



SUITE 404

BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.

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VOLUME 8
AUGUST 2023

Step 8 - *"Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all."*

A Deeper Surrender

Almost three years ago I moved from a relatively large urban area to a smaller town. At the time, I had just celebrated my second AA birthday and felt well grounded in the program. My sponsor told me that I would undoubtedly miss my AA friends and the meetings where I had gotten sober, but he knew that once I was settled in the AA program in my new community, everything would be fine.

The move went well and before long I had started my new job. I began to attend AA meetings in my new community, but found it very difficult to adjust. My new home was a mill town, and as a "professional" person I found it hard to relate to anybody I heard in the meetings I was attending. To make matters worse, I did encounter one gentleman in a meeting -- himself a "professional" --who I thought would make a good sponsor. When I asked him and he declined I was crushed.

This began for me a rather long difficult period during which I attended meetings but didn't commit myself to any friendships within the Fellowship. As soon as a meeting was over, I'd be the first one out of the door. My weekends were invariably spent in the nearest large city, where I used the hustle and bustle to distract me from the reality that I was becoming increasingly isolated and alone.

After about a year of this I finally reached my bottom. Following a community-wide AA event, I found myself walking out with the man whom I had asked to be my sponsor when I first moved to the area. As I shared about my many troubles -- not the least of which was his refusal to sponsor me I started crying as pent-up emotions spilled over. He listened attentively and then nonchalantly suggested that I ask him again to be my

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NEW
Where & When's
are in!!
Same price.
Come get yours
now!!

CONCEPT VIII

The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of over-all policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.

Tradition Eight - "Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non professional, but our service centers may employ special workers."

AA Is Not For Sale

Much good sense in our Traditions is not easily housed in my head, not to mention my heart. Just when I was thinking I had the Eighth domesticated to my comfort, it turns out to have about as many ramifications as an octopus has arms.

The Eighth reads: "Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers."

This is the flowering of an idea derived from the Oxford Group, that rich garden from which our AA founders gathered so many conceptions quite remarkable in their applicability to drunks.

Pages 58-59 of *AA Comes of Age* (a book that seems to me indispensable to anyone who wants the full flavor of AA) include a sketch of the Oxonian six-part program, which developed into our Steps and Traditions. One point is: ". . . I ought to practice the kind of giving that has no price tag on it, the giving of yourself to somebody." On page 63, it is worded: ". . . you try to give of yourself without stint, with no demand for reward. . ."

Because of our Twelfth Step, I'm comfortable with that idea. It seems to me quite all right for the clergy to be paid for preaching or counseling, doctors for dosing, and Grapevine editors for their professional services as editors. But for my own recovery from alcoholism, I need to carry the AA message without reward of any kind. Trying to do this has been extremely salutary for me, perhaps in part because I'm such a manipulator, often trying to chisel things out of people.

But the first day I was twelfth-stepped, I asked my callers how I could repay them. The reply was: "Some day, you can talk with someone else as we have talked with you." No problem, right? A perfectly plain, straightforward tit for tat, with the elegant, symmetrical simplicity of great scientific ideas.

In practice, of course, I discovered that giving really does help me stay sober. It works, as the Big Book says, when other things fail. And I've seen it help others sober up.

One instance was in a club for AA members, some years ago. The meeting room badly needed painting, and the secretary asked all who could to be a little extra generous when the hat was passed, so money for paint could be accumulated.

Secretary, who was newer than Slipper, delightedly relayed the news of this windfall to the steering committee, and was puzzled by their lack of enthusiasm. A couple of the fellows then took Secretary and Slipper aside for a chat.

"That's awfully nice of you," one man said to Slipper, "but we cannot accept because of the psychological damage it would do to the other fellows. Some of these guys barely have enough for food and carfare, but we want them to feel they are just as important here as anyone else. So the group will buy paint out of the treasury, then get volunteer teams to do the painting. That way, everybody has a stake in our room.

"Slipper was a very rich man and he protested at first. It would take weeks to gather the money, and he owned a store and had instant access to house painters, he said. But the old-timers' decision stuck, and about two months later the paint was on hand. That night, Secretary told Slipper, "If you still want to

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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)

sponsor. I thought this was nervy --he ought to be asking *me* --but I complied. He agreed to sponsor me, but wanted me to start working the Steps all over again. I was, of course, insulted.

