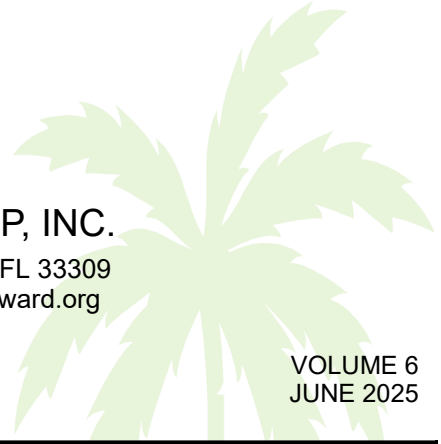




# SUITE 404

BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.  
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VOLUME 6  
JUNE 2025

**Step 6** - "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."

## Too bright for my own good

When I got sober 16 years ago, I proved what my mother had said all along--that I was "just too smart for my own good." I was almost too smart to get this program--too much knowledge, too little understanding. I could recite the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions long before I even had a clue as to what they meant. "Working the Steps" was a concept totally beyond me, and the Traditions were only for old-timers, the grown-ups in charge of the program.

Fortunately, I was able to hear a few things in those first meetings I attended. In my first meeting I heard that the "only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking," and I promptly raised my hand. At the next meeting I heard the Promise, "Fear of people and of economic insecurity will leave us." That sucked me in and made me stick around to hear what I heard next.

I heard that I'd never take another drink if, at any one time, I could answer four questions:

1. Who's your sponsor?
2. What Step are you on?
3. Where's your home group?
4. Where's your service commitment?

I found a temporary sponsor list, picked a number at random, called her and asked her to be my sponsor. I didn't give her my phone number, but I did find out what meetings she went to . . . and then made sure never to show up at any of those meetings. There, first question answered.

I was prepared for the second question, too. I learned that if I said I was working on Step One or Step Four, I'd pretty much be left alone.

The third question was easy. I picked two home groups, just to make double sure. Having a home group just meant showing up, of course; business meetings were for the people in charge.



The only thing I was really willing to do was to volunteer for service. When I had been sober about six months, a little speaker-discussion group elected me secretary. I thought they'd nominated me because they recognized that I was a quick-study or a natural leader. I said yes without even asking what the job involved.

It was customary for the secretary of this little group to obtain speakers from outside the group. Oops. It was also the group's custom

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## Celebrating Founder's Day

### CONCEPT VI

The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

**Tradition Six** - "An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

## **TRADITION 6: A Common Sense Approach**

The Fifth Tradition tells us what the primary purpose, or spiritual aim, of an AA group is: "to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." Anything that interferes with this or confuses people about what is and is not AA can compromise the mission of Alcoholics Anonymous. This is where the Sixth Tradition comes in.

Many years ago, I served on a local AA convention committee. A member of the committee also served on the board of an alcoholism agency, which held an annual "fun run" to raise money. The committee member suggested that the convention allow runners to register, pay for the race, and select an alcoholism agency T-shirt through the AA convention registration form. At first the convention committee approved the idea. After all, the money would simply be run through the convention account and turned over to the agency, the "fun run" was the same weekend as the convention, most of the runners would be AA members anyway, and it would be a convenience for everybody, right? But soon, uncomfortable murmurs were heard during convention committee meetings. Someone cited a line from the long form of Tradition Six: "While an AA group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied." With that clarification, the committee voted down the proposal, and the member who suggested the idea graciously accepted the decision.

When I was new in AA, some AA groups at a nearby men's recovery home named themselves after the facility, and they were listed that way in the AA meeting schedule. This created some hard feelings in the AA community. Eventually, the AA group changed its name so it wouldn't look like it was affiliated with the recovery home.

Sometimes alcoholism treatment programs advertise themselves as "AA-oriented" or "based on twelve steps," or in a manner that includes the initials "AA," often to trade on the good name of AA. Although only AA members acting in their AA capacities can compromise our Traditions, this usage has concerned many AA members because of the potential for confusion between AA and these treatment programs. To the extent that local AA groups allow this to go unchallenged, this practice can compromise the spirit of the Sixth Tradition, which includes actual and implied affiliation of AA with related facilities.

