



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 7
JULY 2023

Step 7 - "Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings."

Spiritual Recycling

I have never been able to identify with the way the "Twelve and Twelve" talks about character defects as things that need to be "removed." It just sounds so negative, like having your teeth out: what do you do when they're all gone? I'm not even entirely sure what a defect is.

So the problem for me is, How do I take Step Seven in a way that makes sense, and makes a difference in my life?

I've had to back off the idea of "Deadly Sins" and look at some of the other ways our literature describes character defects. I find it useful to identify ways in which personal change can bring my life into closer alignment with the bigger AA picture. In particular, I consider what changes in me would place me in a better position to be of maximum use to others. When I ask that question, then Bill W.'s use of the word "handicap" becomes more personally relevant. What handicaps get in the way of right relations and make it difficult for me to be of use?

Before I can "humbly ask" God to remove "defects," I must have some idea of what those words mean to me, based on my experience with them.

Step Seven shows me that the misuse of natural desires makes me useless and unhappy. I've never met a truly useful person who was genuinely unhappy. As I became useful in AA, [I] began to move out of that awful isolation we AA's talk about. And being out of the isolation, I was exposed. It was a long overdue experience for a person who had lived in an emotional foxhole since childhood. My initial contact with the real world meant getting active with my group, and it was an emotional roller coaster. I'd never been able to be a member of anything, conflicts

(continued on page 3)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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



CONCEPT VII

The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purpose for final effectiveness.

Tradition Seven - “Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”

Who's Paying the Rent?

Last month I tried a new form of group service: I started a new meeting. There wasn't much effort involved in getting the meeting going; I obtained books and literature from the central intergroup office and spent twenty-five dollars at the local grocery store for coffee supplies. Flyers were made and distributed at area meetings. A piece of cake. The only trouble I ran into was securing the church in which we wanted to hold the meeting.

I approached a local church; the director and his wife were thrilled. They had been contemplating different ways to reach out to the community. The director described the contracts he would draw up and have me sign once the church's board approved my request. I explained that I could not sign anything, as I could not act as an agent for Alcoholics Anonymous. The director and his wife were slightly concerned, but not enough to make them turn us away. We decided we would work around it, but in the meantime we would press ahead with securing approval from the board.

Then we got to the subject of rent. I explained that each group in Alcoholics Anonymous is fully self-supporting; that there is no central "AA bank" to pay an individual group's rent. I also explained that we would be lucky to get ten people at our meeting and one dollar from each one. I watched their faces as they did the math and saw a slight fall in their expressions. Still, the director and his wife wanted to help us out. They decided that whatever our group felt we could afford to donate to the church each month would be our rent.

The director then asked if he could provide literature or pamphlets about their church services for me to distribute during our AA meeting. Being well versed in the Traditions, I told him no and explained our policy of non affiliation. But I felt like a jerk. Here this couple was bending over backward to help me start a group, and I was shooting them down at every turn. I adamantly told them that if they were uncomfortable making all these compromises to let me know, and I would go elsewhere--no hard feelings. They decided they would accept my terms rather than turn me away.

The new meeting has been underway for three weeks now and is showing promise. But I am still troubled. A woman who rented space in a church to hold dancing classes last year told me she was charged fifteen dollars an hour for the space. She rented the church's fellowship hall, so let's estimate ten dollars an hour for a meeting room. Since we need two hours for set-up, clean-up, and the meeting, that would be at least eighty dollars a month for the group I started. There is no way my group could cover that and survive. Even five dollars an hour would be a stretch. I started to think back to the two treasurer jobs I've held. One group was "charged" forty-five dollars per quarter, in other words, fifteen dollars per month.

(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)

and my emotional handicaps came bursting forth. The resulting made me quickly and painfully aware of a lot of things I had been running and hiding from all my life.

When I look at how fear and self-seeking affect my desire for sex, society, and security, most of the mystery that used to surround the idea of "defects of character" goes away. For example, I think not so much in terms of having lust "removed" as in coming to a more conscious and responsible attitude regarding how I allow my sex drive to find expression. I don't ask God to take anger out of my life but to show me how best to express it or let it go.

You might think that surely anyone would want to be rid of something like envy. What possible good can come from desiring what others have? Well, when I was new, I was really envious of people who had long-term sobriety. I envied people who could be spontaneous and who were useful and well-liked. So it was how I responded to envy that mattered. What did I do with it? Did I just sit back and hate people who were useful and effective in AA? The willingness to change came when I was able to identify and own the cause of my discomfort. Then I could ask humbly. Without this willingness, I would have turned into a chronic and terminal bleeding deacon, running around trying to get people to see it my way. Of course I have tried that over the years, and the result was always that I ended up bored and alone.