Like it or not, I was going through the Steps one more time, just to satisfy my new sponsor, one of the last of the great Big Book thumpers. After a period of time, as I adjusted to his style of sponsorship, I got more comfortable. All went well until one day, as we sat in a local coffee shop discussing my Eighth Step amends list. As he scanned the names --almost all of whom were colleagues where I worked --he suggested that doing my Ninth Step with these people would involve telling them that my amends was part of a program of recovery from alcoholism. It was now that I learned the true meaning of the words "aghast" and "thunderstruck." I was speechless. How could I possibly share the fact that I was a recovering alcoholic with people who worked under me? Word about the fact that I was an "alkie" would spread all over work. I was finished. My sponsor left me sitting in the coffee shop to stew in my juices.

It was several days of sheer agony before I began to recover my wits and discover, for myself, that I would have to go through with making my Ninth Step amends as my sponsor suggested or risk drinking again. There was no escape. And so finally, late one afternoon, I made my way to my boss's office. I had decided that I should share this dark deep secret first with him before word reached him from another source once I started my amends-making. To my astonishment, he was warm, understanding, and sympathetic. I left his office feeling several tons lighter, and the way was cleared for me to make all the amends I needed to make.

My first sponsor used to say that to survive in the AA program, you had to continue to surrender at deeper and deeper levels. I certainly understood that intellectually. But it's only through day-to-day living that I've really come to appreciate what that means. The surrender process was essential for me when I finally took my First Step; it's equally indispensable to me now as I learn a little more each day about how I can live comfortably in my own skin.

BY: B. B. | LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON

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This month in AA History

August, 1934: Rowland H and Cebra persuade court to parole Ebby T. to them.

August, 1938: 1st meeting of the Alcoholic Foundation (which later became GSO)

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>

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

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Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310

Recovery Word Puzzle

UTNCERENO
YHONACLATNLN
LYISEMCAMTR
HDEYLEGITLD
CDLAUTEMUAC
BPDNIEASINLSE



Unscramble the letters. Answers to puzzle can be found on page 7. Words for this puzzle have been used somewhere else in this

GLOUCESALE
INUFOANODT
HSGDINTUIS
STEAPITN
EASPTEDER
TGERUSE

The next Gratitude Dinner planning meeting

will be held on

Saturday, August 19th at 1:30 PM

441 Group, 1452 N. State Rd &, Margate, FL

Next Intergroup Picnic planning meeting

will be held on

Sunday, August 20th at 2:00 PM

12 Step House, 205 SW 23rd Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315

Come sign up for a service commitment



Things we cannot change...

Bobby V, Maggie H, Sandy D

The will be missed by all who knew them.

May they rest in peace

SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER



A.A. Birthdays

August Celebrants

Living in the Solution — Virtual

Steve B. ~ 6 yrs.

Empowered Women

Kathy G. ~ 45 yrs.

Broward Men's

Max ~ 9 yrs.

JD ~ 9 yrs.

Will ~ 9 yrs.

Brian E. ~ 8 yrs.

Oakland Park

Don W. ~ 41 yrs.

David S. ~ 41 yrs.

Rick B. ~ 29 yrs.

Other Notables

Cassie C. ~ 12 yrs.

Sandy S. ~ 26 yrs.

Helene H. ~ 16 yrs.

Spiritual Principles

Peter G. ~ 14 yrs.

Carmen D. ~ 15 yrs.

Glenn S. ~ 23 yrs.

Linda W. ~ 40 yrs.

Women's Honesty

Marsha M. ~ 27 yrs.

Laura P. ~ 18 yrs.

Charmaine ~ 8 yrs.

True Self Group

Hannah A. ~ 34 yrs.

Westside Men's

Scott Z. ~ 30 yrs.

Serenity in the Park—SWR

Rick S. ~ 1 yr.

Todd G. ~ 2 yr.

Nancy F. ~ 5 yrs.

Alison B. ~ 7 yrs.

