

Sobriety to Go

As often happens, we learn the most in AA from listening to our newer members, and my home group recently experienced a new dimension of the Fifth Tradition because of it.

We have a periodic group inventory, every four to six months, so that we can stay healthy as a group. We use the Traditions as well as some of the questions from the "AA Group", pamphlet as our guide. We pick a separate night and spend three or four hours checking our group pulse. At one of these inventory sessions, we had gotten to the Fifth Tradition when a member who had been with us for five months or so spoke up.

"I am confused," he said. "This Tradition says that 'Each group has but one primary purpose--to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.'" He paused a moment, then hesitantly said, "I have been attending this group recently for five months now, and we have never left this room!"

The result of this new member's wisdom and willingness to participate is that our group now sponsors a weekly meeting at a local treatment center. We carry our format and our group's message to them. From this weekly Twelfth Step activity, our group has grown as some of the alcoholics in the treatment center join with us when they leave treatment.

Our group has benefited in several ways other than new members. For a while, we saw an influx of nonalcoholics into the AA groups. Many of these came to us from treatment, having been told to just go to AA by well-meaning professionals who were not really familiar with what AA did and did not do. We have learned that we were at fault when this happened. If we do not show up to explain AA to new people, they will hear about it from people who do not know about AA.

This simple activity of carrying the message out of our meeting room also answered another problem we were having. Those of us who have been blessed by being in AA when there were plenty of "live" Twelfth Step calls talk a lot about them. Our younger members now have an inexhaustible supply of "live" Twelfth Step calls.

By regularly showing up at the treatment center in the spirit of cooperation, we are getting to know the professionals who do deal with problems other than alcohol. When someone shows up at our group who needs help of a different kind from that which we deliver, we can direct them to a person who can help, rather than just throwing them into the winds. This helps us in our effort to stick to our primary purpose, helping alcoholics achieve and maintain sobriety.

By being willing to stick close to our primary purpose, by being willing to actually carry the message physically out of our meeting space, we as a group have made our statement--if you attend a meeting at our group, you will hear the message of Alcoholics Anonymous, and if you watch us, you will see the message of Alcoholics Anonymous in action.

By being a member of a group that participates in the Fifth Tradition as an activity as well as an idea, I find myself more aware of what I was taught from the beginning: The Traditions apply to my personal life as well as to my group. Just as the primary purpose of my AA group is to carry the message, as a member of AA, my primary purpose also is to carry the message. I may not always like the little sacrifices of time and effort, but I am never confused as to what saving my life by God was really all about. The Twelfth Step and the Fifth Tradition make it clear that my sobriety is not only for me--it is for you. Thank God I belong to a group that acts the same way.

Don P.

Aurora, Colorado

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TRADITION 5 CHECKLIST

1. Do I ever cop out by saying, "I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me"?
2. Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the limitations of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
3. Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
4. Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?
5. Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose?
6. Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

DID YOU KNOW?

YOU CAN READ OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, THE SCAAN, ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE:

<http://www.aainpalmbeach.org/scaan.html>

Telephone Relay

North Delray Steps and Traditions.....May
12 O'Clock High.....June
West Boynton Beach Group.....July

Groups who take a telephone relay commitment help insure the hand of

AA is available 24hrs a day!

Thanks to all groups who participate!

THE STEPS & THE TRADITIONS

STEP 5: "Admitted to God, to ourselves, and another human being the exact nature of our wrongs."

TRADITION 5: "Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."



ANNUAL ELECTIONS INTERGROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES.

Well, it is that time again, elections for Officers and Committee Chairs. Per our Bylaws elections are held every year during the July Intergroup meeting. The following is a brief description from the South Palm Beach County Intergroup Association Bylaws regarding the process for elections:

Article VII – Elections and Voting Procedures. Candidates are nominated from the floor at the regular monthly business meeting in July. Committees are elected every year and Officers are elected every other year (even numbered years). Elections shall be by a simple majority vote of a quorum.

Article IV – Officers (Executive Committee) Officers consist of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. Officer's term of service shall be no more than two (2) consecutive years and is suggested to be five years of continuous sobriety.

Article V – Executive Committee Chief

Responsibilities:

Chairperson: To oversee the duties and designated tasks of other officers, committee chairs and Intergroup as a whole. Preside over all meetings; perform such acts and duties as are customary to the office. Appoint committee as necessary. Orient successor.

