



SUITE 404

BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.
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VOLUME 2
FEBRUARY 2025

Step 2 - "Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

Poetry, Music and Spiritual Experiences

Coming into the program, I had zero belief in a Higher Power. As the book says, I was violently anti-religious. When I flew down to South Florida from Philadelphia for treatment, my mom gave me a journal. Inside the front cover, she wrote a poem called Desiderata. She had written it in baby books for my brothers and me. I read it every day while I was there. I also requested a copy of the Big Book. I read the first 164 pages for the first time.

AA members brought meetings into the treatment facility. It was not my first exposure to Alcoholics Anonymous, but it may as well have been. It was certainly the first time I was willing to listen. I heard a lot about God and prayer.

This time was different. I was broken. I was out of options. I felt I could no longer live the way I was living. I was willing to do what the people in AA were telling me to do. They told me they had been where I was, and that there was a solution.

I started to pray on my knees in the morning and at night and became willing to consider a Spirit of the Universe. I was open to the idea that there was a force out there far more powerful than I was. One night, I had my first spiritual experience. It was pouring rain and thundering. I was lying in bed listening to my iPod. Music was deep and meaningful for me before I even considered myself spiritual. Three songs in a row hit me like a ton of bricks, and I sobbed. The first song referenced starting over, the second never drinking again, and the third was titled Hallelujah.

The next day, a young woman from AA brought in a Big Book meeting. We read from We Agnostics and I shared about my experience the night before.

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**INTERGROUP
APPRECIATION BANQUET
TICKETS NOW ON SALE
\$55 each**

**Is your group being
displaced due to
rising costs?**

The 101 Club is opening time slots and is available to rent.

CONCEPT II

The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.

Tradition Two - "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern. "

Home group heartbreaker

Attendance at my home group is falling off. As late as last year we attracted 30 to 40 faithful souls weekly, sometimes more. We're down to 10 to 12 now, with a core of six members who show regularly. We host a 90-minute Step and Tradition study meeting, in a large, beautiful meeting room, with a half-time break, coffee, cookies and free literature on the table, and active members attuned to newcomers visiting from a local rehab.

The group is over 30 years old, and has met in the same place the whole time. I may have missed two meetings each of the 25 years I've been sober, and watching attendance flag is ripping my heart out.

Consensus at our monthly business meeting supports staying the course. We seem incapable of conceiving of, much less accepting, the need to change something. And maybe that's the root of the problem.

Attendance at other meetings assures me that AA membership isn't declining or straying any farther from the Steps and Traditions than in years past. But I cringe every time I hear an announcement during the secretary's report that mentions a meeting or group "needing support." I've promised myself that—if or when the time comes—I will face the certain fact that everything changes, with gratitude, grace and good humor.

So rigid is the group conscience that, without much discussion, we voted to send our treasurer begging to the church administrator for a rent reduction, inadvertently breaching Tradition Seven. Our voluntary contributions don't cover anything close to the cost of a similar facility at market prices. But we want to keep the doors open, the lights on and the hand of AA available to sick and suffering alcoholics the same way it was available to us. It's been a while, though, since we could afford donations to the district, central office or AA's General Service Office.

I keep thinking of the counsel in the essay on Tradition Two that a newly sober alcoholic offered Bill W. when Bill returned from Towns Hospital with the words, "The laborer is worthy of his hire," circling in his mind. "What we've got won't run on ethics only," the newcomer said. "It has to be better." It was a reminder that a loving God expresses himself in our larger group conscience, not in our individual good intentions.

Continued on page 7

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)

Halfway through the meeting, the chairperson said she keeps a poem in the middle of her book and likes to read it sometimes once everyone has shared. She read the first five words of Desiderata and my entire body jolted with electricity. I felt as though I was being held in God's loving arms for the very first time.

I asked this woman to be my sponsor and she agreed. She helped me through the 12 steps and the first two or so years of my sobriety. I started to see The Promises come true in my life.

