



SUITE 404

BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.
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VOLUME 7
 JULY 2025

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

Up In Smoke

A story for people with character defects to burn

At twenty-two months sober, I'm still a baby to the AA way of life. One concept I can fully comprehend, however, is our purpose as a group. We help one another recover from our alcoholic insanity and grow emotionally, spiritually, and physically, by using the tools from the program. I experienced one neat tool recently:

After a recent Sunday morning meeting, I went home for my usual fix of pro football. I got a phone call inviting me to a character defect burning. I copied down the directions--even though I intended to stay home and watch three football games (one is never enough).

Halfway through the second game, I started thinking about my sponsor's comments on defects of character. After thirty-one years of sobriety, he says that he still has all of his. He laughs when he hears people say they're working on their character defects, because the idea is to not let them work on you.

Hey! Just like that, I was out the door, into the truck, and headed for what I figured, at the least, would be a campfire and some fellowship.

I followed the directions to a dirt road, went through a stretch of pine trees, and came to a lake with a sand beach surrounded by woods. It was about an hour before dusk. A small fire was already started.

Off to the left, not very far, was a tree much larger than the other trees. Someone tacked a sign on it. It read: TREE OF WILLINGNESS. Under the tree, there were logs and pieces of lumber of all sizes. All had blank sheets of paper stapled to them.

There was an instruction sheet on a nearby table. It said to pick out a piece of wood according to the size of the defect you wanted to get rid of, or the resentment you were trying to let go of, and write the defect's name on the paper. Offer a prayer to

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Have a safe and sober 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 A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

The Other Side of Self-support

Don't worry about paying rent; we're just happy to have an AA group in our church hall."

The two earnest AAs, however, looking respectable in their business suits, immediately declined the clergyman's generous offer.

"Thank you, Reverend, but our Traditions tell us that our group ought to be fully self-supporting. We are grateful for your kindness, but we must pay our own way." And so began a verbal contract with my husband, who was the clergyman, and the founders of what was to become my home group, which met at my church for many, many years.

As time went on, I became more conscious of the full meaning of Tradition Seven, which tells us that every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. From the beginning, my group declined outside contributions by insisting on paying a fee for the use of the hall, despite the tempting offer of a free ride. The two AAs might have rationalized: "Maybe we should let the church support us. After all, it may be rough getting this group off the ground. We may not be able to afford the fee." But they didn't.

It pleases me to know that my group did not let the church support them in the beginning and this impressed the church. What many of us AAs do not realize, including me (until I "married into the church") is that many of our AA meeting halls are the property of poor, small parishes who struggle to stay open. When my church offered free rent to AA, they were offering the tremendous maintenance costs that a small working-class parish must pay. Like most unendowed churches, we exist from month to month waiting for the pledges to come in. The weekly ten dollar pledge from a church member is vital for paying the clergyman's salary, mortgages, utilities, water, janitor services, paper towels, light bulbs. . .well, you get the picture.

The words "*fully* self-supporting" have new meaning for me, examined from both sides. In the past, it seemed reasonable to offer a "donation" to a church in other groups I belong to. A charitable and well intended pastor or institution would suggest a token "rent" and the group would readily accept the offer. We believed that we were observing the Seventh Tradition. But a token is not rent. A token is a partial payment.

I have seen more than one group who paid token rents be asked to leave a facility; the AA group became a financial liability. Other reasons to ask a group to leave might have been superseded if the group had been fully self-supporting.

There are numerous costs to maintaining a site that are not usually factored into even a "full" fee: the wear and tear and replacement of chairs and tables; plumbing, floors and carpets; dirt and smoke damage to ceilings, walls, and windows; heating cost overruns when a group forgets to turn down thermostats and close windows; the cost of paper products, garbage bags, and collection; and the cost from damage, loss, and theft. To a group that feels comfortable in paying a token amount, the burden falls on the church members. My AA group was firm in its commitment, thank God, to be self-supporting.

I have heard it said at a business meeting that "we don't need to raise the amount of our donations

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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.

(continued from page 1)

your Higher Power, throw the log on the fire, and turn your defect or resentment over to God. The instructions also carried this warning: "Be careful with your resentments, they may cause sparks."

When the sun set behind the trees in the west, a full moon rose above the opposite side of the woods, lighting up the lake as our bonfire grew.

Someone brought marshmallows. There were also conga drums, bongos, tambourines, a flute, and a guitar. We played, sang, and danced most of the night, and even cracked a few jokes about the concepts of AA as a cult. It was a great time. It was a sober time with family.

