



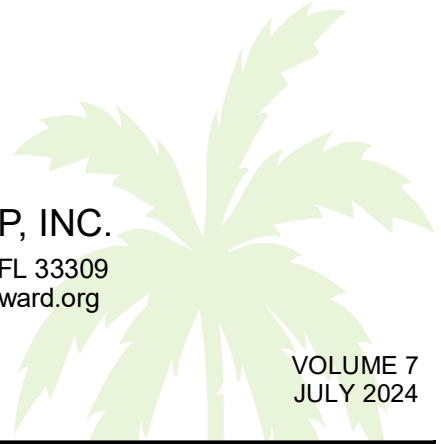
SUITE 404

BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.

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

Humbly Asked Him

"I AM the same person I was when I came into AA." This statement, made recently at a meeting by a member with over three years' sobriety, yielded a vigorous and quite unexpected reaction. "Whadya mean, you're the same person?" most of the comments went. "You couldn't possibly be the same person if you've been working the program, and besides, you wouldn't stay sober very long."

After things quieted down a bit, the bombshell thrower had a chance to explain what he meant. Sure, he could measure some growth, and he had learned to recognize and correct dangerous thinking. But he was basically still the *same person*. No startling personality changes had taken place, and he was still conscious of the same old shortcomings. He was able to stay sober because of a change in attitudes plus constant activity in AA.

There is some evidence from this and other experiences, that our shortcomings are never removed completely or permanently. Does this mean that Step Seven (*Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings*) doesn't work? Certainly not, but if we stay sober a day at a time, can we expect the Steps to work for more than a day at a time? I believe it sufficient to ask Him to remove our shortcomings *for today*, and what's more, fully expect that He will. But we may also expect to be handicapped by these same shortcomings another day, at which time the Step may be renewed.

Another fairly common observation in AA is that we have a tendency to rely too heavily, and perhaps blame everything, on God's will. There are the if-you-want-potatoes-grab-a-hoe

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The Intergroup Bookstore will be closed in observance of this holiday.

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 .”*

Dollars and Sense

WEBSTER DEFINES policy as prudence or wisdom in the management of affairs. Prudence is defined as the ability to discipline oneself by use of reason. We might say that we use the Steps to discipline ourselves individually and that, collectively, we use the Traditions to discipline the group.

So much for prudence. Wisdom, on the other hand, means sense. I should like to link that word with the word "dollars." Dollars and sense--a good pair to use when talking about self-support. It *is* a sneaky way to do it, but just consider it a hangover from the old days. Our Preamble says that "we are self-supporting through our own contributions." I don't think anyone would seriously argue the wisdom of this policy. We are all familiar with AA history: In the beginning, frustrated by lack of funds to carry the message, to extend the hand of AA wherever it was needed, we hoped to get help from outside the Fellowship. That we failed was really a blessing in disguise.

But the idea of self-support implies more than just financial self-sufficiency. How often we have heard these words from the podium: "But most devastating of all was my loss of self-respect." Would it not be devastating to the Fellowship of AA if it were to lose self-respect and self-determination because it was not self-supporting? Moreover, this policy has gained for us the respect of non-AAs everywhere, even though it sometimes seems to baffle them. It seems to baffle some of us, too. At least, I think it must--because we don't always follow this policy in our own dealings, whether within AA or with those outside. Let me cite two personal experiences, one inside and one outside.

Many years ago, I was treasurer of our intergroup. My problem was that there was no treasury--about \$40, as I recall. The pressing problem was our need for meeting lists. We had just a few on hand, and those were out-of-date, with half the groups not listed. Now, one group in the area was known as the "two pants" group. They had all the money--and so had their treasury. At our next meeting, their representative came forth with a solution: Three or four of their members had offered to foot the bill. You could hear sighs of relief and a trickle of applause. That problem was solved.

However, some of us remembered our Traditions, and although we had no money, we had the gall to say this wasn't wise. Of course, our rescuers also had suggestions as to how the job should be done, and if they paid for it, they could certainly call the shots. Well, when

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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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philosophers, who maintain that if things go badly, there is a tendency to say, "Oh, well, it's God's will," and do nothing about it. Likewise, they say, if we ask God to remove our shortcomings and just sit back, nothing will happen.

I believe there is much validity in this approach, and I do not see in it a denial of Step Seven. We have already established a reliance on a Higher Power in Steps Two and Three, and Step Seven is merely a further expression of our faith. But the words are not enough--the intent must also be there. We are willing to do something about our shortcomings, but we cannot do it alone, and we humbly ask Him for help.

What about the agnostics? Is this Step out for them? I don't think so. If you have trouble with "God," try adding an "o." I believe it is possible, and even desirable, to rely on the good in other people as a Higher Power. Certainly the spirit of love which pervades the Fellowship is sufficient to help me remove my shortcomings for today, and I am a Christian.

Finally, I do not see any "spiritual side" to this program. The whole thing is spiritual--the Steps, the Traditions, the meetings, the Twelfth Step calls, the literature--everything. There need not be a search for spirituality only in the Steps including the word "God." If a member enters into the Fellowship whole-heartedly, he is apt to find that the familiar shortcomings aren't popping up quite as often, even though he may not be conscious of having asked God to remove them recently. In *my* book, this is Step Seven at work.