In its early years, AA was closely tied to hospitals--that's where many of our early members were introduced to AA. Over time, however, we have found a middle course that fits with our principles of cooperation rather than affiliation.

It took many years for AA to clarify its relationship to clubs. In the early years, AA itself even referred to "AA clubs," now more often called "alano" clubs to signify that they are outside of AA. In 1972, the General Service Conference recommended that the General Service Office (GSO) no longer accept contributions from clubs, but GSO could, of course, continue to accept contributions from AA groups that meet in clubs. In 1989, the Conference decided not to list clubs in the AA directories, further shoring up the distinction between AA and clubs.

Some years ago, I visited an old AA friend in a distant city, and we attended a meeting of a local AA group. At the end of the meeting, I was surprised to hear the treasurer report that he had made a group contribution to a nearby detox center. When I later asked my friend about this, he agreed that this use of group funds was an example of an AA group financing a related facility. But he had been tilting against that windmill ever since he moved to town and hadn't made much progress.

Another time, at an area assembly, a petition was circulated asking the county government to fund a treatment facility for alcoholics. Several people objected and suggested that petition-signing should be done outside the rooms of AA. The petitioners agreed and moved the petition drive to the parking lot.

It's easy to take affiliation issues too far. I don't think that using a particular brand of coffee at an AA  
(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](mailto:help@aabroward.org).

(continued from page 1)

to alternate between male and female speakers. Double oops. For six painful months, I had to approach people I didn't know, half of whom were of the other gender. Then I had to call them to make sure they'd show up to speak. Then I had to sit in the front of that room for 15 minutes before the meeting, sweating whether the speaker would show up.

That would not be the last time my pride would get me into trouble, but it did inspire me to become the coffeemaker as my next service commitment. This attempt at humility almost overwhelmed me. The meeting, called the "Too Early Group," supposedly began at 8 on Saturday mornings, but everybody started showing up at 7:30, expecting a cup of coffee and a donut. The 100-cup coffee maker took an hour to perk, which meant I had to get up at 5 A.M. on Saturdays, go to the market to get supplies, stop at the donut store, and get to the meeting place by 6:15 to get the coffee started.

I'm learning how to be a worker among workers, a friend among friends, a team player. It's a fabulous life.

Finally, I surrendered. "God," I said, "I'm willing to do service but I'm way too smart to figure out what service I should be doing. You gotta do that part. As soon as my current commitment starts running out, I'm just going to raise my hand and take the next job that comes along."

That first surrender (there have been many more since) was my first real experience of "turning it over," and it has worked for me ever since. Not every commitment has been easy or pleasant. Almost none of them have been either, but there was no way to blame myself when I found myself being a greeter at a meeting two bus lines away from where I lived or a chair-stacker for a meeting of 400.

God's plan is not to make this easy or pleasant for me but to teach me how to live outside my own head--a world populated with other people, places outside of bars, and things besides wine bottles.

When I was a literature person, I learned all about AA by reading the material I was in charge of, material I couldn't at the time afford to buy. By being a greeter, I learned that hugs don't hurt.

By being a GSR, I learned that patience and tolerance don't hurt, either. When I was fired from my day job and money became a bigger problem than usual, God made me treasurer of a small group where I learned how to keep track of finances, the importance of a prudent reserve, and how easy it is to build one--one dollar, one quarter at a time. In time, I was able to be sponsored and to sponsor. I learned how to "do relationships" and "play well with others." Reaching out and working with others helped cure me of my terminal self-reliance.

Right now, I'm writing this during a break at my first regional service assembly. I'm learning how "big AA" works. I'm learning about the Concepts. I'm learning how to be a worker among workers, a friend among friends, a team player.

I am not always sane, not always happy and not always useful--but it's a fabulous life.

—KARIN H. | Volcano, Calif.

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*Things we cannot change....*

Tom M. and Vickie T.

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

# HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



**General Service Office, NY**

Post Office Box 2407  
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New York, NY 10116-2407

**Bridging The Gap**

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Ft Lauderdale, FL 33309

**District 9 General Service**

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

# Recovery Word Puzzle

M O P E R I M S O C  
N I N T V O C E O N  
N I L I T F A F I O A  
S C U Y L A G O R I  
M A T T E R N E T  
T O P N I T E I



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.

