

SCAAN

JUNE 2007

WWW.AAINPALMBEACH.ORG

AA For The Young

Treatment again, by the time I was sixteen I was visiting my fourth treatment center. This one was different. It was a long term inpatient adolescent treatment center. My parents had done all that they could at home to keep me away from drinking but all their attempts failed. So here I was angry at the world, how could they have done this to me? It was October and surely they would take me out before the holidays, but when my birthday and thanksgiving passed in the same week and my parents hadn't withdrawn me yet I knew that I was there for the long hall.

The counselors weren't anything like me. I had a hard time listening to them because I thought that they didn't know what it was like to be a young adult with a drinking problem. I fought what they were trying to teach me for a long time but a few of them started to get close to me. One especially, he was in his early twenties and was sober since he was sixteen through AA and had graduated from the very treatment center that I was in. I was interested in how he had stopped drinking and he freely told me what he had done. He never looked down on me for being young or being a patient there. He always just treated me like a regular guy. That was my introduction to the people in AA and how much they would go out of their way to help someone who was suffering. But I still relapsed after he had armed me with the facts about my Alcoholism. I asked him what I needed to do to stop drinking even when I wanted to. He showed me the Big Book and told me that all the questions that I had that were pertinent to my recovery from alcohol were addressed in that book and so I started reading.

Being a young person in the rooms wasn't easy I was seventeen at the time and was going to the local club house. There was something about this place that I

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**STEP 6
WERE ENTIRELY
READY TO HAVE GOD
REMOVE ALL THESE
DEFECTS OF
CHARACTER**

**TRADITION 6
AN A.A. GROUP
OUGHT NEVER
ENDORSE, FINANCE
OR LEND THE A.A.
NAME TO ANY
RELATED FACILITY
OR OUTSIDE
ENTERPRISE, LEST
PROBLEMS OF
MONEY, PROPERTY
AND PRESTIGE
DIVERT US FROM
OUR PRIMARY
PURPOSE**

**ALCOHOLICS
ANONYMOUS IS
72 YEARS OLD
THIS MONTH!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
AA**

Step Six

After a brief, but potent, drinking career, I found myself as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous at age fourteen. Yes, I know it may seem preposterous to some, but after just two years of drinking, I knew I was an alcoholic. What I wasn't so sure of was whether or not I could work the twelve steps and fully relinquish myself to A.A., let alone to a higher power.

Yet, even with the uncertainty, I went along with it. I decided to do whatever it was my sponsor told me to do because I'd run out of all my own "brilliant" ideas to stop drinking. All other measures had failed me, so, for one of the few times in my life, I had to trust an outside source; be it my sponsor, other members of Alcoholics Anonymous, or a higher power. That was my second Alcoholics Anonymous lesson in humility; second only to walking through the doors of A.A. Greater and greater lessons came to pass as I worked my first five steps, so by the time it came to work my sixth step, I was as ready as I'd ever been. I had been humbled to a point where it wasn't as difficult as expected to become "entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character." Prior to working my steps, one would have found it quite the feat to have me even admit I had defects of character. My self-centeredness and obstinacy worked together quite well to ensure that I didn't reveal my weaknesses to others, and even less so to myself. So to come to a point at such a young age at which I was ready to admit to and then turn my character defects over to a higher power, of all things, said a lot.

However, I had to overcome much apprehension to let go of my character defects. For my entire life they had been by my side, and just prior to working my