After experiencing great loss and subsequent grief at two years sober, I decided I needed to find a new sponsor to continue growing and to stay alive. This was 2020, and I was hanging on by a thread due to isolation, online meetings, and practically no fellowship because of the pandemic.

I told my new sponsor the story of how I met my first sponsor. You'll never guess what poem my new sponsor had shoved in her Big Book. That's right: Desiderata.

My sponsor moved away from where I live. Before she left, we had the first two words of the poem tattooed on our wrists. We will forever be connected to God and each other. And it all started with coming to believe.

Rebecca H., Deerfield Beach, Florida

"Go placidly amid the noise and haste and remember what peace there may be in silence."

Excerpt from Desiderata, written by Max Ehrman

Local Reflections on Recovery

People outside recovery may look down on or have the wrong impression of people in recovery, but if they were to take a closer look or get to know someone in recovery, they may be surprised with what they find.

People in recovery for drug addiction or alcoholism are some of the most grateful people I've ever met. They are people learning to live life all over again and finding a new sense of happiness in their new life. Many are the kindest, most caring, humble, strong-willed, and non-judgmental people on earth, in my experience. They are a brotherhood or family of men and women with one common goal in life and that is to live the rest of their time on earth sober.

People who are in recovery won't usually shake your hand. Instead, they will greet you with a big hug and a warm smile and leave you inspired to help another. They have the best positive attitudes around, and a belief in a Higher Power; something greater than themselves. They strive to live by a set of principles and practice those principles in all their affairs.

How do I know this, you may ask? It's because I'm one of those very grateful people in recovery, who decided to take my will back against the disease of alcoholism.

I'm an alcoholic named William and I'm proud to be a part of recovery.'

—William D., Broward County

General Service Office, NY

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James A Farley Station
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Bridging The Gap

877.207.2242

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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

CAPTNIORAE
 SCIEDADLP
 RUNTGHEND
 LYONTVLIE
 JAEHALULH
 TRAINYDEETVLN



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.

TISNILAOA
 TEALSNEIVN
 BETYLAVINI
 SPEEDARU
 THEESSAOKU
 SPINEROMIS

THANK YOU TO ALL THE MANY
PEOPLE WHO SUPPORTED OUR
TALENT SHOW THROUGH TICKET
SALES, VOLUNTEERING ON A
COMMITTEE OR
PERFORMING!



We are definitely NOT a glum lot!!

SAVE THE DATE

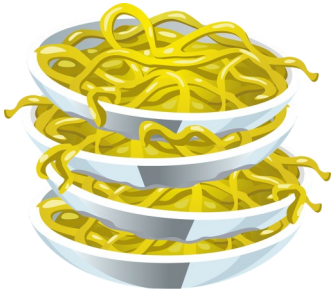
Sunday, April 27th, 2025

Appreciation Banquet

Tickets on sale February 1st.

First paid, first seated.

(Minimum \$550 to reserve table)



District 9 has found a venue for their Spaghetti Dinner. This year's event will be held at Christ Church in Ft. Lauderdale.

DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER IN YEAR.

The next **Appreciation Banquet** planning meeting will be held on

Wednesday, February 19th at 6:15 PM

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

SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER



A.A. Birthdays

February Celebrants

Bottom Line Group

Jackie ~ 31 yrs.

Saturday Morning

Awareness

Alan H. ~ 3 yrs.

Bob M. ~ 12 yrs.

Eric S. ~ 3 yrs.

Glen B. ~ 10 yrs.

James ~ 1 yr.

Joshua Y. ~ 6 yrs.

Karl B. ~ 14 yrs.

Kevin M. ~ 3 yrs.

Lee ~ 7 yrs.

Lynn ~ 41 yrs.

Marian H. ~ 34 yrs.

Peter W. ~ 8 yrs.

Seamus B. ~ 7 yrs.

Tim ~ 9 yrs.

New Day

Ernie F. ~ 38 yrs.

Early Risers

Victoria L. ~ 14 yrs.

Easier Softer Way

Richard W. ~ 9 yrs.

Chris W. ~ 10 yrs.

Coral Springs As

Bill Sees It

Milinda B. ~ 19 yrs.

