to forgive myself and let go of any guilt over matters now in God's hands.

After he finished speaking, I felt a sense of relief. And I noticed, that he, too, appeared relaxed and in good spirits. Then as I was preparing to say goodbye, the priest said something unexpected: He said that he, too, was an alcoholic, and a member of AA, newly arrived in that city.

DAVE M. | PUEBLO, COLORADO

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Happy Mother's Day
to all the sober Moms!!



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

Bridging The Gap
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Recovery Word Puzzle

LARTNODIATI
RYMINTOI
RAMMOLEI
SCOOFSENNI
DIGNIREAN
VEGNOVIL



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.

TRIEDSCONI
LAGYRUDLA
VYEERORC
TUGSNISSOEG
SHEEVICO
MASTINIOTIL

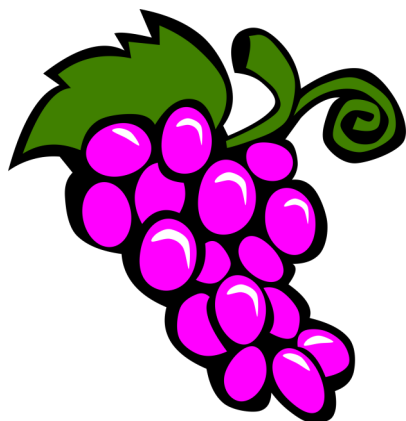
General Service District 9 needs your help to prepare for the **Founder's Day Picnic**.

The next two planning meetings will be held

Thursday, May 11th at 7 PM

Thursday, May 25th at 7 PM

Meetings held at the Intergroup Bookstore, 3317 NW 10th Terrace, Ste. 404, Oakland Park, FL



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NEW WHERE & WHENS ARE IN!

SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER



A.A. Birthdays

May Celebrants

Serenity Altogether

Ron J. ~ 39 yrs.

Don't Forget

David H. ~ 11 yrs.

Broward Women's

Jan S. ~ 38 yrs.

Jen ~ 14 yrs.

5:45 Happy Hour

Linden ~ 37 yrs.

Plantation Happy Hour

Keith N. ~ 8 yrs.

Howard S. ~ 8 yrs.

Lou P. ~ 23 yrs.

Robin S. ~ 29 yrs.

Recovery on the Rock

Mary R. ~ 17 yrs.

Women's Step Into Sobriety

Cassandra C. ~ 9 yrs.

Sober on the Beach

Andrew K. ~ 2 yrs.

Serenity in the Park (SWR)

Vince ~ 2 yrs.

Marisabel ~ 3 yrs.

Dermot ~ 28 yrs.

Amy ~ 30 yrs.

Sunshine Group

Donna H. ~ 15 yrs.

Dave A. ~ 12 yrs.

Happy Joyous & Free

Peggy D. ~ 19 yrs.

We Came to Stay ~ 37

yrs.

Other Notables

Amanda P. ~ 10 yrs.

Victoria R. ~ 13 yrs.

Rob D. ~ 14 yrs.

Christopher C. ~ 17 yrs.

Aisling ~ 24 yrs.

Larry F. ~ 30 yrs.

Jeff S. ~ 34 yrs.

Russell S. ~ 34 yrs.

Gail O. ~ 40 yrs.

MaryJo W. ~ 37 yrs.

Living in the Solution

Arlene R. ~ 4 yrs.

Billy E. ~ 6 yrs.

Glenn H. ~ 8 yrs.

Mike B. ~ 10 yrs.

Nancy H. ~ 12 yrs.

12 Steppers Men's

Mike O. ~ 1 yr.

Greg T. ~ 2 yrs.

Mike B. ~ 10 yrs.

Living in the Solution Virtual

JoAnn E. ~ 3 yrs.

Rusty ~ 8 yrs.

Cookie ~ 31 yrs.

Laura H. ~ 40 yrs.

Ft. Lauderdale Women

Judy J. ~ 18 yrs.

Freedom From Alcohol

Jackie S. ~ 41 yrs.

West Park Sunday Morning

Sheila C. ~ 29 yrs.

Saturday Morning Awareness

Joey B. ~ 11 yrs.

Broward Men's

Sebastian ~ 8 yrs.

Coral Ridge Group

Jodi W. ~ 22 yrs.

Serenity Sisters

Lisa K. ~ 10 yrs.

Lisa D. ~ 14 yrs.

Joyce ~ 28 yrs.

Ruth D. ~ 36 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:

"Resentment is the 'number one' offender. It destroys more alcoholics than anything else. From it stem all forms of spiritual disease, for we have been not only mentally and physically ill, we have been spiritually sick."

Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 64

BCIC

Broward County Institutions Committee will hold their next meeting on

**Saturday, May 13th
At 10:00 AM**

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

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

**Sunday, May 21st
at 1:00 PM**

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

April Celebrants

not previously mentioned.....

Spiritual Principles

Gary S ~ 6 yrs.

Lee R ~ 25 yrs.

Express Group

Bonnie T. ~ 20 yrs.



TRADITIONS CHECKLIST

Tradition Five: Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

1. Do I ever cop out by saying, "I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me"?
2. Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the *limitations* of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
3. Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
4. Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?
5. Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose?
6. Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

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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>



**WE LOVE
OUR
VOLUNTEERS**

**Thank you to EVERYONE who helped make our Intergroup
Appreciation Banquet a huge Success!!**

Thank you to the following groups and individuals for donating gift baskets for our raffle:

Easier Softer Way
Serenity Sisters
Brothers All Living Life Sober
Oakland Park Group
Sunshine Group
Sunlight of the Spirit
Dania After Work
Davie Women's Group
Women's Step by Step
Women's Honesty

Primary Purpose
The Outsiders
Just For Today
Free to Be
Deerfield Beach Study
Pompano Beach Group
Living in the Solution Virtual
Happy Joyous & Free
Sober Women of Parkland
University Big Book Study

Ft. Lauderdale Women's
Peace of Mind
Sunday Night Imperial Point
Saturday Morning Awareness
New Day Group
Recovery on the Rock
Central Fact Group
Sunrise Serenity
One Day at a Time
East Naples Men's

Freedom From Alcohol
Mark M.
Lighthouse Point Group
Bottom Line Group
Riverside Group
Pat C. Women's
Women's Step Into Sobriety
Vinny D.

**Many Thanks to all those of you who bought tickets to attend and
bought raffle tickets, also!! We couldn't survive without you ALL!!**

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: traditional, minority, memorial, confession, ingrained, evolving, directions, gradually, recovery, suggestions, cohesive, limitations

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

Margate Men's Book Study which meets at Fellowship Recovery Center in Margate meets at 6 PM. CBBSTm

Tuesday

Live at 5 is the Big Book meeting at the Sober Today Club in Hollywood. This is a new time/name.

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 Turning Point will meet at Sober Today Club at 10:30 AM in Hollywood. OSPw

Thursday

Atlantic Women's which met at Fellowship Recovery Center in Margate NO LONGER MEETS.

Right on Target will now only meet once per week on Tuesdays in Deerfield. The Thursday night meeting NO LONGER MEETS.

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

Saturday

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

Sunday

Halfway to the Next Step which met in Pompano NO LONGER MEETS.

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

Daily

Serenity in the Park (SWR) and Serenity in the Park East are now both meeting at 5:30 PM again.

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 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, 700 SW 10th Street (and Dixie) Pompano, 6-9 PM, coffee and desserts, 3 speakers. Bring a newcomer and a dessert. Free Event |
| 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, live 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. |