Vice-Chairperson: Primary responsibility for the day-to-day operations of office and staff. Perform duties of the Chairperson in their absence. Perform duties specifically delegated by the Chairperson. Liaison to the Chairperson of committees and help facilitate and coordinate special AA activities. Orient successor.

Secretary: Hands on organization of Intergroup business and service. Prepare minutes and deliver to the SCAAN editor by the 15th of the month. Maintain Intergroup office archives of minutes and bylaw amendments. Maintain roster of Officers and Committee Chairs address, phone number and email. Other duties relating to secretarial functions. Orient successor.

Treasurer: Maintain Intergroup checking account records. Review with office manager monthly accounting; bank records and taxes and state filings. Give financial reports at the monthly business meeting and newsletter. Orient successor.

Article VIII – Committees – Standing committees may be established to conduct ongoing business and services of the Intergroup. The committee shall continue so long as it fulfills its designated purpose of Intergroup. There shall be a chairperson of each committee established by a nomination and a vote from the floor or appointed by the Chairperson and/or the Vice Chair when deemed necessary. The position shall be for a period of one year. Elections shall be by a simple majority vote of a quorum. Any committee chair not present at three (3) consecutive regular monthly business and scheduled committee meetings may be automatically replaced, except in the case of extenuating circumstances. Committee chairs and committee members shall have no less than six (6) months of continuous sobriety in order to be eligible to serve. In the case of any committee chairperson using alcohol or mind-altering drugs, they shall be replaced immediately.

The primary purpose of the South Palm Beach County Intergroup Association is to aid the local AA groups in their common purpose of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. The following are some of the services Intergroup provides: we maintain the Intergroup Office where members can buy literature, medallions and much more; answer phone calls 24/7; distribute local, District, Area and World Service information, provide meeting lists and monthly newsletters; bring meetings into institutions; provide information to the public; maintain a website and archives.

If you are interested in serving at the Intergroup level please attend the July 30 business meeting where new chair people will be elected for the following committees:

Archives – Archivist and committee collect, catalog, and preserve material pertinent to the history of our South Palm Beach County Intergroup. The committee interviews and records the “old timers” recollections and stories and, when possible makes these displays available at local AA events.

Bridge the Gap – This is a transitional program directed towards individuals who want to continue their sobriety after leaving a treatment or correctional facility. The Chair coordinates committee members who are “temporary contacts” to accompany new members to AA meetings and answer AA related questions as they transition into the AA community.

General Service Liaison - The Liaison is our direct link to the General Service structure of AA. The Liaison attends local District and Area meetings and brings back information and gives report at the monthly Intergroup business meeting.

Group Information – Chair and committee visit local AA groups that are not currently represented at the Intergroup monthly business meetings. This committee brings information about Intergroup and how it helps serve the local AA groups; explains the importance of having an Intergroup Representative and collects group contact information and group history.

Hospitals & Institutions – Chair coordinates volunteers to carry the AA message to over 45 meetings each month into the South Palm Beach County local facilities. Chairs the monthly committee meeting on the last Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm at Delray Central House. This committee works closely with Bridge the Gap.

Public Information – This committee informs the public about our AA program. The Chair coordinates committee volunteers to supply information to local schools, teachers, business, civic groups, and arrange to staff health fair booths.

SCAAN Committee – The Chair and committee assembles edits and prints our monthly newsletter. It publishes a variety of information to educate and inform our local groups, including birthday celebrations, calendar of events, activities, meeting changes, financials, prior meeting minutes, officer report etc.

Telephone Relay – Several years ago our Intergroup agreed to cancel the answering service for night and weekend calls and set up a system for local AA members to answer the after-hours calls. After hours are: Monday -Thursday 5pm to 9am; Friday 5pm to Monday 9am. When a volunteer answers the phone they would either answer questions about meeting times and locations or forward call to an available volunteer on the 12-step list so the hand of AA is always available.

Where and When – Our local meeting list is printed quarterly. The Chairperson and the office work diligently together to update the current meeting list then proof and print in time to be delivered for the next Intergroup business meeting.



Intergroup Minutes – March 31, 2010

Chairperson: Al A. – Meeting opened with moment of silence followed by Serenity Prayer. Minutes from Feb. 24 approved. Open/Closed meeting definitions handout explained. Brian O. has stepped down as Picnic Chair for personal reasons. Return Picnic ticket money to Sheryl S. or bring to Intergroup office to help estimate attendance.

Welcome New Group Rep's: David S. – Easy Does It; Dan W. – Boynton Beach Group; Alicia G. – Daily Grace.