Let's Do Lunch

Bunch

Duayne K. ~ 19 yrs.

Robert A. ~ 35 yrs.

Brothers All Living

Life Sober (Balls)

Carlos R. ~ 32 yrs.

Into Action

Beth D. ~ 42 yrs.

Dania After Work

Sherri D. ~ 15 yrs.

Cathi D. ~ 7 yrs.

Other Notables

Anne B. ~ 19 yrs.

Victor T. ~ 25 yrs.

Russian Alcoholics

Dmitriy T. ~ 9 yrs.

East Naples Men's

Donald M. ~ 24 yrs.

Richard P. ~ 32 yrs.

Howard M. ~ 13 yrs.



Oakland Park

Sandy P. ~ 54 yrs.

Pete B. ~ 37 yrs.

Jerry N. ~ 23 yrs.

Women's Noontime

Boost

Priscilla M. ~ 23 yrs.

Came to Believe

Laura M. ~ 21 yrs.

Westside Men's

Greg G. ~ 17 yrs.

Express Group

Reggie J. ~ 15 yrs.

Diana P. ~ 12 yrs.

Annie G. ~ 37 yrs.

Big Book Quote of the Month:

*Abandon yourself to God as you understand God. Admit your faults to Him and to your fellows. Clear away the wreckage of your past. Give freely of what you find and join us. We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny.
May God bless you and keep you—until then.*

Alcoholics Anonymous, Page 164

BECOME A GRATEFUL GIVER

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

The next **Intergroup Meeting**

will be held on

**Sunday, February 23rd
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, February 8th
at 10:00 AM**

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

District 9 General Service

Meeting will be held on

**Sunday, February 16th
at 2:00 PM**

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

*Please make sure you get your group's
Anniversaries in on time in order to be
mentioned in the newsletter.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS ...not previously mentioned

Life in Recovery

Ann ~ 26 yrs.

Express Group

John Michael ~ 1 yr.

Teresa ~ 32 yrs.

Kekie ~ 1 yr.

Elmer ~ 11 yrs.

Express Group (cont.)

Ebony ~ 17 yrs.

Val ~ 4 yrs.

Seany ~ 4 yrs.

Rina ~ 11 yrs.

Craig ~ 35 yrs.

Larry ~ 13 yrs.

JANUARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Alcoholics Anonymous	888.55
441 Group	150.00
545 Happy Hour Lambda South	315.00
Big Book Cafe	200.00
Bonaventure BB Group	250.00
Coral Springs Group	25.00
Coral Springs Group	25.00
Davie Women's Group	280.00
Easier Softer Way	1,000.00
Easier Softer Way	250.00
East Naples Men's Group	693.00
Fort Lauderdale Men's Group	77.67
Free to Be Group	800.00
Freedom From Alcohol	315.00
Ft Laud Primary Purpose BB Study	100.00
Happy Joyous and Free Zoom	120.00
In Memorium	500.00
Intergroup Meeting	113.06
KIS Lunchtime	390.00
Life in Recovery Group	75.19
Living in the Solution Virtual	128.00
lunch Bunch in Plantation	64.00
Lunch Bunch Zoom	100.00
Mid Day Sobriety	100.00
New Day Group	200.00
New Leaf Group	331.50
Noontime Sobriety Zoom	200.00
OFF THE HOOK	153.57
Old Timers	264.00
Open Door	216.00
Pembroke Pines Last Stand Group	110.00
Perry Street South	200.00
Sand Pebbles Group	125.00

Serenity in the Park-SWR	86.80
Serenity Sisters	200.00
Smell The Coffee Group	57.31
Sunday Morning Attitude of Gratitude	120.00
Sunday Morning Together	200.00
Sunrise Serenity	136.00
Surrender is Freedom Group	40.00
The Anonymous Club	82.45
True Self Group 11th step	75.00
University Big Book Study	18.00
Wed Nt As Bill Sees It	125.00
West Broward Women"s	25.00
Why It Works	92.00
YANA Group	150.00
	\$10,167.10

Does anyone have a treasurer named Alan C.?

