



SUITE 404

BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.

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VOLUME 3
MARCH 2024

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

BACK AGAIN!

"What will be different this time?"

I always hated that question. How was I to know what would be different?

As I admitted myself into rehab for what seemed to be the millionth time, nothing seemed different. I could smile my way through groups and laugh it up around the ashtrays, but it was all the same; everything but God and willingness. My counselor asked me what my plan was. I may have tried to rattle off the basic "go home, get job, go to meetings," but deep down I knew I would be right back in this spot again and again and again.

As I walked out of her office, we both knew I had no plans. Nothing. I was a rock, a sinking boulder. I let no one in and accepted no help. How could anyone help me? I was hopeless. And I think that was the difference this time. I was hopeless. I could not live behind these walls. I had to do something different.

God stepped in, walked me into my therapist's office and I blurted out "I don't think you can help me. I don't think anyone can. I have all these emotions and I hate them and I don't want them anymore. I am worthless and useless." And that was all it took. In those next few moments, I became willing. Willing to be vulnerable, only if sometimes... willing to be honest - no matter what - and willing to realize I had no idea what to do but maybe someone else did and maybe they were on my side.

Groups only did so much for me. I started to get irritable and anxious. Then, a voice said "maybe I should get a sponsor," so I asked my case worker and she gave me some names.

I hated this part. I mean, this girl doesn't know me. Why the heck would she speak to me? All these self-effacing thoughts showed up; what if she is crazy?! what if she doesn't answer? what if I can't be myself? what if she doesn't like me? I can't do this.. this is stupid... I don't need a sponsor right now. I almost talked myself right out of it. But I called - and she answered!

Someone suggested "when she gives you an assignment do it quickly and thoroughly," so I did. At step four I got fearful. What would I do without all this baggage? Would the cleaning really work? It was amazing how God worked. How he would send the right people and messages at the right times. I needed to muster some courage, but I had no idea what courage was. So, someone said "if you don't know the meaning of things, look them up, read about them, go to YouTube" so I did.

I learned a lot about courage. So, I decided no matter what, I would do these steps. I would talk to someone when my feelings were overwhelming me and I

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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.”

Giving Johnny a Chance

Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought AA membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.--Long form of Tradition Three Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

Johnny sat outside the front door of the building where we had our meetings, and as we went in, he'd panhandle us for money. He was never pushy or out of line, but we nonetheless got panhandled. Some didn't care, some got sore, and some were outraged. Johnny didn't seem to be bothered much by the commotion he caused. He would sit in front of the door and speak to everybody who came in and panhandle each one. He knew the first names of most of us, and he would smile as we came in.

When the meeting started, Johnny would stop his panhandling and come inside and take a chair. When his time to share would come, he'd talk about how much the AA program had helped him and how glad he was to be a member. He would also try to explain why he could not seem to stay sober. He tried, but he said that things just didn't work out for him. He'd stay sober for a little while and then eventually return to drinking. He was not drinking now but he said he couldn't make any guarantees for the future. After the meeting, he always went back to the front of the building again.

This had gone on for about a month when tempers began to manifest themselves. There were certain people who were convinced that Johnny should be told to leave. Others were just as convinced that he should stay; after all, they said, he wasn't hurting anybody. That might be true, the others replied, but how did it look when people drove or walked by? Here we were, people who were trying to live good, clean lives, and we had a guy panhandling at the front door! Someone had to talk to Johnny and tell him how we felt.

At the time, I was a new fellow with about eight months' sobriety and thought I knew a lot more than I did. My emotional status was not nearly well yet, and so I switched from one side to the other until the group, by a method known as railroading, elected me the group's general service representative. My life changed immediately. What had been kind of interesting suddenly became very confusing. I became the center of attention, even more so than Johnny, and like a coward, I did what I'd always done: I went to someone who would take the heat for me if I did something wrong. I called a business meeting and asked this man to come. (Turned out that he became my sponsor and would always be bailing me out of jams.)

