

SCAAN

OCTOBER 2007

WWW.AAINPALMBEACH.ORG

2 A's: Autonomy and Anonymity

I read a recent article published nationally about very strong allegations brought by members against a group (in let's say Middletown, USA) and it brought me to ponder a few things. Among them, how would I, as chairman, handle something like this in Area 93? I noticed several anonymity breaks throughout the article and I also felt somewhat disturbed with the publisher's choice to include last names. I found myself wanting to defend AA because controversy and opinions were taking flight through press and television. In sharing an early draft of my article with two of my most trusted servants, our own Area Delegate and our Pacific Region Trustee, I was offered varied opinions. Should I or should I should not submit my comments? How does controversy play a role in AA? What can I "pack into the stream of life"? So, I chose not to draw the aforementioned group or the publication into further controversy... as this would be counter productive and maybe even irresponsible. Their names will not be mentioned. In the article three persons identified themselves as recovering alcoholics and gave their first and last names to the press. Thus bringing to mind tradition 11 - *Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.* Also the group, if it is indeed AA, may need to examine tradition 4 - *Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups*

STEP 10

**CONTINUED TO
TAKE PERSONAL
INVENTORY AND
WHEN WE WERE**

TRADITION 10

**ALCOHOLICS
ANONYMOUS HAS
NO OPINION ON
OUTSIDE ISSUES;
HENCE THE A.A.
NAME OUGHT**

or A.A. as a whole... and see if a snowballing controversy is going to make or break them. I thought a bit about tradition 10 here, but that really applies to a group effort to have an opinion on outside issues. Although it should be noted in the 12 x 12 that a part of tradition ten reads: "But when it comes to A.A. as a whole, that's quite a different matter. In this respect, we do not enter into public controversy, because we know that our Society will perish if it does."

How would my group react if a few of its members (or ex-members) go public with allegations on such a grand scale? How would they continue to observe the traditions as not to affect neighboring groups or AA as a whole? Am I looking out for the newcomer and possible "AA predators" close to home? How do we,

as a fellowship, "defend" the AA name? Or do we? How are "our common welfare...." and "... but one ultimate authority" going to play a role here? These are not easy questions.

The article I write today is not to form an opinion about the group or its members, but to consider how to apply our fourth tradition in my own home group and to shed light on how our New York office handles anonymity breaks. The fourth tradition speaks to us about a group's right to be wrong. The writer points out that in early AA it was soon discovered that alcoholics will make up their own minds any way and that no one can tell them what to do, "ego-driven individualists" and "children of chaos" were the terms chosen. In the first few paragraphs of this very short tradition the word "we" was used twice in a very profound way and I had never paid as close attention to until I reread it recently. *So confident of this had we become that the original statement of A.A. tradition carried this significant sentence: "Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that as a group they have no other affiliation."* and *This meant, of course, that we had been given the courage to declare each A.A. group an individual entity, strictly rely on its own conscience as a guide to action.*

Who is "we"? Who did the "declaring"? As the traditions were

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INTERGROUP HAS MOVED!!

2905 S. Federal Hwy ~ Suite 15 & 16 ~ delray beach ~ fl ~ 33483
tel 561.276.4581 ~ fax 561.274.2096 ~ southcountyaa@bellsouth.net
also visit www.alcoholics-anonymous.org & www.aagrapevine.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS	
Oct 5 - 7	SOUTH FLORIDA AREA GENERAL SERVICE QUARTERLY hosted by our District 8 @ Boca Raton Marriott, 5150 Town Center Circle, Boca Raton, FL. Registration @ www.area15aa.org and click on Member services for complete information.
Oct 14	4th ANNUAL SERENITY SCRAMBLE @ the Lake Worth Golf Club. \$87.00/person includes Golf, Cart Fee, Prizes, and Lunch. Registration forms available at SPBC Intergroup or through your home group rep
Oct 19 - 21	"Quest" - A Spiritual Retreat given by & for AA's and Al-Anons...St. Leo Abbey Retreat Center. St. Leo, Florida (30 min north of Tampa). Cost of Retreat - \$112 - Includes 2 nights, 6 meals, snacks and beverages. Info: Cliff (727) 546-2239 - www.questretreat.org - or pick up registration form at Intergroup.
Oct 20	BOWLING FOR BIG BOOKS hosted by Hospitals and Institutions. 6:30 - 9:00 PM. \$20 dollars covers Bowling, Pizza, Soda, and Shoes. At: Boca Bowl. Tickets & information call (561) 573-1727. Speaker Meeting at 9 PM following bowling.
Oct 21	PICNIC sponsored by Saturday Begginer's Meeting, Boca Pines Club. 10 am to 4 pm at Quiet Waters Park Pavilion A. Food and Entertainment. Tickets for picnic: \$7 - Kids under 12 Free. AA meeting at 10:30 am.
Oct 26	8th ANNUAL MOON DANCE presented by the Sunrise Beach Meeting of Delray Beach. On the beach - A1A and Atlantic Avenue. Food ~ Three Speaker Meetings ~ Fellowship...and a full moon rise. Begins at 7PM... Bring a chair or blanket!
Oct 27	HALLOWEEN DANCE hosted by Central House! Costumes, Music, Food, Fellowship, Fun! See flyers at Central House for more information.
Nov 3	OPEN HOUSE at your new South Palm Beach County Intergroup office! 11am to 3 pm. Food and Fellowship! Hosted by you SPBC Intergroup Steering Committee Officers and Staff. Visit your new Intergroup Office. Browse through our new and developing Achives, look through the Lending Library, and start your holiday shopping early at our new Gift Shop!!!