Peter ~ 14 yrs.

Louis ~ 31 yrs.

Mathew B. ~ 36 yrs.

Recovery on the Rocks

Jennifer R. ~ 9 yrs.

Ken ~ 27 yrs.

Fort Lauderdale Women's

Lisa M. ~ 18 yrs.

Beverly P. ~ 37 yrs.

Let's Do Lunch

Charlie G. ~ 29 yrs.

Downtown Dry Dock

Terri S. ~ 20 yrs.

Patty M. ~ 17 yrs.

Coral Ridge Group

Erica ~ 7 yrs.

Chickee Group

Sue Y. ~ 40 yrs.

Coral Springs As Bill Sees It

Barbara ~ 13 yrs.

Monica ~ 12 yrs.

Mark ~ 34 yrs.

Kevin ~ 10 yrs.

Davie Women's

Patty L. ~ 18 yrs.

Easier Softer Way

Taryn ~ 21 yrs.

Nancy G. ~ 10 yrs.

Entirely Ready

Adie M. ~ 36 yrs.

Riverside Group

Denise J. ~ 45 yrs.

Living in the Solution

Martin S. ~ 9 yrs.

Ron R. ~ 4 yrs.

Sally S. ~ 12 yrs.

Suzanne K. ~ 2 yrs.

Express Group

Greg B. ~ 32 yrs.

Paul A. ~ 22 yrs.

Nick ~ 11 yrs.

Joanne ~ 35 yrs.

Vernon ~ 35 yrs.

Esther ~ 17 yrs.

Hollywood Men's

Joe A. ~ 35 yrs.

Tom ~ 28 yrs.

New Day Group

Karo ~ 15 yrs.

Jeanne B. ~ 8 yrs.

Frank M. ~ 8 yrs.

Men's Independence

Nico ~ 13 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:

"Above everything, we alcoholics must be rid of this selfishness. We must, or it will kill us! God makes that possible. And there often seems no way of entirely getting rid of self without His aid"

Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 25

BCIC

Broward County Institutions Committee will hold their next meeting on

**Saturday, August 12th
At 10:00 AM**

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

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

**Sunday, August 20th
at 1:00 PM**

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

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Express Group ~ 47 yrs.

(continued from page 2)

help us redecorate, bring your paintbrush over here at eight o'clock Saturday morning."

He did, and found himself going hour after hour without a drink. He also found himself rubbing elbows with and hearing about the kind of sobriety he wanted. He has not had a drink since, and that was years ago. We've forgotten how rich he is, and in AA, so has he.

I identify closely with his grand gesture. Footing the bill for those less fortunate makes me feel pleased with myself. I think this man was trying to buy recovery in a sincere and desperate way. He wanted to own a piece of AA, and if he had been able to send a check, he might never have got near meetings, or sobriety. But the Eighth Tradition says he needed to give himself instead of trying to bribe his way out of alcoholism. AA recovery cannot be bought and sold, but more than once I've wished I could just send a monthly check instead of practicing those principles. Just making donations seems an easier, softer way, doesn't it?

I've seen people try to buy recovery in other ways. One actress kept giving her sponsor opening-night tickets and other prized goodies, and kept slipping until she tried the Twelfth Step. In two cases, alcoholism counselors at a rehab center were repeatedly entertained at expensive restaurants by alcoholics who then wondered why they did not stay sober. Finally, the counselors caught on and told the patients that maybe human beings could be bought, but recovery could not. You can't get health by corruption.

Do we find ourselves now at Tradition Seven (self-support)? Or is the Tradition at work here the Third--"the only requirement for membership"? I'm not sure, and perhaps it doesn't matter. Our Traditions are not laws for Talmudic or Jesuitic debate. They are not black-or-white, right-or-wrong, rigid rules. Nor are they there for me to use in clubbing other AAs. I have discovered it is quite easy to accuse an AA I disagree with, or dislike, of breaking some Tradition!