Vice Chair: Sheryl S. – Chaired Picnic last year and agreed to pick up commitment this year, Sun., April 18 at John Prince Park, 11 am – 4 pm. Volunteers wanted (face painters, clowns, and service positions). Fred H. heading food service committee and a DJ is being sought. Dessert contributions requested for DESSERT TABLE.

Treasurer: Ed T. – Contributions down 27% (\$3,686 vs. \$5,075 in 2009); sales up 33% (\$9,341 vs. \$7,023 in 2009); total Feb. profit down 10% (\$8,098 vs. \$9,093 in 2009); net income up 14% (\$1,841 vs. \$800 in 2009). Cash available as of Feb. 28 is \$5,374.

Secretary: Liz S. – Excused absent.

Office Manager: Please see SCAAN for report.

Archives: Jim M. – Completed archives surveys still requested by the District Archives Chair, Claudia M.

Bridge the Gap: Bari W. – Volunteers still needed; thanks to those who assisted with February bridges.

General Service: Zack S. – Dates to remember: April 18 – District 8 meeting at Triangle Club; April 9-11 – Area Quarterly, Embassy Suites Tampa; June 12 – Founders Day Dinner; June 13 – Delegates Lunch at Triangle Club.

Group Information: Steve W. – Excused absent.

Hospitals & Institutions: Sarah P. – All openings at Fair Oaks filled and roster updated. Women volunteers still needed; requirements are 2 yrs sobriety to chair, 6 months to speak. Volunteer flyers available. Attend 2 pm H&I meeting April 17 (3rd Sat. of each month) at Intergroup for more information.

Public Information: Michael G. – Thanks to Oscar V. for helping with Spanish migrant worker meetings in Lake Worth, and to Intergroup for providing Spanish literature. FAU requested AA speakers at 2 classes this past month, which were furnished with success.

SCAAN: David G. – Mistake on page 3: Picnic is Sun. (not Sat.), April 18. Please submit all info for SCAAN to Intergroup office. Continuing to ask for members' short stories regarding steps/traditions for use in the newsletter.

Special Events: Lucas H. – Excused absent.

Telephone Relay: Willy B. – Relay phone commitments through July; please continue to encourage groups to volunteer. Additional 12th Step volunteers always needed.

12th Step Committee: Anthony D./Nicola L. – Over 50 completed responses received; great response from women for 12th Step list. Committee sponsoring a 12th Step Workshop with panel of men and women and "Ask it Basket" Sat., May 1st from 2 to 4 pm at Crossroads Club. Refreshments served; please encourage attendance.

Where and When: Matt T. – New yellow Where & When's with many updates available tonight. Please review carefully.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.
Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

In Love and Service, Traci S./Pam T.

Meeting Changes

Boca Raton

12 O'Clock High – Boca Pines Club
Saturday & Sunday meeting cancelled.

Sponsor/Sponsee Step Group – Boca Raton
Location has changed to Red Reef Park (intercoastal side)

Happy Destiny Group – FAU Boca Campus
Monday night meeting cancelled.

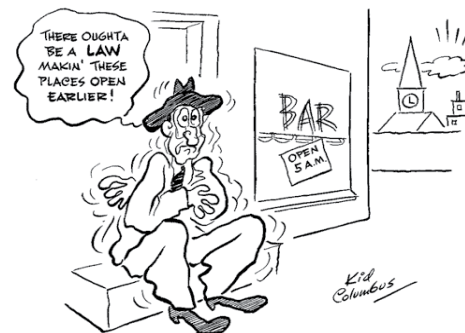
Meetings are updated monthly on our website, by city in – www.aainpalmbeach.org

"T housands of "F ounders"

"While I thank God that I was privileged to be an early member of A.A., I honestly wish that the word 'founder' could be eliminated from the A.A. vocabulary. When you get right down to it, everyone who has done any amount of successful Twelfth Step work is bound to be the founder of a new life for other alcoholics."
Bill W.

Letter 1945

(As Bill Sees It, page 67)



"Oh say can you see...by the dawn's early light?"

12TH STEP WORKSHOP
SPONSORED BY
SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY INTERGROUP
12th STEP COMMITTEE
SATURDAY, MAY 1st
2:00pm - 4:00pm

Based on their own individual experiences and in accordance with A.A. principles, our Panel of Speakers will be discussing the components of conducting that hope filled, life saving 12th Step Call. Focusing on enhancing and utilizing effective 12th Step practices.