(Continued from page 1)

being considered, input was largely based in trial and error. Personal experience brought by early members proved most valuable. Groups that had made up their own minds learned their lessons or had a falling out have been the basis for a set of traditions which still stand today.

In those early days our "AA Headquarters" learned valuable lessons with regard to a group's autonomy. (A bonus of tradition four was the super promoter who brought us "rule 62". This person had a spiritual experience and chose to share his experience to benefit all of the fellowship...*"this is the acme of humility"* p.149 12x12. Miriam Webster describes *acme* as 'one that represents perfection of the thing expressed'.) How does this apply to Area 93? What relevance does this have to the important work that we do to further 12th step work in our districts and groups? This is what really got me.... that just like the early members, we have mechanisms in place in Area 93 that help us to learn from a group's "Right to be wrong". Our 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. sharing sessions may be a perfect opportunity to exchange ideas about what lessons we learn by a group dividing or entering into public controversy or any thing else you can think of that has been tried and failed (or succeeded). We are diverse enough that each member has seen or experienced something that can benefit the other. As humble servants of our home group and the "guardians of the traditions" do we listen closely to an experience brought by our neighbors in Area 93? Do we hope that we can draw upon that experience to help solve a group dispute closer to home? Do I ask myself: "Am I humbled enough to share a hardship with others in the Area?" How did "we" learn enough in the early days to write a set of traditions? How did our founders stay informed of the ever growing fellowship and their concerns? Today it is our responsibility and it starts with what *I* can do.... I am responsible. Of course every group posses the "right to be wrong", but how long do I wait before I speak up? This is where the responsibility declaration starts making sense to me... when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help I want the hand of AA always to be there and for that I am responsible.

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4TH ANNUAL SERENITY SCRAMBLE

Lake Worth Golf Club

One 7th Avenue North, Lake Worth, FL
(Amazing course along the Intercoastal!!!)



8 a.m. Shotgun Start

Sunday, October 14, 2007

Arrive early to register and get set up

Call Jack C., Scramble Chairman, at 561-248-0767 for questions and details

August 29, 2007 - Office Manager Report

Greetings from 2905 S. Federal Highway, Suites 15 and 16!

For anyone who hasn't heard yet...we are settled in our new office, and invite all of you to visit the new Intergroup location.

I have several new volunteers, and a few old ones, and a few who will be returning for the season - but I always welcome additional volunteers to assist during the daytime hours.

With our larger space we are able to display and expand upon our Intergroup Store, so I would like two people in the office at all times. We have Quickbooks networked now, so the reception desk volunteers are being trained to enter sales receipts, and assist in processing Purchase Orders, and receiving inventory as well. We have established a few new vendors for sobriety gifts (aka Drunk Junk) - and want you to know that our prices always remain lower than your local retail stores.

Due to the increased interest in Grapevine Books during the past 6 months, I am now able to place monthly orders, and provide ongoing inventory for your needs.

Intergroup will be hosting an Open House on November 3 and Holiday Shopping Days in addition to our regularly scheduled hours beginning in November. Please pass the word that you will be able to shop for your special gifts and cards at SPBC Intergroup.

Our 12 step call volume seemed to be low during July, but then I realized that the Relay Phone volunteers were taking calls all during the last week of July when we were moving.

So our call log for July is a bit out of wack - ...

Calls logged by the office:	482 (partial month record)
Calls into the Relay Phone:	879
Sales during July	204
Total Office Activity	1,207

Our Group Contributions during July were amazing... and we also had a record fund raiser for H&I that was a complete success both financially and for our fellowship! Way to go Institutions Committee!!!

The Journey to Freedom Group held their semi-annual movie night in July, and raised \$605 for Intergroup. Thank you Journey to Freedom.

All Aboard had a picnic last Sunday, and has contributed their proceeds of \$374 to Intergroup! Thank you All Aboard!

Well I suppose you've heard and read about all the people and groups of people who volunteered and helped us with our relocation. But two days after we opened in the new facility - I left for a two week vacation!!! Sandy and Justin covered the office like the troopers they are - and all our faithful volunteers kept coming in to help...

Our Intergroup is blessed, because you care.

Respectfully submitted in love and gratitude,

Pam T.

SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY MEETINGS (ALL AA MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND)

Intergroup Monthly Meeting
October 25 at 7:00 pm at Central House

Institutions Monthly Meeting
October 25 at 6:30 pm at Central House

General Service Quarterly
Oct 5 - 7, 2007, Marriott, Boca Raton, FL

Intergroup Minutes – August 29, 2007

Chairperson: Diane S. opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Diane announced that Justin B. has resigned from the office of Treasurer and Sheryl S. has been appointed to fill out his term which ends in July 2008.

