



SUITE 404

BROWARD COUNTY INTERGROUP, INC.

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VOLUME 11
NOVEMBER 2025

Step 11 - "Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, *as we understood him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out."

Dear HP

When I walked in the doors of AA, I heard a lot of talk about praying. People told me to get on my knees in the morning and at night and say the Third Step Prayer, the Seventh Step Prayer, the Lord's Prayer and the Serenity Prayer. They told me to pray about this and that and to put them in my prayers, adding that they would put me in theirs. And of course, people told me to pray for those I resented or disliked.

I heard all this talk about prayer with very little working knowledge. The only prayer I did say was Grace, before dinner. But I'd also scream and curse at God because I blamed him for all my problems. And let's not forget all the wet and dry drunk rants and raves that I yelled out to the trees, chairs or any object in my path. I was filled with fear, anger and frustration that life was not on my terms. But I could no longer drink or scream these feelings away.

I had a shaky start with a new Higher Power and with Step Two. I had to discard my old punishing fire-and-brimstone Higher Power. I had to replace it with a loving and tolerant one. I still didn't believe my new HP cared about me. So I was told just to "believe that I believed."

When I moved on to Step Three, it was time to hit my knees. There I was, on my knees and elbows on the bed saying the Third Step prayer. It really felt weird for about a month. It was just words at first, but I kept saying the prayer until it didn't feel weird any more. And when I was upset or wanted a drink, I would repeat the Serenity Prayer over and over, sometimes out loud and sometimes just in my mind. Somehow it seemed to help.

When I felt on shaky ground, I'd ask my HP for help to get me to meetings. I'd ask for help when I thought the world would fall in on me. I was starting to believe my new HP did love and care for me. Then in walked Step Five; I never saw it coming. When it came time to tell God my Fourth Step I didn't know what was going on in my head. I thought God knew everything, so I didn't have to tell him. Then someone pointed out why telling God my Fourth Step shouldn't be a big deal. Man, that caught me in a lie to myself. Well, I did that part of the Fifth Step, for which I'm so grateful. At first I thought my new HP would leave me when I told him what I had done, but I was wrong. Praying to my HP for forgiveness was the most personal thing I've ever done.

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The 441 Group NEEDS SUPPORT



CONCEPT XI

The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

Tradition Eleven - "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and film."

Here's the pitch

IN my home group we say that Bill W. was a "cunning linguist." Like Humpty Dumpty, Bill had the philosophy that, "When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean--neither more nor less." A classic example of this approach is found in the Big Book, where Bill says, "When, therefore, we speak to you of God, we mean your own conception of God. This applies, too, to other spiritual expressions which you find in this book." The word "God" and other spiritual words don't have their usual meaning in the Big Book, but rather they mean what Bill says they mean (which in this case is "your own conception").

Another example is in Tradition Nine, where Bill says, "AA, as such, ought never be organized." In everyday conversation, "organize" means to arrange into an orderly pattern or structure, and that's how most people understand it. But according to Bill W.'s essay on Tradition Nine in the "Twelve and Twelve," the "essence" (or defining characteristic) of organization is "power to direct or govern." Hence, Bill meant that AA ought not to have any power to direct or govern the members--he did not mean that AA ought not be arranged in an orderly pattern or structure. However, some AA members are quick to criticize intergroups and service committees because they are "organizing" AA.

In Tradition Eleven, Bill was at it again, with his use of the word "promotion." In ordinary usage, "promotion" often means something like "publicity," and that's how many people understand it. But Bill meant something quite different. By "promotion," he meant showing full names or facial pictures of AA members in press, radio or films. He actually said this in the Tradition itself, and he spelled it out in more detail in the "Twelve and Twelve," giving the example of a charity that puts names of distinguished supporters on its letterhead. But many people don't understand "promotion" in this way, and so there is a lot of confusion about this Tradition.

AA needs publicity. We have active public information (PI) committees in our districts, areas and intergroups, and a PI staff member at the AA General Service Office (GSO). There are AA public service announcements that appear on radio, television and the internet (at www.aa.org). In my area, there have been AA "advertisements" (so to speak) on the sides of public buses. There are AA information booths at state fairs, high school health fairs, professional conventions and so on. All of this is good AA PI service work.