Everyone came to the business meeting--even those who hadn't been to a meeting in years. I opened the meeting by saying that while some felt we needed to take care of the problem, not all saw it as a problem. Words went around the room like we were trying to decide the fate of the whole world. Much was said, tempers were raised, and much was vowed to be done to me, to Johnny, and to the AA Fellowship. At last, a little guy in the back raised his hand and as quick as I could, I called on him.

"Hi, everybody, my name is Joe and I'm a drunk. I have been coming here for a while now and I guess that I must be confused. It seems to me that each of us are supposed to make up our own minds about what is wrong with us and what we need to do about it. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Who are we to know when that desire is going to happen to someone? I can only answer for myself--I didn't know when my last drink was, but I did take it.

"At the start of every meeting, Johnny quits panhandling, comes in, sits down, and sometimes even

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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.

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would do what people suggested. These things changed my life. I worked through the steps and my perception of self changed. Once I perceived myself differently, I perceived the world differently.

Someone said go to women's meetings. Ohh boy, was that scary! But I did it. I raised my hand. I wanted people to know me. I wanted a cocoon of strong women around me so I had to step across my fears and insecurities and introduce myself to them. I immediately got into service, and it may have been selfish at first, and sometimes maybe still is, but I have fun! I am involved in things I want to be involved in. Sometimes people told me "be careful...don't wear yourself thin," but I never had that experience.

My sponsor encouraged me to do service. Being in service keeps me in the middle and for an alcoholic like me, I need to be in the middle. I never cared too much for A.A. before. Both my parents are in AA and their lives don't look fulfilling at all. But I quickly realized that AA is what you make it. I choose to make it my life.

I learn as much about AA as I can. I learn about the history, the big book and all its information and the traditions that keep it alive. I could do 20 years in AA and still be learning and I love that, because it tells me it's not over. There is still work to be done and knowledge to be known

When I was drinking, I knew what life was to be like daily. I knew I was going to wake up and need to scrape up money however I could, I knew I needed such and such amount. I knew there was never enough. And I knew I couldn't go without. For years, I lived this way. I had no job. I had wishes that I could never make come true. I had goals I could never achieve.

My life now with A.A., is totally different and it's as unpredictable as it used to be predictable. I never know where God will lead me. I think sometimes my plan looks decent, but God's plan is always much better. And I never fight it. I mean, sometimes I'm impatient but I know it will be ok. As long as I don't pick up, this will work out. I will be happy. And if I have a bad day, I have a strong foundation in AA and with other women that will hold me up when I can't hold myself up.

I gave up on my own will a long time ago! And thank God!

—Lola, Pompano Beach, FL



AA's Got Talent 2024

Was a super successful Fundraiser! THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS THAT MADE IT SUCH A HUGE SUCCESS!

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

R L E B U D T
Y H R A T S A S
E L N E T E M
X U A S O N I
R F Y C O I M O N T
L W Y A L U F



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.

F M T A S E N I
T R U E S M
A T R E S E
N E T Q A B U
E R C S I V E
A R Y L E



Telephone Relay currently has an opening on the third Friday of every month from 5:00-8:00 PM.

If you have at least 1 year sober and would like to answer the AA hotline from your home, please call the office at 954.462.0403 and speak to Marsha or Sharon.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO HELEN FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE!!

The 60th Intergroup Appreciation Banquet to be held in April 2024

will be having the next Planning meeting

Wednesday, March 20 at 6:30 PM

Intergroup Bookstore, 3317 NW 10th Terrace, Suite 404, Oakland Park

GROUP NEEDS SUPPORT

We Came to Stay AKA The Breakfast Meeting

SUNDAY 11 AM, 101 Club, 701 SW 10th St., Pompano



Things we cannot change...

John C.

He will be missed by all who knew him. May he rest in peace.

SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER



A.A. Birthdays

March Celebrants

Spiritual Principles

Carol P. ~ 10 yrs.
Jennifer M. ~ 14 yrs.
Lorna V. ~ 25 yrs.

By the Book Beginners

Patrick R. ~ 33 yrs.
Don G. ~ 16 yrs.

Men's Independence

Jim W. ~ 35 yrs.
Matthew I. ~ 20 yrs.
Terrence W. ~ 15 yrs.
Adam O. ~ 11 yrs.