But, for me, the greatest feeling at the event was watching my particular character defect burn and turn into ash. It hasn't bothered me for over a week now. Do I think it's gone forever? Probably not. But if--or when--it rears its ugly head again, I'll know, deep down, it's spent and can't burn me.

—Jason B. | Del Haven, New Jersey

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(continued from page 2)

toward the rent (after five years) because the church hasn't asked for more." Now is that the spirit of Tradition Seven? If we are fully self-supporting through our own contributions, as our Preamble reinforces, then should we put the church in the position of begging money from us? Or should we spare them that indignity and offer rent increases on a regular basis?

Long ago, Bill W. observed, in the groups and in himself, the peculiar phenomenon of our tight-fisted approach when we pass the hat. Way back in the fifties, some groups would say, "Please, if you have it, dig in. The group needs the money to pay the rent. We don't want to 'hear' any noise from loose change, so we won't object to any folding money you choose to drop in!"

Thirty-some years and a quadruple inflation rate later, we tight-fisted alcoholics--who squandered thousands--still see the one dollar bill as the upper limit of our contribution. Speaking for myself, I find no problem with paying a therapist \$80 an hour once a week for my other mental health program. The AA program which saved my life and offers me every bit as much help and healing as my outside program gets the short end of the financial stick from me--a dollar at best. Translated into realistic terms that means: Am I willing to spend the equivalent of a cup of coffee to save my life?

Well, all of these new perspectives on the meaning of our Twelve Traditions have come from two sources: my life as a clergyman's wife and my Twelve Step and Twelve Traditions meetings. My eyes are opening to these inspired and brilliant plans for living. The Steps ensure the mental and spiritual growth of the individual; the Traditions ensure the growth of the group.

I have learned another lesson about being a good AA tenant from my experience "on the other side." I learned what a nasty job it is to pick up discarded cigarette butts from lawns and walks, because I am a groundskeeper at my church. Guess who spent many years tossing away butts as I approached a church, a meeting hall, a movie theater? It never mattered that someone would have to pick up after me. Now that *someone* is me. Yes, it's been a valuable lesson being on the other side.

—Anonymous | Oxford, Massachusetts

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Bridging The Gap

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Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310

Recovery Word Puzzle

CRARTHECA
DAQUNRSDEE
LACETIRSI
GYDTININI
VETLAQINUE
TOFNAILNI



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.

SPEDMISER
BAITYILIL
LAMPTEERNC
GRUESONE
MOWGRENPIE
TRIEDSNOCI

Unable to attend the 2025 International AA Convention in Vancouver in person?

You can still participate by registering for a Virtual Session Program Track

This is a two-day 8 session virtual program track for individual viewing at home. The sessions will be live-streamed as they take place and will NOT be available for purchase after the Convention. The cost is \$35

You can sign up for the virtual session through the online registration:
aa.org/international-convention

There will be 8 1.5-hour topic sessions to view. There is a half-hour break between sessions.

Intergroup is currently looking for a Speaker Exchange Chair
In the spirit of rotation

Email help@aabroward.org if interested.

2025 Gratitude Dinner planning is now under way.

The next planning meeting is

Sunday, July 27th at 1:30 PM at the
Twelve Step House, 205 SW 23rd Street, Fort Lauderdale

SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER



A.A. Birthdays

July Celebrants

Sunlight of the Spirit

Debbie C. ~ 7 yrs.
Jeff H. ~ 7 yrs.
Norm L. ~ 5 yrs.

One Day at a Time

Eddie N. ~ 16 yrs.
Maria S. ~ 18 yrs.

Women's Honesty

Becky P. ~ 43 yrs.
Marcia S. ~ 29 yrs.

Don't Forget

Doug W. ~ 14 yrs.
Michael E. ~ 17 yrs.

B.A.L.L.S. Group

Richie ~ 36 yrs.
Nick ~ 10 yrs.
Randall ~ 30 yrs.

Bikers in Recovery

Emilio ~ 26 yrs.
Leon J. ~ 18 yrs.
Donna M. ~ 20 yrs.
Bill F. ~ 9 yrs.
Rich W. ~ 9 yrs.

Broward Men's

Jay ~ 9 yrs.
Joe A. ~ 10 yrs.
Steven H. ~ 8 yrs.

Serenity Sisters

Mary S. ~ 26 yrs.
Laura W. ~ 27 yrs.
Kristie ~ 19 yrs.