Bill W. said in the "Twelve and Twelve" that AA wishes "to publicize its principles and its work, but not its individual members." He also said, "Our work, as such, needed to be publicized." There is nothing wrong with publicity for AA. We need to publicize our principles and our work, but not our individual members, and that's what Tradition Eleven is about. We do have a public relations policy--we are not a secret society. We practice attraction by having no publicized individual members.

When I was a GSR for my group, I gave out AA birthday contribution plan envelopes, available from GSO, to members of my group when they had an AA birthday--individuals can contribute a dollar to GSO for each year of sobriety. Many members participated, but one in particular said to me when I offered him the envelope, "No thank you--I believe in attraction rather than promotion, and this is promotion."

Here was a classic instance of Bill W.'s use of the word "promotion" leading to confusion.

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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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I must have said the Serenity Prayer about a million times before I realized that it was telling me how to deal with life's problems (I'm a little slow.) What part of the problem or situation did I need to accept? And what parts did I need to change?

The only part I can change is my actions, so I needed to pray for the courage to change them. I also prayed for help accepting other people, places and things. The wisdom part comes with time. Time also taught me to look at the other prayers for guidance—and I have. Wow! What wisdom I found in the prayers. They're guidelines to help me to accept life on life's terms.

I had five years sober when I went back to school and worked the Steps and all of the program to the best of my ability. Still, I had no good job, no good place to live and no hope. I had hit rock bottom in sobriety. So I sat down and wrote my HP a letter. I opened my soul and heart like never before. As tears hit the paper, I kept writing. I wrote until I was empty—until there was nothing left inside. I got an envelope, addressed it to God and took it to a mailbox. As I put my letter in the mailbox the tears fell from my face, and I let go. After the letter was dropped, my life slowly got better, and my faith and relationship with my HP really grew. I hope to always grow toward my HP and to learn more about prayer every day.

— Jeff H., Sturgeon, Missouri

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VETERANS DAY



GRATITUDE MONTH HISTORY

Gratitude Month in Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is traditionally observed in November and has its roots in the fellowship's emphasis on gratitude as a cornerstone of recovery. AA members began using the month of November as a time to reflect on the role of gratitude in staying sober. The idea was that cultivating a grateful mindset could help members avoid resentment, which is often seen in AA as a major trigger for relapse. Over time, many AA groups began holding special gratitude meetings, speaker events, and donation drives during November to express appreciation for sobriety and to give back to the organization. Though not a formally mandated observance by AA's General Service Office, Gratitude Month has become a widely recognized and cherished tradition across many groups.

Things we cannot change....

Stan A.

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



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New York, NY 10116-2407

Bridging The Gap

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Recovery Word Puzzle

W E E L G K O D N
C O U N T I D I N
C R I S T R O D E
T E E R D E S N
N E A R L O P S
N I G L S E E D U I



Unscramble the letters.
Answers to puzzle can be
found on page 7. Words for
this puzzle have been used
somewhere else in this edi-
tion of Suite 404.

T E A T G R I D U
T O N E C O V I N N
H I R E D H E C S
H I M S P A S E
S L U N T I G I
P O O C I T E N C N

The 68th Florida State Convention (2026) is in Orlando in 11 months.

Get registered. Buy banquet tickets.

<https://68.floridastateconvention.com/>

AA's Got Talent planning is now underway. The next planning meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 9th at 12:30 PM.**

441 Group, Village Plaza, 1452 N SR 7, Margate

Performers must sign up and buy ticket. Tickets available for distribution that day.

The 2nd planning meeting for the **69th Florida State Convention in Ft. Lauderdale** is on **Saturday, November 1st at 1 PM**

101 Club, 700 SW 10th St, Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Thanks so much to everyone who helped support our Intergroup Picnic. It was a fun and successful fundraiser and a great day for fellowship and recovery! We really appreciate all our volunteers.

We could not do what we do without all of you!!
INTERGROUP REALLY NEEDS SUPPORT!

SERVICE KEEPS YOU SOBER



A.A. Birthdays

November Celebrants

Living in the Solution

Craig G. ~ 17 yrs.
Ehra R. ~ 24 yrs.
Steve B. ~ 35 yrs.

Serenity in the Park—SWR

Fran ~ 4 yrs.
Bricole ~ 1 yr.
Eric ~ 2 yrs.

Serenity Sisters

Betty ~ 35 yrs.

Davie Women's

Donna ~ 4 yrs.
Meredith ~ 5 yrs.
Diane ~ 10 yrs.
Jewel ~ 11 yrs.
Michelle ~ 17 yrs.
Annette ~ 30 yrs.
Caren ~ 37 yrs.