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS	
June 3	Boynton Beach Group Picnic ~ 12 Noon at Las Palmas Park in Boynton Beach SE Corner of Gateway and US 1 (Federal Hwy) Tickets \$5, Kid's Free. Chicken, Burgers, Dogs, Beans, Sodas and bring a side dish to share if you want. Volleyball, Horseshoes, Bocci, Soccer, Etc.... All are welcome!
June 9	FOUNDERS DAY DINNER Sponsored by Dist 8 General Service. ** Remembering Our Co-Founders** 6PM at The Triangle Club, 1369 Okeechobee Road, WPB. Tickets \$5.00 includes dinner, coffee and a great speaker.
June 10	SERVICE FAIR & DELEGATE'S LUNCHEON at the Triangle Club, 1369 Okeechobee Road, WPB. 2pm Service Fair (SPBC Intergroup will have a table at the fair); 3pm Free Luncheon served followed by the Delegate's Report at 3:30.
June 15-17	FCYPAA 2007 ~ Marco Polo Beach Resort, Miami Beach Info at: www.fcypaa.org
June 16	The Journey To Freedom Group presents "My Name is Bill W." Movie Night to benefit South Palm Beach Intergroup. At Boca Raton Community Hospital Dawson Auditorium, 800 Meadows Rd. ~ 7PM ~ \$5/person suggested donation.
June 16	The Third Tradition Motorcycle Fellowship is hosting the 18 th Annual Dinner Dance ~ 6pm at Dreher Park Garden Club ~ \$12 Admission, Free Parking
July 13-15	Way of Life Conference – Crowne Plaza Hotel in West Palm Beach #561-689-6400. Circuit Speakers, Workshops, Beach Meetings, Fun in the Sun! Information@wayoflifeconference.com
July 21	BOWLING FOR BIG BOOKS sponsored by the South Palm Beach County Intergroup Hospitals and Institutions Committee to raise money for Big Books to be distributed by our H&I Committee. For further information, contact Intergroup.
Aug 8-12	51st Florida State Convention ~ ...and great events will come to pass" ~ Caribe Royale All-Suites Resort & Convention Center, Orlando, FL. 800-823-8300 or www.CaribeRoyale.com . Register: www.flstateconvention.com .
July 13-15	Area 15 General Service Quarterly , Ft. Lauderdale
Aug 16 - 19	63rd SouthEastern Conference ~ Biloxi, Mississippi "Our 12 th Step Responsibility ~ Are We Going To Any Length?" Imperial Palace Hotel ~ 1-888-946-2847 or www.ipbiloxi.com . (Must use code V491 to receive special rates) Conference registration forms available at Intergroup office.
Aug 24-26	20th Annual Sunset Round Up in Key West. Info at: www.sunsetroundup.com
Sept 14-16	Serenity Weekend Women's Fall Conference 2007 , Cocoa Beach. Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Resort, 1-800-206-2747 ~ \$84/nite. Registration \$30 ~ Info: Call Ann P. 407-876-4430

MEETING CHANGES

Boca Raton:

Happy Hour will be moving to the **Lions Club** as of May 4th. They will continue to meet on Fridays at 5:30pm.

Boynton Beach:

New Meeting. **North Delray Step & Tradition Group** has added another meeting on Tues 7pm at Ascension Church, 2929 South Seacrest Blvd. This is a Closed Discussion meeting called **People With Time** and will focus on sharing from people with 5 yrs +.

51st FLORIDA STATE CONVENTION 2007

"and great events will come to pass."

August 8 – 12, 2007

At the Caribe Royale All-Suites Resort ~ Orlando

www.CaribeRoyale.com

AA Workshops & Al-Anon Family Group Workshops

"Together We Can Do It" on Sponsorship

"The Gift of Amends" AA & Al-Anon spouses

Activities: Friday Dinner/Speaker * Saturday Dinner/Speaker & Dance * Basketball 3/3 Tournament * Golf & Tennis * Dance Lessons ~ Latin & Ballroom * 5K Walk/Run * Ice Cream Socials * DJ's * Pool Parties * Yoga *Workshps & Meetings for Spanish; Gay & Lesbian; Online & Young People.

Great Events & Guest Speakers!

...Make your reservations now ...

www.flstateconvention.com

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loved. Maybe it was the thick smoked filled rooms or the 10 year old steel chairs I don't know, but when I was there it just felt like home. So I started going to different meeting and I like some better then others. I told this guy that I like this certain meeting because they always had someone at the door shaking everyone's hands. He suggested that I make that group my home group. Not knowing what a home group was I thought it was a novel idea that I make this group mine. It was a men's meeting that met twice a week and had a lot of guys who knew a lot about the Big Book and the program of recovery. So now I had a home groups and I found my first sponsor in that meeting shortly after I joined. We starting going to meeting together every day, since he was retired and I was unemployed if worked out great. He told me that I would get out of this what I put in and today 7 years later that makes a lot of sense. Shortly afterwards we went threw the 12 steps and he told me to start sponsoring guys. He believed that long term sobriety was contingent on working with the new guy.

I began to meet more and more young people that were coming into the meeting and we started to build a support group that consisted of young people that were looking out for each other. There were a lot of times early on that I didn't drink because these guys were around me and I knew that they were serious about not drinking. We have grown up in life and sobriety together and it has been fun. I would have never thought when I was sitting in that treatment center that one day I would love the fact that I was sober and would have men in my life that I could share that same feeling with. My journey so far has been unbelievable and if I remember that long term sobriety is contingent on working with the new guy then there will be many more unbelievable times to come.