Serenity in the Park—SWR

Monica P. ~ 5 yrs.
Eric C. ~ 1 yr.
Abby ~ 4 yrs.
Lisa ~ 4 yrs.
Bernard ~ 26 yrs.
Lee ~ 4 yrs.

Smell the Coffee

Liz J. ~ 36 yrs.
Mike ~ 15 yrs.

Westside Men's

Eric S. ~ 26 yrs.
Richard R. ~ 34 yrs.

Ft. Lauderdale Women's

Nancy B. ~ 36 yrs.
Diana H. ~ 25 yrs.
Pam ~ 29 yrs.

Live, Laugh, Love

Leslie B. ~ 17 yrs.
Juliyet ~ 27 yrs.

Coral Springs Men's

Steve B. ~ 33 yrs.
Bill F. ~ 34 yrs.
Brett ~ 8 yrs.

Spiritual Principles

Zane ~ 11 yrs.
Beth ~ 41 yrs.

A Step at a Time

Karen V. ~ 44 yrs.

Living in the Solution Virtual

Bonnie W. ~ 7 yrs.
Jeanne H. ~ 7 yrs.
Judy Z. ~ 7 yrs.
MaryBelle P. ~ 37 yrs.

Womans Step Into Sobriety

Liz A. ~ 16 yrs.

Eleventh Step

Marty ~ 12 yrs.

441 Group

Ebony ~ 16 yrs.

Oakland Park Group

Layah ~ 2 yrs.
Fritz ~ 7 yrs.
Gene ~ 16 yrs.
Richard ~ 28 yrs.

Big Book Quote of the Month:

"We have been speaking to you of serious, sometimes tragic things. We have been dealing with alcohol in its worst aspect. But we aren't a glum lot. If newcomers could see no joy or fun in our existence, they wouldn't want it. We absolutely insist on enjoying life. "

"So we think cheerfulness and laughter make for usefulness. "

Alcoholics Anonymous, Page 132

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, July 20th
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 12
at 10:00 AM**

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JUNE BIRTHDAYS ...not previously mentioned

Serenity Sisters

Melissa ~ 1 yr.

**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

District 9 General Service

Meeting will be held on

Sunday, July 20th at 2:00 PM

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

JUNE CONTRIBUTIONS

GROUP NAME	JUNE	CYTD	GROUP NAME	JUNE	CYTD
441 Group		150	Let's Study the Book		50
5-3-Zero		92	Lighthouse Point Group		30
545 Happy Hour		585	Life in Recovery Group	24.8	206.72
Acceptance Meeting		25	Living in the Solution		670
Alcoholics Anonymous	464.05	3311.87	Living in the Solution Vrtl	194	788
Back to Basics	50	50	Living Sober		100
Bayview Beginners		117	Lunch Bunch in Plantation		64
Beyond Yr Wldst Dreams		883.2	Lunch Bunch Zoom		100
Big Book Cafe		1200	Lunch Express	1057.34	1057.34
Bonnaventure BB Group		250	Made a Decision		298
BottomLine Group		100	Margate Group		25
Brothers in Sobriety		195	Melrose Park Group		216.94
Broward Women's		451	Men's Independence	300	300
Broward Young People		212	Mid Day Sobriety	100	400
Came to Believe		60	New Beginnings		200
Coconut Creek Group		140	New Day Group	200	400
Coral Spgs As Bill Sees It		25	New Leaf Group		331.5
Coral Springs Group	25	175	New Way of Life	100	200
Dania After Work	180	180	Nooners		450
Davie Women's Group		680	Noontime Sobriety Zoom		200
Deerfield Bch Oldtimers		75	North Beach		76
Deerfield Beach Study	259.65	440.88	Off the Hook		153.57
Don't Forget		480	Old Timers		1246
Each Day a New Beging		4437	One Day at a Time	39	199.87
Easier Softer Way		2500	One Step at a Time		50
East Naples Men's		1573	Online Men's Independ		50
Enjoy the Journey		330	Open Door		216
Ft Lauderdale Men's		77.67	Peace of Mind		150.07
Ft Lauderdale Women's		75	Pemb Pines Last Stand	180	290
Free to Be Group	800	1600	Perry Street South		597.13
Freedom From Alcohol		315	Plantation Happy Hour	1034.97	1034.97
French Intergroup		250	Pompano Beach Group		829.34
FtL Twelve Step		757.14	Pride 5:45		1679.85
FtL Primary Purp BB Stdy		300	Riverside	179.4	420.4
Happy Joyous Free Zoom		240	Rule 62		125
Harbor Group		525	Russian Spkg AA		150
Good Morning God	50	150	Sand Pebbles Group		250
In Memorium	200	800	Saturday Morning		125
Intergroup Meeting	66.25	609.31	Serenity at 630		200
Into Action		180	Saturdays in the Park		500
KIS Lunchtime		390	Serenity in the Park East	100	253.5
Kiss Today	216.45	776.35	Serenity in the Park-SWR	225	717.16
Lambda Rising		500	Serenity Sisters	200	400