Oakland Park Group

Doug D. ~ 41 yrs.

Downtown Dry Dock

Kim M. ~ 21 yrs.
Phyllis ~ 17 yrs.

East Naples Men's

Steve B. ~ 17 yrs.

Pompano Beach Group

Donna S. ~ 39 yrs.

True Self Group

Bonnie B. ~ 44 yrs.
Bernie B. ~ 44 yrs.

Eleventh Step Group

Maurice C. ~ 26 yrs.

Early Risers Group

Andrea ~ 3 yrs.
Lucie ~ 5 yrs.
Maryanne ~ 17 yrs.
Don ~ 7 yrs.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**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

Big Book Quote of the Month:

"What used to be the hunch or the occasional inspiration gradually becomes a working part of the mind. Being still inexperienced and having just made conscious contact with God, it is not probable that we are going to be inspired at all times. ... Nevertheless, we find that our thinking will, as time passes, be more and more on the plane of inspiration. We come to rely upon it."

Alcoholics Anonymous, Page 87

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, November 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, November 8th
at 10:00 AM

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

District 9 General Service

Meeting will be held on

Sunday, Nov. 16th at 2 PM

Sanctuary, 1400 N. Federal Hwy., FTL

New Rep Workshop at 12:30 PM

OCTOBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Group Name	OCT	CYTD
11 Step Conscious Contact	140	140
441 Group		150
5-3-Zero		92
545 Happy Hour		585
Acceptance Meeting		25
Alcoholics Anonymous	1114.44	5320.46
Attitude of Gratitude		110
Back to Basics		50
Bayview Beginners		117
Beyond Your Wildest Dreams		883.2
Big Book Cafe		1200
Bonnaventure BB Group		250
Bottom Line Group		1049.58
Brothers in Sobriety	100	395
Broward Women's		451
Broward Young People		212
By Word of Mouth		212
Came to Believe		60
Coconut Creek Group		140
Coral Springs As Bill Sees It		25
Coral Springs Group	25	250
Coral Springs Men's		150
Dania After Work		180
Davie Women's Group		680
Deerfield Beach Oldtimers		75
Deerfield Beach Study		440.88
Don't Forget		840
Each Day a New Beginning		5900
Early Risers	400	800
Easier Softer Way		2500
East Naples Men's	680	3102
Enjoy the Journey		330
Eye Opener		200
Ft Lauderdale Men's		77.67
Ft Lauderdale Women's		75
Free to Be Group		1600
Freedom From Alcohol		315
French Intergroup		250
Ft Lauderdale Twelve Step		757.14
FtL Primary Purpose BB Stdy		300
Happy Joyous Free Zoom		390
Harbor Group	200	725
Good Morning God	50	300

Group Name	OCT	CYTD
In Memorium		5800
Intergroup Meeting		807.31
Into Action		300
Imperial Point Beginners	387	387
Just For Today	250	250
KIS Lunchtime		675
Kiss Today	227.7	1326.25
Lambda HALT		183.81
Lambda Rising		600
Let's Study the Book		50
Lighthouse Point Group		120
Life in Recovery Group		253.12
Living in the Solution	175	1090
Living in the Solution Virtual	110	1156
Living Sober	75	275
Lunch Bunch in Plantation		385
Lunch Bunch Zoom		100
Lunch Express		1440.97
Made a Decision		298
Margate Group		25
Margate Men's Book Study	30	30
Melrose Park Group	272.19	489.13
Men's Independence		300
Mid Day Sobriety	100	700
New Beginnings		200
New Day Group		400
New Leaf Group		331.5
New Way of Life	200	400
Nooners		450
Noontime Sober Living		375
Noontime Sobriety Zoom		200
North Beach	91	207
Oakland Park		388
Off the Hook		560.99
Old Timers	144	1537
One Day at a Time		294.97
One Step at a Time		50
Online Men's Independence		50
Open Door		216
Peace of Mind		150.07
Pembroke Pines Last Stand		290
Perry Street South		597.13
Plantation Happy Hour		1034.97

Contributions continued on page 7

OCTOBER CONTRIBUTIONS (continued from page 6)