Had I not learned to stop running around making things happen, I might have stayed with the old idea that getting active has to do only with what goes on around and outside me, instead of coming to see that it refers as well to what is going on inside. That calls for more calm, thoughtful reflection on human relations. Am I a worker among workers, a friend among friends? Maybe "active" means taking a night off from meetings to stay home with a good book or a friend. Maybe my group really will get along without me for one night. If my "busy-ness" is a defect, maybe it's also a part of who I am. It need not so much be removed as toned down and redirected. My defects are the boundaries of just what I am capable of and capable of becoming at any given moment. Boundaries that I am unconscious of become barriers.

Maybe I am overly concerned with how people see me. But if I didn't care what people thought at all, I would have nothing to shoot for, no spiritual objective. Maybe anger is a dubious luxury and maybe it's a real human emotion that I've always avoided because I was afraid of it. Maybe my anger needs not to be removed so much as brought into alignment with the new spiritual objective of right relations. Seen in that light I can ask for knowledge of whether to express it or let it go.

I have a more meaningful understanding of Step Seven today based on experience. I can freely and enthusiastically point others to this Step without that queasy feeling I used to have about it. I don't see Step Seven as being about removal so much as realization. I'm all God has to work with-- I have to be enough. Nothing goes to waste in the spiritual recycling process we call Step Seven.

BY: JIM N. | WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Copyright © AA Grapevine, Inc., July 1997, 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

TNGNILEMA

GLUNYENE

FLTFAIOINAI

SHTSUESMATCA

VNTRLATESAI

BLARLTENOI



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

TUNTNSIOTISI

YCRACUCA

VNCNECNOEIE

TRTBSONICNOUI

ZTOGRONIASNA

PCTINPERAIOA

[The Third Gratitude Dinner Planning Meeting](#) will be held on

Saturday, July 23rd at 1:30 PM

Sober Today Club, 2035 Harding St., Ste.102, Hollywood, FL

It will be held at the First Baptist Church on Broward Blvd. on November 11th.

First Planning Meeting for the 38th Intergroup Picnic

Sunday, July 23rd 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...

Cookie W., Frank M, Jay G, One Shot Bob

The will be missed by all who knew them.

May they rest in peace

SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER



A.A. Birthdays

July Celebrants

Smell the Coffee

Liz J. ~ 34 yrs.
Mike ~ 13 yrs.

Broward Men's

Jay ~ 7 yrs.
Joe A. ~ 8 yrs.
Steven H. ~ 6 yrs.

Oakland Park

Mary W. ~ 32 yrs.
Mike M. ~ 27 yrs.
Mark W. ~ 20 yrs.

Sands of Serenity

Laura W. ~ 25 yrs.

Free To Be

Dara ~ 13 yrs.

Lunch Bunch

Gary ~ 53 yrs.
Walter ~ 24 yrs.

Thursday Night Study

Nicolle N. ~ 10 yrs.

Rule 62

Vickie T. ~ 37 yrs.

Don't Forget

Doug W. ~ 12 yrs.
Michael E. ~ 15 yrs.

B.A.L.L.S. Group

Richie ~ 34 yrs.
Nick ~ 8 yrs.
Randall ~ 28 yrs.

By Any Means

Peter S. ~ 32 yrs.

Sober on the Beach

Leanne S. ~ 11 yrs.
Rex K ~ 10 yrs
Shiloh F ~ 14 yrs

Bikers in Recovery

Emilio ~ 24 yrs.
Leon J. ~ 16 yrs.
Donna M. ~ 18 yrs.
Bill F. ~ 7 yrs.
Rich W. ~ 7 yrs.

You Are Not Alone

Sharon G. ~ 24 yrs.
Janet T. ~ 21 yrs.
Marie H. ~ 15 yrs.
Diane R. ~ 35 yrs.

Sunshine Group

Deanna ~ 7 yrs.

Living in the Solution

Jenny J. ~ 15 yrs.
David H. ~ 18 yrs.
Mike G. ~ 23 yrs.
Jill S. ~ 42 yrs.

Women's Step by Step

Karen V. ~ 42 yrs.

Serenity in the Park W

Bernard ~ 24 yrs.
Francine A. ~ 2 yrs.
Harry ~ 7 yrs.
Abby ~ 2 yrs.
Lisa ~ 2 yrs.
Monica ~ 3 yrs.

Living in the Solution (VIRTUAL)

Bonnie W ~ 6 yrs.
Jeanne H ~ 6 yrs.
Judy Z ~ 6 yrs.
Tim ~ 2 yrs.
MaryBelle P ~ 36 yrs.
Jennifer ~ 4 yrs.

Men in Recovery

Harry O. ~ 33 yrs.
John D. ~ 13 yrs.
Richard W. ~ 13 yrs.
Casey M. ~ 22 yrs.