M U E R Q E T I N E R  
P Y R O M T E A R  
S Y U E N T R I C I  
M E S P O I R  
P O S S R O N  
N E I D G T V I R

## Celebrating our Founders.... June 10, 1935

*An amazing, lifesaving fellowship was born, when one alcoholic reached out to help another alcoholic, to preserve his own sobriety.*

*"I went to Atlantic City to attend several days' meeting of a national society of which I was a member. I drank all the scotch they had on the train and bought several quarts on my way to the hotel. This was on Sunday. I got tight that night, stayed sober Monday till after the dinner and then proceeded to get tight again. I drank all I dared in the bar, and then went to my room to finish the job. Tuesday, I started in the morning, getting well organized by noon.*

*I did not want to disgrace myself so I then checked out. I bought some more liquor on the way to the depot. I had to wait some time for the train. I remember nothing from then on until I woke up at a friend's house, in a town near home. The good people notified my wife, who sent my newly made friend over to get me. He came and got me home and to bed, gave me a few drinks that night, and one bottle of beer the next morning.*

*That was June 10, 1935, and that was my last drink. As I write nearly four years have passed. "*

*Excerpt from "Dr. Bob's Nightmare", Alcoholics Anonymous, pp. 179-180*

**Intergroup is currently looking for a Speaker Exchange Chair**  
Call 786.286.4504 for details

*BCIC is looking for sober volunteers to take meetings into Institutions.*

## SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER



# A.A. Birthdays

## June Celebrants

**Sunlight of the Spirit**

Shannon S. ~ 13 yrs.  
Janet A. ~ 19 yrs  
Patricia B. ~ 21 yrs.

**Straight Talk**

Mark O. ~ 34 yrs.

**B.A.L.L.S.**

Drew ~ 12 yrs.

**Men's Independence**

Ken W. ~ 22 yrs.

**Y.A.N.A.**

Bruce P. ~ 32 yrs.

**Ft. Lauderdale Women's**

Nancy S. ~ 12 yrs.

**Oakland Park**

Gene S. ~ 16 yrs.

**East Naples Men's**

Stan S. ~ 34 yrs.  
Pete S. ~ 27 yrs.  
Wade B. ~ 25 yrs.  
Ralph O. ~ 24 yrs.  
Luis F. ~ 22 yrs.

**5:45 Happy Hour**

Sandy S. ~ 35 yrs.

**One Day at a Time**

Adelina ~ 13 yrs.  
Ileana A. ~ 13 yrs.

**Serenity Sisters**

Bonnie ~ 7 yrs.  
Jan ~ 12 yrs.

**Let's Study the Book**

Billy ~ 16 yrs.  
Lewis ~ 3 yrs.  
Paul ~ 4 yrs.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**MAY BIRTHDAYS** ....not previously mentioned

**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE CELEBRATING A SOBER ANNIVERSARY THAT WOULD LIKE TO BE LISTED HERE?**

Let us know ahead of time at [help@aabroward.org](mailto:help@aabroward.org)

**Big Book Quote of the Month:**

*.. "The question of how to approach the man we hated will arise.... Nevertheless, with a person we dislike, we take the bit in our teeth. It is harder to go to an enemy than a friend, but we find it much more beneficial to us. We go to him in a helpful and forgiving spirit, confessing our former ill feeling and expressing our regret."*

*Alcoholics Anonymous, Page 77*

**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, June 22 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, June 14 at 10:00 AM**

