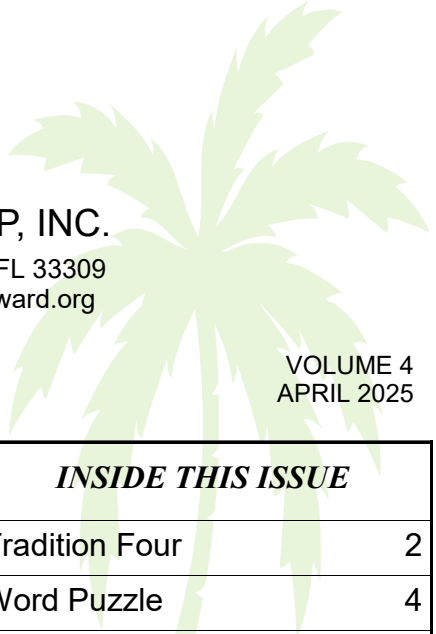




# SUITE 404

BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.  
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 Phone 954-462-0265, 954-462-7202; www.aabroward.org  
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VOLUME 4  
 APRIL 2025



**Step 4** - "Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves."

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## Star of My Own Opera

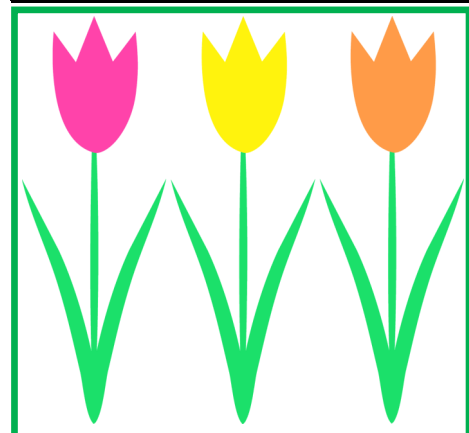
I disagree with the people in the rooms who say that AA is a selfish program.

When I got to AA in 1988, I was a self-centered 23 year old who thought that meetings were all about me, and that people were thinking and talking about me—I couldn't have been more wrong. However, what directed me toward the Steps of the program was not my self-centeredness but my fear of turning into an out-of-control blackout drinker. So I could say that it was my self-absorbed thinking that kept me in AA at that time.

I did the Steps with my sponsor. When I had completed my first 4th Step inventory, I uncovered one common thread that ran through much of my active drinking and well into my recovery: I thought that I was responsible for everything, good or bad, that happened to me and to others.

I am a slow learner: my view of the world and myself had to be broken down; and it took over ten years for me to find myself completely broken and ready to take the Steps in a way that would dramatically improve my life. It took falling in and out of love for me to understand that everything is not centered on me. The relationship ended, because it needed to end. It wasn't my fault or his fault. I considered drinking, considered ending my own life, which is how I used to react when faced with despair. I found it hard to keep going, but back then everything for me was operatic and dramatic because I thought it was still all about me.

After the break up of the relationship (and my ensuing mental breakdown), I reached out to get a Step-oriented sponsor. We were thorough in working the first three steps. He also got me to complete a fearless and thorough moral inventory that



**CONCEPT IV**

At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

*(continued on page 3)*

**Tradition Four-** "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole."

# Autonomy

WHENEVER I read Tradition Four, "Each group should be autonomous. . .," the word that leaps to my mind is "spontaneity." As I grow older in the Fellowship, it seems to me that what I value most is the healthy and spontaneous expression of sincere feeling from my fellow AAs. We are accustomed to the unstudied behavior of pets and children, but adults often bear unusual and unnecessary burdens of inhibition that hamper the free communication of ideas and attitudes. In AA, we begin to find ourselves. We begin to discover that we truly are like others, but that each of us is unique. It is the same world we share, but our perspectives are various, and the lenses through which we view it are not all alike.

And what could be more spontaneous than the determination of one or more persons to start a new meeting? Even after much reflection, there comes a moment when we feel, "Yes, it's the thing to do." One day, I was walking along in front of a local church. I was only casually acquainted with the pastor, but something about "responsibility" on the bulletin board caught my attention. I immediately turned in, entered his study, and said, "I want to start an AA meeting here." He seemed only mildly astonished, thought it might be a good idea, and said he would bring it before the trustees. Thirty days later, we had our first meeting. Our meeting is now three years old and going strong. Only the higher power we discuss so often could have caused me to turn in that day, for I have never been a joiner, and certainly not a starter.