If this report does not jive with your group records, please call the office to investigate or send an email to help@aabroward.org.

**THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!
WE TRULY APPRECIATE
YOUR SUPPORT!**



Happy
Valentine's Day



(continued from page 2)

The essay in the “Twelve and Twelve” closes with the newcomer reminding Bill of his own claim that “sometimes the good is the enemy of the best,” which is meant to persuade Bill—and me too—that good intentions do not inevitably make for the best outcome.

So at this month’s business meeting I’m going with the experience, strength and hope expressed in the “Twelve and Twelve”—the text our group is all about. I’m going to propose we move the meeting to a smaller room, pay our own way, and keep the doors open, the lights on and the hand of AA available on a smaller scale.

My heart will ache while proposing we humbly comply with our Traditions. It does right now as I think about it. But I think I’ll stick with the Traditions and the older, larger group conscience. Besides, nobody ever told me living the program was going to be easy.

By: Anonymous

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WE are humbly requesting donations for the raffle at our 61st Intergroup 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 is a fundraiser for Broward County Intergroup, a 501C3 Corporation

Answers from page 4: appreciation, displaced, thundering, violently, hallelujah, inadvertently, isolation, valentines, inevitably, persuade, steakhouse, permission

Things we cannot change....

John S.



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

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

Lighthouse Point group still meets at Dixon Hall, 2220 NE 38 St., Pompano. OD 6:30 PM.
(It was previously removed erroneously.)

Tuesday

Right on Target which met at the Target parking lot in Deerfield NO LONGER MEETS.

Women's Step by Step which met in Pompano is now meeting in Lauderdale by the Sea at Community Presbyterian Church, 4433 Bougainvillea Drive in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea. CRFw 7 PM.

Back to Basics that met at 7PM at Sunshine Cathedral in Ft. Lauderdale, now meets at in the small room at the Twelve Step House.

Thursday

Conscious Contact Group that met at St. Sebastian's in Ft. Lauderdale NO LONGER MEETS.

Came to Believe West that met at 7 PM in Cooper City, now meets at Chabad of Nova at 8280 Griffin Rd, Davie FL 33328 at 7:30 PM

Friday

Weston Midday Men's which met at St. Katherine Drexel Church in Weston NO LONGER MEETS.

Sunday

Back to Basics which met at the West Broward Club in Davie NO LONGER MEETS.

Daily

NEW MEETING Breakfast Club Recovery Community Center, 5402 W Atlantic Blvd. in Margate. 8 AM.

THIS MONTH IN AA HISTORY

- Feb 1938 - Rockefeller gives \$5,000 to AA.
Saves AA from professionalization.
- Feb 1939 - Dr. Howard of Montclair, NJ
suggests swapping "you musts" for
"we ought" in the Big Book.
- Feb 1959 - AA granted "Recording for the
Blind" permission to tape the Big Book.

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

<https://aabroward.org/locations>

We are not responsible for the chair app.

*For updated PWs on virtual meetings, access the PDF
from the Home Page.*

Upcoming Events

- Mar 9** **Traditions Workshop** - Traditions 7-9 will be discussed at Intergroup Bookstore. 3-5 PM, Free Event, Refreshments and Fellowship, Limited seating. Please call to sign up.
- Mar 22** **2nd Annual Benefit for Dr. Bob's Home** Anne Kolb Nature Center 11 AM—3 PM, \$40 includes lunch. Speakers, lunch, raffles
- Apr 4-6** **S.FL. Area 15 General Assembly** - Boca Raton Town Center Marriott. Free service event, workshops, speaker meetings and fellowship. Third Legacy in action on Sunday.
- Apr 27** **61st Intergroup Appreciation Banquet** Tropical Acres Steakhouse, Fundraiser, \$55 advance ticket sales, limited seating. Speakers, 4 course meal and basket raffle.
- May** **Big Book Seminar** Boca Town Center Marriott, for more info or to pre-register for \$35 go to bigbookseminar.org