BY: J. S. C. | NEW HARTFORD, NEW YORK

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Things we cannot change....

Tim O.



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

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James A Farley Station
New York, NY 10116-2407

Bridging The Gap

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Area 15 Treasurer

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District 9 General Service

P.O. Box 100126
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310

Recovery Word Puzzle

LIENSIDPIC
 BUSRITDGIN
 VEERDIPLA
 NICEGLIDN
 GUSSDEII
 REEDCUPN



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.

DYLIVATI
 GICTSASON
 BEARLISED
 LEERCANI
 CRATPANIPIO
 TEARDIGTU



WE LOVE OUR CUSTOMERS



NEW JUNE 2024

WHERE & WHENS ARE IN!!!

STILL ONLY \$1

LISTING ZOOM AND FACE-TO FACE MEETINGS



The FIRST Gratitude Dinner planning meeting

will be held on

Saturday, July 6 at 1:00 PM

101 Club, 700 SW 10th Street, Pompano Beach, FL

SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER



A.A. Birthdays

July Celebrants

Smell the Coffee

Liz J. ~ 35 yrs.
Mike ~ 14 yrs.

Broward Men's

Jay ~ 8 yrs.
Joe A. ~ 9 yrs.
Steven H. ~ 7 yrs.

Sands of Serenity

Laura W. ~ 26 yrs.

Free To Be

Dara ~ 14 yrs.

Lunch Bunch

Gary ~ 54 yrs.
Walter ~ 25 yrs.

Thursday Night Study

Nicolle N. ~ 11 yrs.

Rule 62

Vickie T. ~ 38 yrs.

Don't Forget

Doug W. ~ 13 yrs.
Michael E. ~ 16 yrs.

B.A.L.L.S. Group

Richie ~ 35 yrs.
Nick ~ 9 yrs.
Randall ~ 29 yrs.

By Any Means

Peter S. ~ 33 yrs.

Sober on the Beach

Leanne S. ~ 12 yrs.
Rex K. ~ 11 yrs.
Shiloh F. ~ 15 yrs.

Women's Honesty

Becky P. ~ 42 yrs.
Marcia S. ~ 28 yrs.

Eleventh Step

Marty ~ 11 yrs.

Bikers in Recovery

Emilio ~ 25 yrs.
Leon J. ~ 17 yrs.
Donna M. ~ 19 yrs.
Bill F. ~ 8 yrs.
Rich W. ~ 8 yrs.

You Are Not Alone

Sharon G. ~ 24 yrs.
Janet T. ~ 22 yrs.
Marie H. ~ 16 yrs.
Diane R. ~ 36 yrs.

Sunshine Group

Deanna ~ 8 yrs.

Living in the Solution

Jenny J. ~ 16 yrs.
David H. ~ 19 yrs.
Mike G. ~ 24 yrs.
Jill S. ~ 43 yrs.

Women's Step by Step

Karen V. ~ 43 yrs.

Living in the Solution (VIRTUAL)

Bonnie W. ~ 6 yrs.
Jeanne H. ~ 6 yrs.
Judy Z. ~ 6 yrs.
MaryBelle P. ~ 36 yrs.

Womans Step Into Sobriety

Liz A. ~ 15 yrs.

Serenity Sisters

Mary S. ~ 25 yrs.
Linda H. ~ 2 yr.

Oakland Park

Mary W. ~ 33 yrs.
Mike M. ~ 28 yrs.
Mark W. ~ 21 yrs.

441 Group

Ebony ~ 15 yrs.

Men in Recovery

Harry O. ~ 34 yrs.
John D. ~ 14 yrs.
Richard W. ~ 14 yrs.
Casey M. ~ 23 yrs.

Westside Men's

Eric S. ~ 25 yrs.
Richard R. ~ 33 yrs.

Ft. Lauderdale Women's

Nancy B. ~ 35 yrs.
Diana H. ~ 24 yrs.
Pam ~ 28 yrs.

Live, Laugh, Love

Leslie B. ~ 16 yrs.
Juliayet ~ 26 yrs.

Coral Springs Men's

Steve B. ~ 32 yrs.
Bill F. ~ 33 yrs.
Brett ~ 7 yrs.

Tamarac Group

Rhonda D. ~ 20 yrs.

Friends of Pat C.

Mare C. ~ 27 yrs.
Maria W. ~ 12 yrs.

Spiritual Principles

Zane ~ 10 yrs.
Beth ~ 40 yrs.

Serenity in Park SW Ranches

Monica ~ 4 yrs.
Harry ~ 8 yrs.
Abby ~ 3 yrs.
Lisa ~ 3 yrs.

HAPPY

BIRTHDAY

Big Book Quote of the Month:

"We shall be interested to hear from those who are getting results from this book, particularly from those who have commenced work with other alcoholics. We should like to be helpful to such cases.

Inquiry by scientific, medical and religious societies will be welcomed."