I believe that each meeting should, and does, have a special character of its own. Most of us have learned that while we enjoy any meeting, we are more comfortable in some than in others. A few meetings are very spiritual, tending almost to the religious. Others concentrate on basic AA and the specifically alcoholic problems we all share. In our group, we tend to be rather philosophical, concerned with the day-to-day problems we have as we see them against the background of our alcoholic illness. Our basic format differs in no way from that used in other meetings in this area and if there is a new person at the meeting, we become very basic. Nevertheless, I think we have the special character I spoke of. I think we should cherish these differences in the same way we affectionately accept the quirks and peculiarities of our friends--the very quirks that are a part of their special charm or wisdom.

— P. C. | Lafayette, California

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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](mailto:help@aabroward.org).

(continued from page 1)

left nothing uncovered: sexuality, self-addiction, self-image, how I viewed myself in the eyes of everyone, and how it all related to my alcoholic thinking.

When I did the 5th Step with my sponsor, I felt fully liberated for the first time in my recovery. I had finally admitted everything to God, to myself and to another person. I felt freer than when I had come into the program and had finally put down the drink. We eventually made it through the rest of the steps together.

Sometime later, a man asked me to sponsor him. I had limited my 12-Step work to doing service at the meetings and other general service. With doubts in my mind, I agreed to be his sponsor. We shared with each other our experiences, and I walked him through the Steps. I found myself changing as the result of the presence of this man in my life.

Working with others is now the greatest benefit of sobriety for me. In truth, I know that staying sober isn't about me, or what I can get from AA: it is about everyone else that has reached out to us in the hope we will be there. I have learned to be there for others, instead of being there thinking only of my needs.

I may have been a selfish man when I got to AA, but I have learned that our program is selfless, and it is through selfless acts that I gain the rewards of recovery. It has translated into every other area of my life, and all that is required of me is that I do the work, stay willing, and keep my mind and heart open to our fellowship and all that comes through our doors.

Many years ago, my sponsor told me that sobriety is a process, not an event. I repeat that to the men and women I work with because, as much as I wanted to be struck sober, I am far more grateful at the lessons that have been presented to me as I have matured in recovery. If I had been struck sober, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to experience all the magical and difficult events that have been a part of my sobriety over the last two decades. Time does take its own time after all.

—Bill F. Copyright © AA Grapevine, Inc., May 2012, Reprinted with permission



**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!**

**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

AYTOPNINSET  
 DUSDITNEU  
 THIBOININI  
 FORTLEINEC  
 THEISDANO  
 SLIRGUEOI



*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.*

ONCTEATRECN  
 TREAMDU  
 VEDACNA  
 DRUSNOFE  
 PITSDYTIU  
 SYPROLEUVI

**WE LOVE OUR**

**VOLUNTEERS**

**Happy Passover**

PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL GIFTS OR RAFFLE BASKETS  
 FOR THE BANQUET ARE IN THE OFFICE  
**NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, APRIL 24.**  
**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!**

The first Founders Day Picnic planning meeting will  
 be held **Saturday, April 19 @ 12:30 PM**  
 101 Club, 700 SW 10th Street, Pompano Beach



**SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER**



# A.A. Birthdays

## April Celebrants

**Serenity Sisters**

Shirley ~ 38 yrs.  
Sally ~ 3 yrs.

**Women's Step by Step**

Colleen ~ 5 yrs.

**Victor E.**

Joe G. ~ 27 yrs.

**East Naples**

Paul B. ~ 40 yrs.

**Oakland Park**

Paul P. ~ 38 yrs.

**Margate Group**

Robin G. ~ 16 yrs.

**Early Risers**

Steve L. ~ 26 yrs.

**Davie Women's**

Barbara N. ~ 20 yrs.  
Colleen C. ~ 24 yrs.  
Toni J. ~ 24 yrs.  
Sandee L. ~ 34 yrs.  
Eileen G. ~ 52 yrs.