Brad S., Port St Lucie, FL

SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY MEETINGS

(ALL AA MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND)

Intergroup Monthly Meeting

June 27 at 7:00 pm at Central House

Institutions Monthly Meeting

June 27 at 6:30 pm at Central House

District 8 Monthly Meeting

June 10 at Triangle Club, West Palm Beach

5:00 pm - GSR/DCM Sharing

5:45 pm - District 8 Business Meeting

General Service Quarterly

July 13-15, 2007

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Intergroup Minutes – April 25, 2007

Chairperson: Diane S. opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Paul shared on the Fourth Tradition. Welcome to new group reps: Kelly(Alt) – Sobriety in the Wind, Cathryn – Living Sober Women, Jimmy(Alt) – Boca Men's Central. **Vice Chair: Al A.** reported actively seeking for new site for the Intergroup office and welcomes suggestions!

Treasurer: Justin B. No Report

Office Manager: Pam T. See Report in SCAAN

Archives Committee: Dave F. No Report.

General Service: Donald N. reported that the Founder's Day Dinner will be held on June 9, 2007, 6pm @ Triangle Club. Volunteers are needed to help out in all areas of the quarterly at the Boca Marriott. Volunteering as a group is a great way to do service. District 8 contributed approx. \$2,700 to General Service. If you would like tickets or to volunteer, please contact Donald at (561) 301-0761.

Group Information Committee: Chris C. reported that he has created a preliminary bookmark describing Intergroup's role that will be useful for AA members; the bookmarks are ready for print.

Intergroup Gratitude Dinner: Jay P. No Report.

Institutions Committee: Geoff K. reported that Saturday, June 21st at Boca Bowl on Military Trail, the committee will hold a fundraiser, "Bowling for Big Books."

New Years Eve Dinner/Dance: David K. No Report

Public Information: Tyler F. reported everything going good and reminded us that his term is up and said he would go over everything with anyone who would like to volunteer to chair this committee. Will open chair position in new business.

SCAAN: Janet B. reported that the deadline is May 10.

Serenity Scramble: Jack C. & Sandy T. reported that the registration and also the Group "Action Information" flyers were out.

Speaker Exchange: Kathy G. Reported on the Friday night meeting at the Lions Club using the Speaker Exchange.

Special Events: Nancey P. Reported that the Boca Pines Special Events Speakers Panel was a success and the committee is looking for another group to sponsor the event in another location.

Special Events (Movie Night): Tom R. *My Name is Bill* will be shown at Boca Community Hospital on Saturday, June 16 at 7 p.m. There is a \$5 suggested donation, although no one will be turned away.

Telephone Relay: Scott I. & Tyler F. Tyler reported that Scott is no longer able to chair this committee and he was willing to finish out the term. Tyler announced a new user friendly phone was purchased and that Serenity on the Beach will take the phone in June, Men's Boca Central in July and All Aboard Group in August.

Website: Drew M. reported that there were many new features added to assist the computer administrators in updating the website. He is testing the shopping cart and making final adjustments.

Where and When: Sean P. reported that the new Where & When's were printed last month and if you have any changes please submit to Pam at the Office.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Motion was made and accepted for Paul and Lisa P. to Chair and Co-chair the Public Information Committee. Thank you to Paul and Lisa for your service.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

In Love and Service, Alex K.

Office Manager Report ~ April 25, 2007

We have a couple changes to our Where & When since last printed: The Happy Hour Group is moving to the Lions Club in Boca as of May 4th. The North Delray Step & Tradition Group has added an additional meeting on Tues at 7pm at Ascension Church in Boynton Beach.

We are pleased and grateful to announce that the Florida Roundup event included SPBC Intergroup in their donation disbursements of 7th Tradition funds from one of their AA Meetings in the amount of \$328.50.

Our phones are beginning to slow down a little. We have a higher Sales volume than our larger neighbors to the north, and higher call volume than our much much larger neighbors to the south. Why...I can't say for sure. We all share the population boom during the season; and we all have treatment centers and halfway houses.....

March Activity

Meeting Inquiries	360
Business Calls	92
Visitors*	260
Sales*	235
12th Step calls*	34 (17 handled from office/2 Walk in for help!)
First Call to AA	50+
Total Office Activity	1031
After Hours Call Activity	492
Total March Activity	1523

I attended the Area 15 Quarterly in Tampa 2 wks ago, and reported that we have had 3 consecutive months of contributions exceeding literature sales for this past quarter:

1st Quarter 2007

Contribution Income	\$16,358	48.43%
Event Income	\$ 2,800	5.66%
Literature Sales	\$15,669	45.91%
Total Income 1st quarter	\$34,827	
Total Expenses 1st quarter	-26,727	
Tax Liabilities due(& pd in April)	- 3,225	
Accts Payable due	-\$1,628	
Net cash increase for this period:	\$3,247	

Please notice that our Birthday Club list is pretty small this month! Please take some envelopes and remind your Homegroups of this way we can celebrate our sobriety.