The Eighth, for example, gives me no right at all to accuse a member who works in the field of alcoholism of "professionalizing AA." AA members with rich, long sobriety who work in the field impress me by the seriousness with which they do the Fourth Step, the Ninth, the Twelfth, and all the others, outside their jobs. Central office, Grapevine, and GSO staffs, too, do not mistake their jobs for a recovery program. They are not paid to do those things necessary to their own sobriety; they are paid to render professional services. They deserve, in my opinion, to be fully paid for such work, whether as GSO staff members, social workers, or clergy. For practicing the AA program, they get only one reward: sobriety.

Not everyone finds it easy to distinguish between twelfth-stepping and professional work, apparently. A clergyman in AA once said to me, "Do you know why Jane gave up that job with the council on alcoholism? It got to her conscience--she was being paid to give away what had been given to her free."

He caught himself a few minutes later, however. "Funny, I never thought about it before--I'm being paid to do the Lord's work, and his grace was given free to me. I guess the difference is, I must be one of God's loving children at all times without pay, for my own sake; but I'm paid to do pastoral counseling and preaching, for which I have had professional training. It's not the same, is it?"

Another friend, in AA many years, longed to work in an alcoholism rehabilitation unit for which he had no professional qualifications. Finally, he wangled such a job, and he has been miserable ever since. Once, he was asked how he distinguished between his paid job and his AA membership. "I don't," he said quickly. "It's all the same to me. I just wear one hat." A few months later, he was drunk, and the job was gone.

I cannot pass judgment here. But I wonder whether using our Tradition of not professionalizing AA itself might not have enabled him to be happier, to stay sober, and then to get some training that would entitle him to be paid for a special alcoholism job.

Various good and necessary services for alcoholics can be obtained for a rightful fee. But AA? It's not for sale.

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
Hurbert N.	John L.	Sandra C.	Nancy V.		

Answers from page 4: encounter, nonchalantly, symmetrical, delightedly, accumulated, indispensable, colleagues, foundation, distinguish, patients, desperate, gesture

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

Let's Do Lunch Bunch which met at Lambda South NO LONGER MEETS on this day.

Light House Point Group moved to Dixie Hall, 2220 NE 38th Street, Light House Point, FL 33064.

Tuesday

Sober Friends which met in Davie NO LONGER MEETS.

Wednesday

NEW MEETING Free Thinkers South now meets at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Lauderdale, 2810 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312. 7 PM. OD.

Let's Do Lunch Bunch which met at Lambda South NO LONGER MEETS on this day.

NEW MEETING Surviving Lives now meets at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Lauderdale, 2810 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312. 7 PM. OD.

NEW MEETING West Broward Womans Group now meets at West Broward Club at 10:30 AM, 8396 W State Rd. 84, Davie, FL 33324. ODw

Young and Free which met at 8:30 PM at the Twelve Step House is no longer an AA meeting.

Thursday

NEW MEETING Charlie Mike to Recovery The Church, 4765 NE 18 Terrace, Pompano Beach. 7 PM, OCC.

Our Charge which met in Hollywood NO LONGER MEETS.

Friday

Let's Do Lunch Bunch which met at Lambda South NO LONGER MEETS on this day.

Intergroup Picnic Tickets Now on Sale



Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| August 13 | 66th Florida State Convention , Saddlebrook Resort, Tampa, FL. 66.floridastateconvention.com for more info or to register. |
| Sept 16 | Traditions 1-3 Workshop , Broward County Intergroup, 7-9pm limited seating, call or email to reserve |
| Sept 23 | Carry the Message Day , 101 Club, Pompano Beach, FL. 6pm to 9pm. Free service fare, come pick up a commitment. Bring a newcomer and a dessert |
| Oct 29 | Intergroup Picnic Snyder Park in Ft. Lauderdale, 11 AM—4 PM, Lunch, Live band, 2 speakers, Tickets \$10 in advance or 3/\$25. \$12 at gate. Kids under 6 eat free. Family fun and fellowship. Caldwell Pavilion. NO DOGS ALLOWED. |
| Nov 11 | Gratitude Dinner First Baptist Church, Broward Blvd., Fort Lauderdale. Limited seating. Must have advance ticket. |
| Nov 17– 19 | SSAASA7 Sheraton Orlando North, Orlando, FL. Service assembly. For more info go to: ssaasa7.org |