**5:45 Happy Hour**

Toni D. ~ 24 yrs.  
Sara M. ~ 28 yrs.  
Bernadette M. ~ 7 yrs.

**One Day at a Time**

Jimmy ~ 4 yrs.

**Sunlight of the Spirit**

Susan H. ~ 37 yrs.  
Cathi D. ~ 4 yrs.

**Express Group**

Joanna P. ~ 21 yrs.  
Iris S. ~ 38 yrs.  
Edna C. ~ 15 yrs.

**Let's Do Lunch Bunch**

Tony A. ~ 15 yrs.

**Serenity in the Park—SWR**

Bubba ~ 14 yrs.  
Lauren ~ 4 yrs.

**Womens Honesty**

Alexis H. ~ 9 yrs.  
Phyllis K. ~ 53 yrs.

**Lunch Bunch**

Evonne M. ~ 12 yrs.

**Mountain Group**

Michelle O. ~ 16 yrs.  
Craig L. ~ 18 yrs.  
Rob B. ~ 41 yrs.



**New Day**

Lilla ~ 7 yrs.

**Riverside Group** ~

41 yrs.

**One Day at a Time** ~

36 yrs.

**Let's Do Lunch Bunch** ~ 35 yrs.

**Sunlight of the Spirit**

~ 22 yrs.

**Big Book  
Quote of the Month:**

*"We are careful never to show intolerance or hatred of drinking as an institution. Experience shows that such an attitude is not helpful to anyone. Every new alcoholic looks for this spirit among us and is immensely relieved when he finds we are not witchburners. A spirit of intolerance might repel alcoholics whose lives could have been saved, had it not been for such stupidity."*

*Alcoholics Anonymous, Page 103*

**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, April 13**  
**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, April 10th**  
**at 10:00 AM**

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS** ....not previously mentioned

**Bottom Line Group**

Steve ~ 28 yrs.  
Denise ~ 5 yrs.  
Fletcher ~ 3 yrs.  
Charlie ~ 1 yr.

**Oakland Park**

David J. ~ 42 yrs.

**Into Action**

Sandy S. ~ 22 yrs.

**Life in Recovery**

Mitzi ~ 39 yrs.  
Jill ~ 12 yrs.

**Life in Recovery Group** ~ 38 yrs.

**District 9 General Service**

Meeting will be held on

**Sunday, April 27th**  
**at 2:00 PM**

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

**MARCH CONTRIBUTIONS**

OGroup Name	March	CYTD
441 Group		150.00
545 Happy Hour		315.00
Alcoholics Anonymous	575.16	2,205.71
Beynd Yr Wildest Dreams		883.20
Big Book Cafe	200	800.00
Bonnaventure BB		250.00
Brothers in Sobriety		75.00
Broward Young People		237.00
Came to Believe	60	60.00
Coconut Creek Group		40.00
Coral Springs Group	25	75.00
Davie Women's Group		280.00
Drfld Beach Oldtimers		75.00
Each Day a New Beginning		2,950.00
Easier Softer Way		250.00
East Naples Men's		693.00
Enjoy the Journey		330.00
Fort Lauderdale Men's		77.67
Ft Lauderdale Wom's		75.00
Free to Be Group		800.00
Freedom From Alcohol		315.00
FtL Twelve Step	757.14	757.14
FtL Prim Purpos BB Study	100	300.00
Happy Joyous Free Zoom		120.00
Harbor Group		525.00
Good Morning God	100	100.00
In Memorium		500.00
Intergroup Meeting	110	347.06
Into Action	60	120.00
KIS Lunchtime		390.00
Kiss Today		343.45
Lambda Rising		250.00
Life in Recovery Group	65.6	158.72
Living in the Solution		276.00
Living in Solution Virtual	125	304.00
Living Sober	100	100.00
Lunch Bunch		64.00
Lunch Bunch Zoom		100.00
Made a Decision	258	258.00
Margate Group		25.00
Men's Independence		75.00
Mid Day Sobriety	100	300.00
New Beginnings		100.00