Welcome New Group Rep's: Ben - Saturday Night Double Speakers, Valerie - Open Your Heart Group, Joe - Roaming Big Book Study, Ryan - Boca Boyz, Ron - Sunday Morning Spiritual, Jeffrey - We Are Not Saints.

Vice Chair: Al A. Reported that the Intergroup office now accepts Visa and MasterCard for all purchases.

Treasurer: Sheryl S. No report

Office Manager: Pam T. reported on the Intergroup Office move to new location and thanked all the volunteers that made this happen. See full report in SCAAN.

Archives Committee: Pam T. reported she would like to have a small archive display at the Gratitude Dinner which was agreed upon.

General Service: Liz S. reported that the next quarterly will be hosted by District 8 on October 5-7, 2007 at the Boca Raton Marriott. If interested in volunteering please contact Bill H. at 561-772-3441. General Service recommends each group to have an annual group inventory using the questions in the pamphlet "The AA Group...Where It All Begins." Legacy of Service to define qualifications and responsibilities for all elected general service positions was also discussed.

Group Information Committee: Chris C. No report

Intergroup Gratitude Dinner: Jay P. reported that 380 tickets were sold at this meeting on a first come first serve basis. 70 tickets were left at the Intergroup office.

Institutions Committee: Jay M. reported that all spots were currently filled. Reps were asked to have their groups consider donating books..

Public Information: Matt G. reported new elected and met with Tyler F. to review and get organized.

SCAAN: Tyler R. absent- 12 step call. Janet B. reported that she did the SCAAN this month and will help Tyler next month.

Serenity Scramble: Jack C. & Sandy T. reported we are 6 weeks from the tournament and all the arrangements are made. Still need golfers to sign up as well as donations for individual holes and raffles prizes. The volunteer list is full.

Speaker Exchange: Jack C. No Report.

Special Events: Sheryl S. resigned to become our new treasurer. Open

Telephone Relay: Tyler F. absent- 12 step call.

Website: Sandy K. No Report

Webmaster: Drew M. Absent

Where and When: Janet B. No Report.

Old Business: None.

join the birthday club

if you or your group is celebrating an a.a. anniversary and would like to be added to the list of celebrants, please mail the following information to the intergroup office with the suggested donation of \$1 for each year of sobriety. this money is used to carry the message to all alcoholics in south palm beach county.

name _____

address _____

home group _____

sobriety date _____

donation _____

south palm beach county intergroup
75 ne 6th ave, delray beach, fl 33483

intergroup officers & committees

chairperson.....diane s
 vice-chair.....al a
 treasurer.....sheryl s
 consultant.....bob m
 secretary.....alex k
 office manager.....pam t
 archives committee.....pam t
 bridge the gap.....nate s
 general service liaison.....liz s
 group information.....chris r
 institutions.....jay m
 public information.....matt g
 scaan.....tyler r
 speaker exchange.....jack c
 special events.....lucas h
 telephone relay.....tyler f
 website.....drew m
 website updates.....sandy k
 where & when.....sean p

 intergroup dinner.....jay p

BIRTHDAY CLUB CONGRATULATIONS

RUSS C.	1 YR	9/29/06	MORNING MEDICINE, WEST BOCA
PETTI T.	2 YRS	9/19/05	NEW LIFE, BOYNTON BEACH
MIKE M.	3 YRS	10/1/04	SOBRIETY IN THE WIND, DELRAY
RON P.	3 YRS	10/12/04	SUNRISE BEACH MEETING, DELRAY BEACH
RAY D.	8 YRS	9/15/99	BOYNTON BEACH GROUP
JIM M.	13 YRS	9/10/94	WE ARE NOT SAINTS, BOYNTON BEACH
SUZY V.	16 YRS	10/26/91	JUST FOR NOW, BOCA RATON
JERILYNN V.	18 YRS	8/9/89	WESTSIDE GROUP OF DELRAY
SALLY K.	19 YRS	9/3/88	DOWNTOWN DELRAY GROUP
DON B.	26 YRS	9/5/81	BOYNTON BEACH GROUP
SARAH C.	27 YRS	7/27/80	
BOB C.	33 YRS	8/9/74	DOWNTOWN DELRAY GROUP
BOBBY O.	44 YRS	10/10/65	

NOTICE FROM GSO - PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR

The Trustees' Committee in Public Information is looking for video/digital submissions from the Fellowship for possible compilation and inclusion in material designed to carry the A.A. message of recovery to young people.

SUGGESTIONS

- * Stick to A.A.'s primary purpose
 - * Try not to reference fads or fashions
 - * Enhance your message with technology
- CONTACT INTERGROUP FOR MORE INFO**
 Deadline for submissions is November 30

Annual Intergroup Gratitude Dinner

Friday Nov 16, 2007

TICKETS SOLD OUT!