*Alcoholics Anonymous, page xiv
Forward to First Edition*

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, July 21st
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, July 13th
at 10:00 AM

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

District 9 General Service

Meeting will be held on
Sunday, July 21st
at 2:00 PM

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

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

.....not previously mentioned

Serenity Sisters

Bonnie ~ 6 yrs.
Jan ~ 11 yrs.

Midday Sobriety

Robin K. ~ 2 yrs.
Joe H. ~ 29 yrs.

(continued from page 2)

the smoke cleared (and it wasn't all cigarette smoke), our policy of self-support prevailed. The meeting-list booklet got published--economically, you might say (not in the style wanted)--but it served us well.

The other incident occurred not long ago--only last year, in fact. A member called me to say that intergroup was accepting outside contributions, and would I please speak to the people at that office, since they had turned a deaf ear to his protests. So, just "happening by" one night when their executive committee was in session, I asked them about it. "Oh, yes," said one member, "but it was only \$50."

"Only \$50," said I. "What if it had been 500 or 5,000?"

"Oh, that would be different."

"How would it be different?" I asked. Silence. Looks were exchanged, and then someone commented that it was too late to do anything about it anyway, since the money had been deposited. That remark was followed by a counter comment to the effect that the money could be returned with a letter explaining our Tradition of self-support. Later that night, the situation was explained to a full meeting of intergroup representatives, and the money was returned.

The disturbing fact here is that the five or six people on that committee were what we like to call "good" members, and all had several years' sobriety. This sort of thing has happened before, and it will happen again. The AA policy became established a long time ago. While we may not have been fully aware then how important it was to be in the growth of our Fellowship, we do know now. There still are temptations, as AA gains more respect from the public and well-meaning people offer contributions because we have helped someone dear to them. It is easy to understand their offering--they are unfamiliar with our policies. What is disturbing is that so many of our members also are unfamiliar with our policies.

The policy of self-support, like every other policy set forth in our Traditions, was established by us, the members of our Fellowship. Have you ever received a letter from our General Service Office telling you what your policy should be in a certain situation? No. What you *did* receive was the shared experience of other areas or groups whose group conscience had solved similar problems. GSO does not establish policy. *You* do.

Our primary purpose is to carry the message to the alcoholic who is out there suffering. We do this through personal contact and shared experience. We also help this new member by supporting the many other services that he will need as he begins to walk into a sober life. At the 1965 International Convention in Toronto, we said that we were responsible for seeing that the hand of AA would always be there. It will continue to be there only if we continue to support it.

Self-support breeds self-respect. We, individually and collectively, carry our own weight. Even within AA, the same top limit on annual contributions applies to the more affluent among us and to those with limited means.

And who is responsible for seeing that this policy is better understood? You, that's who!

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: discipline, disturbing, prevailed, declining, disguise, prudence, validity, agnostics, desirable, reliance, appreciation, gratitude

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

Wednesday

Women's Step Into Sobriety which meets in Dania Beach NOW STARTS AT 7 PM.

Recovery on the Rocks which meets in Oakland Park is changing format to Big Book Study.

Thursday

Free Thinkers now meets at 7:00 PM instead of 7:30 PM in Wilton Manors. OD.

Friday

Choices which met at 5:30 at Sullivan Park in Deerfield—NO LONGER MEETS.

Saturday

NEW LITERATURE MEETING meets at 8:30 PM at West Broward Club in Davie.

Sunday

Bottom Line Group which meets in Deerfield Beach has added a men's meeting at 10 AM.

Lauderdale By The Sea Meditation Meeting meets at El Prado Park at 9 AM.

Daily

THE 2 SPANISH MEETINGS WHICH MET IN HALLANDALE NO LONGER MEET.

(La Gran Decision and Circulo de Ganadores)

THIS MONTH IN AA HISTORY

July 2, 1950	Father Ed Dowling dies
July 22, 1877	William silkworth was born in Brooklyn, NY
July 31, 1972	Roland Hazard died sober in Washington DC

**PLEASE CHECK THE LISTING OF
YOUR GROUP ON **OUR**
WEBSITE FOR ACCURACY**

<https://aabroward.org/locations>

We are not responsible for the chair app.

Upcoming Events

July 12-14	South Florida Area 15 Assembly will be held in Cape Coral. Free service event. Speakers, workshops, banquet and the third legacy in action at the Business meeting on Sunday.
July 20	Customer Appreciation Day Intergroup Bookstore, 3317 NW 10 Terrace, Ste. 404, Oakland Park, Saturday 11 AM—3 PM, Refreshments, Door Prizes, Literature and Gift Sales.
Aug 1- 4	Florida State Convention Hyatt Regency, Jacksonville. Register at https://67.floridastateconvention.com
Sept 21	Carry the Message Day held at the 101 Club, 700 SW 10th Street, Pompano Beach, FL. Free service event presented by District, Intergroup and Institutions. Speakers, service postings.
Oct 27	Annual Intergroup Picnic Snyder Park, Fort Lauderdale. 11 AM - 4 PM. Games, speakers, food and fellowship. Raffle