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

**District 9 General Service**

Meeting will be held on

**Sunday, June 22nd at 2:00 PM**

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

**MAY CONTRIBUTIONS (THRU MAY 28)**

GROUP NAME	MAY	CYTD
441 Group		150
5-3-Zero		92
545 Happy Hour		585
Acceptance Meeting	25	25
Alcoholics Anonymous	243.11	2,740.82
Bayview Beginners		117.00
Beyond Yr Wldst Dreams		883.20
Big Book Cafe	200	1,200.00
Bonnaventure BB Group		250.00
BottomLine Group		100.00
Brothers in Sobriety	120	195.00
Broward Women's	451	451.00
Broward Young People		212.00
Came to Believe		60.00
Coconut Creek Group	70	140.00
Coral Spgs As Bill Sees It		25.00
Coral Springs Group	25	150.00
Davie Women's Group	200	680.00
Deerfield Bch Oldtimers		75.00
Deerfield Beach Study		181.23
Don't Forget	480	480
Each Day a New Beging	2487	4,437.00
Easier Softer Way	1250	2,500.00
East Naples Men's	880	1,573.00
Enjoy the Journey		330.00
Ft Lauderdale Men's		77.67
Ft Lauderdale Women's		75.00
Free to Be Group		800.00
Freedom From Alcohol		315.00
French Intergroup	250	250.00
FtL Twelve Step		757.14
FtL Primary Purp BB Stdy		300.00
Happy Joyous Free Zoom		240.00
Harbor Group		525.00
Good Morning God		100.00
In Memorium		600.00
Intergroup Meeting	110	543.06
Into Action	30	180.00
KIS Lunchtime		390.00
Kiss Today	216.45	559.90
Lambda Rising		500.00
Let's Study the Book		50.00
Lighthouse Point Group		30.00

GROUP NAME	MAY	CYTD
Life in Recovery Group	23.2	181.92
Living in the Solution	254	798.00
Living in the Solution Vrtl	92	466.00
Living Sober		100.00
lunch Bunch in Plantation		64.00
Lunch Bunch Zoom		100.00
Made a Decision	40	298.00
Margate Group		25.00
Melrose Park Group		216.94
Men's Independence		75.00
Mid Day Sobriety		300.00
New Beginnings	100	200.00
New Day Group		200.00
New Leaf Group		331.50
New Way of Life		100.00
Nooners		450.00
Noontime Sobriety Zoom		200.00
North Beach		76.00
Off the Hook		153.57
Old Timers		1,246.00
One Day at a Time	37.57	160.87
One Step at a Time	50	50.00
Online Men's Independ		50.00
Open Door		216.00
Peace of Mind		150.07
Pemb Pines Last Stand		110.00
Perry Street South	397.13	597.13
Pompano Beach Group	670.86	829.34
Pride 5:45	1679.85	1,679.85
Riverside		241.00
Rule 62		125.00
Russian Spkg AA	150	150.00
Sand Pebbles Group		250.00
Saturday Morning		50.00
Serenity at 630		200.00
Saturdays in the Park		500.00
Serenity in the Park East		153.50
Serenity in the Park-SWR		492.16
Serenity Sisters		200.00
Smell The Coffee Group		57.31
Sober on the Beach		150.00
Sober Today		100.00

Contributions continued on page 7

(continued from page 2)

meeting means that AA is endorsing that brand of coffee. Nor do I think that meeting in a church or hospital means that AA is affiliated with them--as long as AA pays its own way. Affiliation problems generally concern non-AA efforts to deal with alcoholism. Common sense takes care of most of these issues.

AA has clarified its relationship to non-AA literature several times. In 1972, our General Service Conference recommended: "It be suggested that when a local AA facility (central office, intergroup, group, etc.) sells non-Conference-approved literature, it be clearly designated as such." In 1975, the Conference said, "Previous Conference action to display non-Conference-approved literature and Conference-approved literature separately be reaffirmed." In 1976, the Conference even told the GSO to stop distributing a non-AA biography of Bill W.! In 1977, the Conference got more pointed by stating, "It was suggested that AA groups be discouraged from selling literature not distributed by the General Service Office and the Grapevine." I don't see nearly as much non-AA literature at AA meetings as I used to.

Of course, Conference approval does not imply disapproval of other literature. Conference approval is sought for our literature so people can distinguish between AA and non-AA literature. This is entirely within the spirit of the Sixth Tradition, in that it lessens the chance of a group looking like it endorses the publications or programs of something outside AA. Of course, we are perfectly free (and are encouraged) to read anything we believe will help us in our recovery from alcoholism.

Much of our everyday practice in AA is aimed at preventing issues of money, property, or prestige from diverting us from our primary purpose. When this spirit of the Sixth Tradition infuses our AA life, AA remains so strong that a group's ability "to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers" cannot be shaken.