Group Name	March	CYTD
New Day Group		200.00
New Leaf Group		331.50
Nooners		450.00
Noontm Sobriety Zoom		200.00
North Beach		76.00
Off the Hook		153.57
Old Timers	982	264.00
One Day at a Time	22.2	84.00
Open Door		216.00
Peace of Mind	150.07	150.07
Pembrok Pines Last Stand		110.00
Perry Street South		200.00
Pompano Beach Group		158.48
Sand Pebbles Group	125	250.00
Saturday Morning		50.00
Saturdays in the Park		500.00
Serenity in the Park E		153.50
Serenity in the Prk SWR	72.45	312.16
Serenity Sisters		200.00
Smell The Coffee		57.31
Sober on the Beach		150.00
Sun AM Attit of Gratitude		120.00
Sunday AM Together		200.00
Sunlight of the Spirit		100.00
Sunrise Serenity		136.00
Surrender is Freedom	50	125.00
The Anonymous Club		267.52
The Outsiders	420	420.00
Thurs Nt. Study	78	78.00
True Self 11th step		75.00
University BBook Study	50	68.00
Victor E		1.79
Wed Nt As Bill Sees It		125.00
West Broward Women's		25.00
Westside Men's		453.40
Women's Hope in Recovry		135.00
Women's Sober Tribe	50	50.00
Women's Step by Step		40.00
Why It Works		92.00
YANA Group	150	250.00
YANA Online	600	600.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5385.62</b>	<b>25240.25</b>

**THANK YOU SO, SO MUCH!!**

# Fourth Tradition Checklist

1. Do I insist that there are only a few *right* ways of doing things in AA?
2. Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of Loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?
3. Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?
4. Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?
5. Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths--his lengths, not mine--to stay sober?
6. Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?

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Answers from page 4: spontaneity, unstudied, inhibition, reflection, astonished, religious, concentrate, matured, advance, founders, stupidity, previously

*Things we cannot change....*

**Mark S. and Jimmy M.**



*They will be missed by all who knew them. May they 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

### Tuesday

**NEW MEETING Sense of Duty** meets at South Florida Wellness Center, 5225 NW 33 Ave., Oakland Park, 7 PM, OD.

### Friday

**NEW MEETING Frontliners Group** meets at South Florida Wellness Center 6969 Taft Street, Hollywood, 7PM, OD.

### Saturday

**Riverside Group Online Meeting** will no longer meet **\*\*SATURDAYS ONLY\*\***

### Daily

**Serenity in the Park East** at TY Park in Hollywood meets at 4:00 PM on the weekends, and has gone back to a 5:30 PM start time weekdays.

**Serenity in the Park SWR** in Southwest Ranches is again meeting at 5:30 PM.

## THIS MONTH IN AA HISTORY

- April 1, 1939** "Alcoholics Anonymous" (AA's Big Book) was published.
- April 3, 1941** First Florida AA meeting held.
- April 1946** The AA Grapevine first published the Twelve Traditions, initially titled "Twelve Points to Assure Our Future".
- April 7, 1941** Ruth Hock reported there were 1,500 letters asking for help, as a result of the Saturday Evening Post Article by Jack Alexander.
- April 10, 1939** The first ten copies of the Big Book arrived at the office Bill shared with Hank Parkhurst in Newark, New Jersey.

## PLEASE CHECK THE LISTING OF

YOUR GROUP ON **OUR**  
WEBSITE FOR ACCURACY

<https://aabroward.org/locations>

*We are not responsible for the Meeting Guide app.*

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

## Upcoming Events

- 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 tickets only, limited seating. Speakers, 4 course meal and basket raffle.
- Apr 27** **Bottom Line Group Annual Picnic** Quiet Waters Park, Limpkin Pavilion #1, 10 AM meeting, Picnic 11:30 AM—4 PM Rain or shine. Live band. \$10 contribution, kids 12 and under free with an adult, please bring a side dish or dessert to share. 401 S Powerline Rd, Deerfield. Park has entrance fee—\$1.50 per person.
- May 8-11** **Big Book Seminar** Boca Town Center Marriott, Seating is limited. Schedule starts Thursday at 7 PM and ends Sunday at 12:30 PM. For more info or to pre-register for \$35 go to [bigbookseminar.org](http://bigbookseminar.org)