Contributions continued on page 7

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toward the rent (after five years) because the church hasn't asked for more." Now is that the spirit of Tradition Seven? If we are fully self-supporting through our own contributions, as our Preamble reinforces, then should we put the church in the position of begging money from us? Or should we spare them that indignity and offer rent increases on a regular basis?

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Answers from page 4: character, squandered, realistic, indignity, equivalent, inflation, impressed, liability, replacement, generous, empowering, directions.

JUNE 2025 CONTRIBUTIONS *continued from page 6*

GROUP NAME	JUNE	CYTD
Smell The Coffee Group		57.31
Sober on the Beach	150	300
Sober Today		100
Spiritual Principles		472.5
Splinter Group	504.8	918.8
Stepping Out	75	75
Sun AM Attit of Gratit		120
Sun Morning Together		200
Sunlight of the Spirit		100
Sunrise Serenity		136
Surrender Group		100
Surrender is Freedom	50	300
Tamarac Group		15
The Anonymous Club		335.34
The Outsiders	193.38	613.38
Thurs Nt. Study		78

GROUP NAME	JUNE	CYTD
Trads & Steps at 7	4.65	24.65
True Self 11th Step		75
Tuesday Nt Step Group		40
University BB Study	30	163
Victor E		1.79
Wed Nt As Bill Sees It		125
West Broward Women		93
Westside Men's Group		763.9
Wom's Fri Nt BB Study		300
Wom's Hope in Recovery		135
Wom's Primary Purpose		57
Women's Sober Tribe		135
Women's Step by Step	40	80
Why It Works		238
YANA Group	100	550
YANA Online	384	984
TOTALS	7777.74	49716.45

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

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

Steps to Freedom which met at 8:30 PM at the Fourth Dimension Club in Hollywood NO LONGER MEETS.

Thursday

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

Saturday

NEW MEETING Women's Meeting Bottom Line Group in Deerfield at 10 AM. Open, rotating Format.

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

- July 14, 1939** Dr. Harry Tiebout gives Big Book to Marty Mann, who throws it back at him.
- July 7, 1940** Bill W. attends 1st summer session at School of Alcohol Studies at Yale.
- July 3, 1955** 5,000 attend 20th Anniversary Convention in St. Louis, where Bill W. turns AA over to the fellowship.
- July 4, 1970** Bill W. gives his last talk at 35th AA Anniversary Convention in Miami.
- July 5, 1985** AA gives Ruth Hock the 5,000,000th Big Book at the 50th AA Anniversary Convention in Montreal, Canada.
- July 6, 1985** 45,000 attend 50th AA Anniversary Convention in Montreal, Canada.

NEW WHERE & WHENS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Intergroup will now be making all meeting directories in-house so that they will be current. If you need more than 20, please order ahead.

Email: help@aabroward.org

Upcoming Events

- July 3-6** **International Convention of AA in Vancouver, Canada** for online registration to sign up for Virtual Session Program Track go to: <https://aa.org/international-convention>
- July 11-13** **South FI Area 15 General Assembly in Cape Coral** Speakers, workshops. Free service event. Business meeting on Sunday.
- July 19** **Intergroup Annual Customer Appreciation Day**, Giveaways, refreshments, raffle and SALES 11 AM—4 PM.
- Aug 29** **Express Group 49th Anniversary Eatin' Meetin'** Chili dogs and all the fixins! Bring a sponsee, a friend, and a dish to share. Christ Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 1955 E. Oakland Park Blvd., Fort Lauderdale. Dinner starts at 6:30 PM.
- Sept 6** **District 9 Spaghetti Dinner** Emma Lou Olson Center, Pompano Beach 4-10 PM.
- Sept 19-21** **Women in Recovery Conference*** Opal Grand Hotel, Delray Beach. To register or purchase banquet tickets go to www.thewomeninrecovery.com Workshops, speakers, raffles, fun.

*Not an AA-sanctioned event