—Paul C., Oceanside, California

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Answers from page 4: compromise, convention, affiliation, graciously, treatment, petition, requirement, temporary, insecurity, promise, sponsor, diverting

**MAY 2025 CONTRIBUTIONS THRU 5/28** *continued from page 6*

GROUP NAME	MAY	CYTD
Spiritual Principles	472.5	472.50
Sun AM Attit of Gratit		120.00
Sun Morning Together		200.00
Sunlight of the Spirit		100.00
Sunrise Serenity		136.00
Surrender Group		100.00
Surrender is Freedom	25	250.00
Tamarac Group		15.00
The Anonymous Club		335.34
The Outsiders		420.00
Thurs Nt. Study		78.00
Trads & Steps at 7	20	20.00
True Self 11th Step		75.00
Tuesday Nt Step Group		40.00

GROUP NAME	MAY	CYTD
University BB Study		68.00
Victor E		1.79
Wed Nt As Bill Sees It		125.00
West Broward Women		93.00
Westside Men's Group		763.90
Wom's Fri Nt BB Study	300	300.00
Wom's Hope in Recovery		135.00
Wom's Primary Purpose		57.00
Women's Sober Tribe		100.00
Women's Step by Step		40.00
Why It Works		238.00
YANA Group		450.00
YANA Online		600.00
TOTALS	11,349.67	41,352.71

**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 Beginner** which met at 4595 Bayview Drive in Fort Lauderdale NO LONGER MEETS.

**Wednesday**

**Women's Step Into Sobriety** will NO LONGER be meeting at Dania Women's Club. Still looking for a new spot and still meeting on Zoom until they find a new location. 7 PM.

**Thursday**

**By the Book Beginners** that met at the Women's Club in Deerfield at 7:30 PM NO LONGER MEETS.

**Came to Believe West** which meets at the Chabad of Nova in Davie has changed the time to 7 PM.

**Sunday**

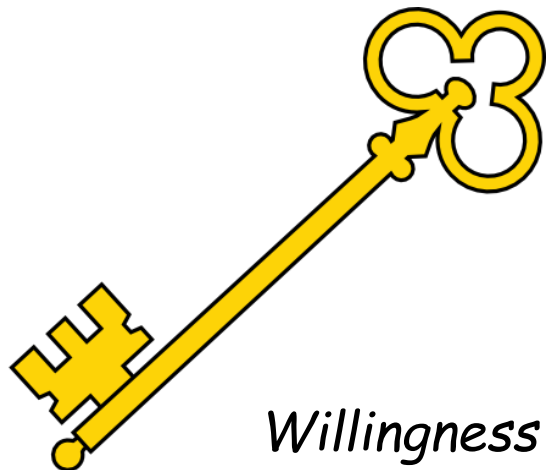
**NEW MEETING Acceptance Meeting** is a new closed meeting at Somerset Academy Key Middle School at 959 SE 6th Ave. Deerfield Beach. 6 PM.

**Daily**

**NEW MEETING Sobriety 101** will be meeting at 7 AM every Monday—Friday at the 101 Club in Pompano Beach, 700 SW 10th Street.

**THIS MONTH IN AA HISTORY**

- June 10, 1935** Dr. Bob's last drink, celebrated as Founder's Day of AA.
- June 28, 1935** Dr. Bob and Bill W. pay a visit to Bill D. (alkie #3) in Akron Hospital.
- June 21, 1944** The first issue of the AA Grapevine was published.
- June 1, 1945** Anne Smith, Dr. Bob's wife, dies.
- June 30, 2000** More than 47,000 people from 87 countries attend the opening meeting of the 65th AA Anniversary in Minneapolis, MN.



*Willingness  
is the key.*

**Upcoming Events**

- June 8** **Founders Day Picnic** will be held at Synder Park Cauldwell Pavillion at 3922 SW 4th Ave, Fort Lauderdale, 11 AM—4 PM, Live DJ, Meeting at 2 PM, \$15 in advance/\$18 at gate.
- June 15** **Traditions Workshop 10-12** at Intergroup Bookstore. 3-5 PM., Food, fellowship, FREE. Call ahead, limited seating. Come see WHY it works, and bring a sponsee or friend.
- July 3-6** **International Convention of AA in Vancouver, CA**
- July 11-13** **South FI Area 15 General Assembly in Cape Coral**
- July 26** **Intergroup Annual Customer Appreciation Day**, Giveaways, refreshments, raffle and SALES 11 AM—4 PM.