Margate Group

Janet M. ~ 40 yrs.

Express Group

Diane ~ 12 yrs.
Tom M. ~ 34 yrs.
David J. ~ 41 yrs.

Women's Step Into

Sobriety

Betsy B. ~ 15 yrs.
Debbie D. ~ 10 yrs.

Entirely Ready

Pat W. ~ 23 yrs.

Splinter Group

Elizabeth C. ~ 7 yrs.

Dania After Work

Denise R. ~ 24 yrs.

Surrender is Freedom

Mary H. ~ 6 yrs.

Into Action

Sharon G. ~ 38 yrs.

5:45 Happy Hour

Dana ~ 29 yrs.
Rick ~ 32 yrs.

Davie Women's Group

~ 44 yrs.

East Naples Men's

Gary G. ~ 30 yrs.
Jerry T. ~ 23 yrs.
Mike R. ~ 19 yrs.
Tony C. ~ 24 yrs.
Jim H. ~ 40 yrs.

One Day at a Time

Roger S. ~ 28 yrs.

Friends of Pat C.

Debbie O. ~ 9 yrs.
Lauren C. ~ 13 yrs.
Peggy R. ~ 28 yrs.

Victor E

Joe G. ~ 33 yrs.

Surrender is

Freedom

Ellen M. ~ 33 yrs.

We Came To Stay

Cheryl L. ~ 29 yrs.

Mountain Group

Sarah O. ~ 33 yrs.

Sobriety on Two

Laura B. ~ 28 yrs.

Saturday Morning Awareness

Lisa M. ~ 17 yrs.

Thursday Night Study

Philip S. ~ 17 yrs.

Oakland Park

Fred S. ~ 59 yrs.
Ken P. ~ 17 yrs.

Rule 62

Marge M. ~ 34 yrs.

Friends of Ralph C.

Chris ~ 41 yrs.

Women's Honesty

Dawn C. ~ 2 yrs.
Erica R. ~ 36 yrs.
Deana ~ 11 yrs.

Women's Sober Tribe

Maria M. ~ 13 yrs.

Serenity in the Park—

SWR

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

Big Book **Quote of the Month:**

Selfishness—self-centeredness! That we think, is the root of our troubles. Driven by a hundred forms of fear, self-delusion, self-seeking and self-pity, we step on the toes of our fellows and they retaliate.

Alcoholics Anonymous, page 62

BECOME A FAITHFUL FIVER

Set up regular monthly contributions to Intergroup using Zelle, PayPal or bank draft.

The next **Intergroup Meeting**

will be held on

Sunday, March 24th
at 1:00 PM

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

BCIC

Broward County Institutions Committee will hold their next meeting on

Saturday, March 9th
at 10:00 AM

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

District 9 General Service

Meeting will be held on

Sunday, March 17th
at 2:00 PM

Sanctuary, 1400 N. Federal Hwy., FTL
New Rep Workshop at 12:30 PM

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

.....not previously mentioned

Thursday Night Study

Brian H. ~ 36 yrs.

Dania After Work

Gary C. ~ 21 yrs.

Surrender is Freedom

Sheryl F. ~ 23 yrs.

(continued from page 2)

shares. His desire to stop drinking is there, no matter how it looks to us or he wouldn't come to the meetings. Who are we to say he is not serious? Besides, we don't know Johnny's needs. We have jobs and that is not due to ourselves but to the fact that something in our lives gives us the power to say no to a drink on a daily basis. There are a lot of Johnnies in this room, but we are lucky. We have been given a gift that Johnny has not found yet. Will he? I don't know, but we ought to give him a chance. You know, Johnny has been sitting at the front door for about a month now and perhaps we could convince him to come to the back door for a change. Seeing that he was not invited to attend this meeting, why not call him in and ask him if he'll move from the front door to the back door?"

Johnny now looked somewhat better to my eyes than he had before the meeting. When it was explained to him that people might not come in the front door and get the help they needed because he was panhandling there, he asked to speak for a minute.