Westside Men's

Eric S. ~ 24 yrs.
Richard R. ~ 32 yrs.

Ft. Lauderdale Women's

Nancy B. ~ 34 yrs.
Diana H. ~ 23 yrs.
Pam ~ 27 yrs.

Live, Laugh, Love

Leslie B. ~ 15 yrs.
Juliyaet ~ 25 yrs.

Coral Springs Men's

Steve B. ~ 31 yrs.
Bill F. ~ 32 yrs.
Brett ~ 6 yrs.

Tamarac Group

Rhonda D. ~ 19 yrs.

Friends of Pat C.

Mare C. ~ 26 yrs.
Maria W. ~ 11 yrs.

Women's Honesty

Becky P. ~ 41 yrs.
Marcia S. ~ 27 yrs.
Rachel ~ 15 yrs.
Emma L. ~ 34 yrs.

Spiritual Principles

Zane ~ 9 yrs.
Beth ~ 39 yrs.

Eleventh Step

Marty ~ 10 yrs.

Womans Step Into Sobriety

Liz A ~ 15 yrs.

Serenity Sisters

Mary S ~ 24 yrs..
Linda H ~ 1 yr.

441 Group

Ebony ~ 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:

"If you are as serious as we were, we believe there is no middle-of-the-road solution. We were in a position where life was becoming impossible, and if we passed into the region from which there is no return through human aid, we had but two alternatives: one was to go on to the bitter end, blotting out the consciousness of our intolerable situation as best we could; and the other, to accept spiritual help."

Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 25

BCIC

Broward County Institutions Committee will hold their next meeting on

**Saturday, July 8th
At 10:00 AM**

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

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

**Sunday, July 23rd
at 1:00 PM**

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

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

(continued from page 2)

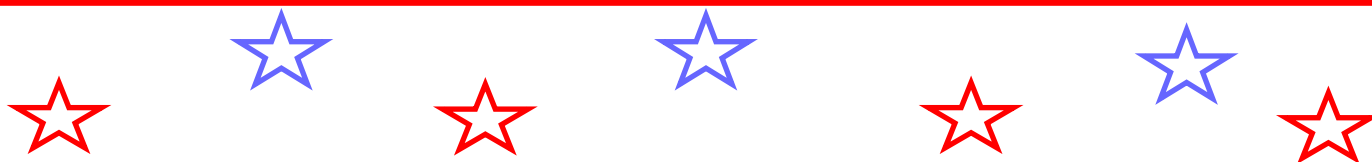
I thought that was low, but now my current home group pays only seventy-five dollars every six months. These rent payments are actually donations; the churches do not impose these charges. But my first sponsor told me that we cannot accept free space in a church, as that would be accepting outside contributions; we have to pay the churches something. I would argue that paying a miniscule rent is accepting a contribution from the church, especially if they rent their space to day care centers, schools, and other organizations for a standard fee, which many of them do.

I am interested to hear how other small groups have handled this situation. Do they meet in locations other than halls or churches? Do they pay rent in ways other than cash payments? Am I mistaken in my discomfort in considering what the church calls a "donation" as rent? Is this benevolent price discrimination in line with, or against, our Traditions?

Personally, I think part of the answer lies in larger member contributions when the basket is passed, at least for those who can afford it. Since I started attending meetings nine years ago, the average member donation has been one dollar per meeting, and it's my understanding that it has been a dollar per member for decades. In my case, that adds up to only a fraction of what I used to spend on booze. Perhaps it's time we alcoholics (myself included) reassess how much we are capable of putting in the basket each meeting. It might make all the difference in the world for a small group that's struggling to carry the message.

BY: JANE D. | LANSDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

Copyright © AA Grapevine, Inc. March 2001, Reprinted with permission.



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

"KNOW A NEW FREEDOM AND A NEW HAPPINESS"

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>

This month in AA History

July 3, 1950:

**First International Convention at
Cleveland.**

**12 Traditions adopted by the
movement**

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: Alignment, genuinely, affiliation, Massachusetts, alternatives, intolerable, institutions, accuracy, convenience, contributions, organizations, appreciation

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

Wednesday

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

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

Thursday

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

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

Sunday

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

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| July 4 | Pompano Beach Group Celebrates the FOURTH! Kester Park, 702 NE 6th Street, Pompano Beach. 11 AM - 4 PM, Free Food, Fellowship, Fun, Speaker. Bring a dish and a newcomer. Bounce House. |
| 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 |
| August 13 | 66th Florida State Convention, Saddlebrook Resort, Tampa FL |
| Sept 22—24 | 9th Annual Woman in Recovery Conference, Grand Opal Hotel, Delray Beach FL |
| 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. |
| Nov 17– 19 | SSAASA7 Sheraton Orlando North, Orlando, FL. |