Group Name	OCT	CYTD
Pompano Beach Group		2079.72
Pride 5:45		2579.85
Riverside	31.80	532.20
Rock Group		400
Rule 62		125
Russian Speaking AA		150
Sand Pebbles Group	100	350
Saturday Morning	75	275
Serenity at 630		200
Saturdays in the Park		500
Serenity in the Park East	125	378.5
Serenity in the Park-SWR	135	1122.16
Serenity Sisters		400
Smell The Coffee Group		57.31
Sober on the Beach		300
Sober Seniors		469.02
Sober Today		100
Spiritual Principles		472.5
Splinter Group		918.8
Stepping Out		75
Sun AM Attitude of Gratitude		120
Sun Morning Together		200
Sunlight of the Spirit		100
Sunrise Serenity		136
Surrender Group		100

Group Name	OCT	CYTD
Surrender is Freedom	60	505
Tamarac Group		15
The Anonymous Club		555.53
The Outsiders		613.38
Thurs Nt. Study		78
Trads & Steps at 7	5	110.16
True Self 11th Step	75	225
Tuesday Night Step Group		40
University BB Study	45	248
Victor E		1001.79
Wednesday Nt As Bill Sees It		125
Wednesday Night Las Olas	50	50
West Broward Women		93
Weston/Bonaventure	350	350
Westside Men's Group	377.5	1624.4
Women's Friday Nt BB Study		450
Women's Hope in Recovery		135
Women's Primary Purpose		107
Women's Sober Tribe		210
Women's Step by Step	80	160
Women's Step Into Sobriety	400	400
Why It Works	134	372
YANA Group	150	800
YANA Online		984
TOTALS	6964.63	77872.47

(continued from page 2)

My point is that in Tradition Eleven, "promotion" means breaking anonymity at the level of press, radio and films. Bill W. and AA do not oppose publicity for AA--indeed, publicity is a big and important part of AA service work. Furthermore, we certainly may, within AA, "promote" AA meetings or events or service work. What we may not do is break anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.

—GABRIELA R., Lynnwood, Washington

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Answers from page 4: knowledge, induction, directors, resented, personal, guidelines, gratitude, convention, cherished, emphasis, linguist, conception

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.

MEETING CHANGES

Where and Whens are now being printed in-house, so they are always current. The majority of changes we've received in the past month are for online meetings, and as always the website has the most up-to-the-minute information available.

<https://aabroward.org/locations> or <https://aabroward.org/virtual-meetings>

Monday

NEW MEETING SRYP new Young People's meeting at the Stirling Room in Davie. OBGYP 8:30 PM.

Tuesday

NEW MEETING Traditions on a Tuesday now meets at the Sterling Room in Davie. OTR 8:30 PM.

Thursday

NEW MEETING, Exit 36 New Life Group will meet at Calvary Baptist, 800 NW 8th Avenue, Pompano Beach FL 33060 at 6 PM. OSD.

Friday

The Eye Opener in Pembroke Pines is only in-person on Friday, and it is a Hybrid Meeting. CC 9:30 AM.

Imperial Point Beginners which met at Unity Church in Pompano NO LONGER MEETS.

Saturday

Emotional Sobriety which met at the Fourth Dimension Club in Hollywood NO LONGER MEETS.

NEW MEETING One Day at a Time Moms will meet at Reflections Park, 4200 Alpine Woods Road, Davie. CRFw 9 AM.

Sunday

NEW MEETING Back to Basics now meets at Pompano Beach Group in Pompano, OLT 11:30 AM.

Daily

WEST BROWARD CLUB has moved to a new address. They are no longer upstairs. New address is 13120 W State Road 84 in Davie.

*Wishing you all abundant blessings for
your Thanksgiving Holiday! May you
all stay safe and sober.*



Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Nov. 15 | District 9 Gratitude Dinner 6-10 PM, First Baptist Church, 301 E Broward Blvd, FTL. Tickets \$30. See your General Service Rep for info on how to get tickets. |
| Nov. 22 | Pre-holiday Sales Event 11 AM -- 3 PM, Intergroup Bookstore, Refreshments, raffle and so many items on sale! |
| Jan. 9-11 | SFL Area 15 Quarterly Ft. Lauderdale Marriott. Service workshops, speakers and third legacy in action on Sunday. Free Event. |
| Feb. 7 | AA's Got Talent Adult only evening of fun and fellowship. Coffee and dessert at 5:30, with Live Entertainment at 6:30 PM. \$15, Coral Springs Charter School. |