"Well," Johnny said, "I have seen you guys and gals come in and out of here for about a month now and I have heard you laugh and carry on and play cards in the back, and I have shared your meetings and I have come to respect you a lot. I know that I must try to be like you but there is a lot in me that pulls me down, and I haven't learned to handle things the way that you folks have. You are stronger than I am but I will keep trying. I hate to bum money the way that I do but I can't work and I need to eat and you guys don't seem to mind my asking you for money too awfully much. I need your meetings although I know that I don't get as much from them as you do. Out of respect, sure, I will move to the back door. As a matter of fact, I will go there now and for as long as I am here I will be in back. Thanks for listening to me."

Johnny walked to the back door and went outside.

I was amazed that when the meeting was over, everyone reached for their wallets and left by the back door. A few nights later a newcomer asked me why everyone walked out the back door since they parked their cars in front of the building. I told him it was a miracle of some kind.

Johnny left about three weeks later, never to be seen again. But he became living proof in my mind that the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking--and I don't know when that moment happens for someone else.

—David B., Peoria, AZ

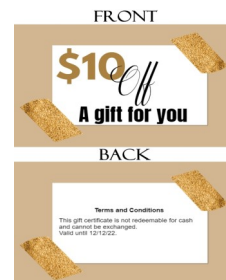
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WE are humbly requesting donations for the raffle at our 60th Appreciation Banquet in April.



*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!**



THIS MONTH IN AA HISTORY

March 1930 — Bill begins writing the book,
Alcoholics Anonymous.

March 4, 1891 — Lois W. was born.

March 21, 1966 — Ebby T. dies.

PLEASE CHECK THE LISTING OF YOUR

GROUP ON **OUR**

WEBSITE FOR ACCURACY

<https://aabroward.org/locations>

We are not responsible for the chair app.

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.	Trish C-K.	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.	Milinda B.
Hurbert N.	John L.	Sandra C.	Nancy V.	Belinda	Dylan F.

Answers from page 4: Blurted, Ashtrays, Element, Anxious, Conformity, Awfully, Manifest, Muster, Easter, Banquet, Service, Relay

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

Bayview Beginners is finally meeting again at St. John the Baptist Church in the Community Room, 4595 Bayview Drive, Ft. Lauderdale. OBG, 7 PM.

Tuesday

Tuesday Night Step Group in Plantation has decided to make the meeting OPEN and start the meeting at 7 PM.

Hollywood Young People 1704 Buchanan Street, Hollywood. ORF, 8 PM.

Wednesday

Page 21 Big Book Study which met at Twelve Step House in Ft. Lauderdale NO LONGER MEETS.

Thursday

Empowered Sober Women which met at Fourth Dimension Club in Hollywood NO LONGER MEETS.

Free Thinkers Meeting in Wilton Manors has changed the time to 7 PM.

Saturday

NEW MEETING Beach AA 1500 N Ft. Lauderdale Beach Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale. ODR, 8 AM.

Sunday

The Anonymous Club which meets in Ft. Lauderdale has changed the time to 7 PM.

Daily

Bottom Line Group now meets 7 days per week at 7 PM. Palm Plaza, 823 SE 8th Avenue, Suite 100, Deerfield.

NEW MEETING Wake Up and Live at the West Broward Club, 8396-A State Road 7, Davie. Meeting every weekday M-F. O, 7 AM.



Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Mar 15-17 | 18th Annual Soberstock will be in Brooksville, FL. Camping, speaker meetings, music. AA with Alanon and Alateen participation. For more info: www.soberstock.com |
| Mar 16 | Traditions 7-9 Workshop. Free event. Refreshments, fellowship. Intergroup Bookstore. 7-9 PM. Call or email to register. Limited seating. |
| Apr 5-7 | South Florida Area 15 Quarterly Assembly will be held in Boca Raton at the Town Center Marriott. Speaker meetings, workshops, and on Sunday the 3rd legacy in action. FREE |
| Apr 28 | 60th Intergroup Appreciation Banquet Tropical Acres Steakhouse, 2500 Griffin Rd, Dania, FL Starts at 4:00 PM, 4-course meal, 2 speakers and basket raffle . This event is sold out. Call Intergroup to be put on wait list if interested in attending. 954-462-0403. |