If no questions...

Respectfully submitted in love and service,

Pam t.

overcome my apprehension, to submit my defects to my higher power, and to continue on with my process of recovery. Certainly my defects did not disappear overnight, in fact, they have never completely disappeared and they probably will never be totally absent. But, by working my program and focusing on turning them over to my higher power, there is a daily reprieve that keeps my defects, at least, subdued. It is by turning my will and therefore my defects over everyday, sometimes multiple times a day, that I am allowed to maintain a more serene and whole life. And it is by sharing this program and my struggles with defects of character with another alcoholic that I am allowed to maintain perpetual personal growth.

Genie, Miami

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sixth step (i.e. during my brief, but potent, drinking career) they had been most prevalent. I was used to my defects, regardless of how detrimental they were to my sanity and peace of mind; they nonetheless were familiar and comfortable. Removing these defects through my recently found higher power meant forfeiting a huge chunk of what I'd come to know as my life. For example, giving over dishonesty forced me to live and breathe reality, rather than the altered universe I'd created for myself. Having to look at everything as it really was, not as I pretended it was, meant doing something I'd been avoiding forever: facing something that brought me pain.

But, despite the inevitable pain coming from the reality that I had also fought so hard to avoid, my new faith allowed me to

BIRTHDAY CLUB CONGRATULATIONS

GARY N.	1 YR	4/17/06	JOURNEY TO
SANDY K.	1 YR	5/16/06	SECOND CHANCE WOMEN'S GROUP
ROCKY B.	2 YRS	5/08/05	JUST FOR NOW GROUP
JAMES W.	2 YRS	5/23/05	
TRESA N.	4 YRS	4/27/03	ROCK GROUP
BOBBI F.	5 YRS	6/23/02	MORNING MEDICINE
DONALD N.	7 YRS	6/12/00	WE ARE NOT SAINTS
PAM T.	7 YRS	5/05/00	BOYNTON BEACH GROUP
BILL C.	9 YRS	5/15/98	SUNRISE BEACH MEETING
ROWLAND	12 YRS	5/26/95	NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP
BRUCE T.	17 YRS	4/16/90	MEN'S BOCA CENTRAL
REGGIE F.	19 YRS	5/11/88	BOCA FRIENDSHIP GROUP
KARIN K.	20 YRS	4/10/87	BOYNTON BEACH GROUP
STEVE K.	23 YRS	5/13/84	MORNING MEDICINE
DONN A.	25 YRS	6/5/82	BOCA MEN'S GROUP

From a Beginner

My name is Aaron, I am an alcoholic. Over the past seven months, these eight words have come into my life and changed my world. I joined the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, during my last year in high school. I recently moved to Gainesville about a month ago, and have since gotten a home group and a sponsor up here. At the time, I had just received my six-month chip and was beginning my Ninth Step amends.

My move up to Gainesville for college at UF has been a life altering experience. Starting the steps over with a new sponsor, making friends in the fellowship up here, and maintaining my sobriety in a raucous, beer-and-drug laden college town have been daunting challenges. As I wake up each new day and say my "Pleases and Thank-yous" I am constantly reminded of what my sponsor in Miami told me, "Aaron, you'll go far in AA..... because you got a long way to go." I am happy to report however, that the daily journey of sobriety, which we all embark upon each morning, hasn't always been the painful, grueling, dull experience that I expected it to be. Quite to the contrary, I have

intergroup officers & committees

chairperson.....diane s
 vice-chair al a
 treasurerjustin b
 consultant..... bob m
 secretaryalex k
 office managerpam t
 archives committee.....archivist tba
 bridge the gapnate s
 general service liaisondonald n
 group information.....chris c
 institutions.....geoff k
 public information..... paul r & lisa p
 scaan.....janet b
 speaker exchange.....kathy g
 special events.....hancey p
 telephone relay tyler f
 websitedrew m
 where & when sean p

intergroup dinner jay p
 new year's eve dinner/dance..... david k
 serenity golf scramble.....jack c, sandy t

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

begun upon a new and exciting chapter of my life, filled with all sorts of challenges and let-downs, but as well moments astonishing beyond comprehension. Since being in Gainesville, I have felt the temptation of alcohol tug at my shoulder, but also I have seen the light in many an AA's eyes as they have freely given me the true privilege of hearing their experience, strength and hope. More than anything, it has been the actions and words of those who have come before me in AA, which fill me with the inspiration, hope, and strength to continue.

Until our paths cross,
 Aaron, Alcoholic , Gainesville