We'll have refreshments and "coffee breaks" as part of this experience!

Please come and join us in our quest to be of maximum service to God and our fellow alcoholics.

Location: The Crossroads Club, 1700 Lake Ida Rd,
Delray Beach, FL.

May Service Meetings

May

- 8 **SPBC Intergroup Steering Committee Meeting**
@ 12:30pm in Intergroup Office
- 15 **SPBC Intergroup H&I Committee Meeting @**
2pm in Intergroup Office
- 16 **District 8 General Service Meeting - 5pm @**
Triangle Club
- 26 **SPBC Intergroup Monthly Meeting @ 7pm,**
Central House.

What's Happening in AA?

May 2010

- 1 **12th Step Workshop 2-4 pm. Sponsored by SPBCI**
2-4pm @ The Crossroads Club. Our panel of speakers will be discussing the components of conducting that HOPE-FILLED, LIFE-SAVING 12 STEP CALL. Please come and join us in our quest to be of maximum service to God and our fellow alcoholics.
- 6-9* **Cocoa Beach 20th Spring Conference –**
THE WOODSTOCK OF AA – help at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront – reserve room by April 6th! #1-321-783-2271, (mention "Woodstock of AA) Conference info: 877-902-5975 or email: leestapes@viafamily.com
- 21-23* **FCYPAA The Bi-Annual Young People's Camping - Trip** - Johnathan Dickinson State Park - \$25 for wknd includes pre-registration for this years FCYPAA. Info: 561-206-2434
- 22 **Traditions Workshop Sponsored by Delray Central House** - 2-4pm @ Delray Central House. With Keynote speakers: Pat D., Bob M., & Don F. on traditions 4, 5, & 6. Info: 561-577-7766

July 2010

- 16-18 **AREA 15 QUARTERLY/ASSEMBLY**
Ft Lauderdale, FL Marriott North

August 2010

- 11-15 **54th Florida State Convention & 66th Southeastern Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous** --Doral Golf Resort & Spa -- info and registration at www.54.flstateconvention.com

* This event is listed solely as a service to SCAAN readers, not as an endorsement by South Palm Beach County Intergroup.

2010 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous

July 1-4, 2010 – San Antonio, Texas

A Vision For You
75 years of Alcoholics Anonymous

Join fellow AAs from throughout the world in San Antonio. You can register online or download the registration form at www.aa.org. Intergroup also has registration forms. Pre-registration fee is \$95 (expires 5.10.2010). You must be registered for the convention in order to reserve hotel rooms. There is also info on airline and rental car discounts on line. **See You in San Antonio!**

South Palm Beach County Intergroup Association, Inc.

2905 South Federal Highway • Building C, Suite 15-16
Delray Beach, FL 33483

24-hour: 561.276.4581

Email: southcountyaa@bellsouth.net

Web-site: www.aainpalmbeach.org

Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 9am - 5pm

Saturday: 10am - 3pm

Steering Committee:
Chairperson.....Al A.
Vice ChairSheryl S.
TreasurerEd T.
SecretaryLiz S.
Office ManagerPam T.

Archives.....Jim M.
Archivist.....Pam T.
Bridge the Gap.....Bari W.
General Services Liaison.....Zack S.
Group Information.....Steve G.
Hospitals & Institutions.....Sarah P.
Public Information.....Michael G.
SCAAN.....David G.
Special Events.....Lucas C.
Telephone Relay.....Willy B.
Twelve Step Committee.....Anthony D.
/ Nicola L.
Webmaster.....David R.
Where & When.....Matt T.
Serenity Scramble.....Sandy B.
Intergroup Gratitude Dinner.....David R



Birthday Club			
Carolyn W.	4/24/73	37 years	Saturday Night Live at Five Delray Central
Katie B. House	4/7/79	31 years	
Liz T.	4/26/75	5years	Road to Recovery
Edward D.	1/14/67	43years	Boynton Beach Beginners Group North Delray Step & Traditions
Sean P.	3/14/09	1 year	



JOIN THE BIRTHDAY CLUB!



If you, or your Group, is celebrating an AA Anniversary and would like to be added to the list of celebrants, clip and mail this to Intergroup with a 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: _____

Home Group: _____

Sobriety Date: _____ Donation: \$ _____

Mail to:
South Palm Beach County Intergroup
2905 South Federal Highway – Building C – Suite 15-16
Delray Beach, FL 33483