

The Third Step and Your Prayer

Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him.

This statement follows the Third Step Prayer on page 63 of the Big Book: ***“The wording [used for the prayer to affirm our “3rd Step Decision”] was, of course, quite optional so long as we expressed the idea, voicing it without reservation.”***

Some of our founders and early members of the fellowship used a prayer other than the one on page 63 of the Big Book to take newcomers through their “decision” — namely because the Big Book wasn’t printed until 1939 and they got our Program from Oxford Group principles. Bill W., Dr. Bob, and Bill D. started making 12 Step calls and taking others through the original 6 “steps” in the summer of 1935.

Here are a couple examples of “3rd Step Prayers” used by our early members:

THIRD STEP PRAYER used by Dr. Bob

Dear God,
I’m sorry about the mess I’ve made of my life. I want to turn away from all the wrong things I’ve ever done and all the wrong things I’ve ever been. Please forgive me for it all. I know You have the power to change my life and can turn me into a winner. Thank You, God for getting my attention long enough to interest me in trying it Your way. God, please take over the management of my life and everything about me. I am making this conscious decision to turn my will and my life over to Your care and am asking You to please take over all parts of my life. Please, God, move into my heart. However You do it is Your business, but make Yourself real inside me and fill my awful emptiness. Fill me with your love and Holy Spirit and make me know Your will for me.

And now, God, help Yourself to me and keep on doing it. I’m not sure I want You to, but do it anyhow. I rejoice that I am now a part of Your people, that my uncertainty is gone forever, and that You now have control of my will and my life. Thank You and I praise Your name. Amen.

THIRD STEP PRAYER used by Clarence Snyder. Clarence started A.A. Group #3 in Cleveland.

(Both sponsor and protégé on their knees...)
Sponsor says: God, this is _____, he is coming to You in all humility to ask You to guide and direct him. _____ realizes that his life is messed up and unmanageable. _____ is coming to You Lord in all humility to ask to be one of your children - to work for you, to serve and dedicate his life to you and to turn his will over that he may be an instrument of your love.

(Protégé repeats after the sponsor):
Lord, I ask that you guide and direct me, and that I have decided to turn my life and will over to you. To serve You and to dedicate my life to You. I thank you Lord, I believe that if I ask this in prayer, I shall receive what I have asked for. Thank you God. Amen.

You see, there is no set prayer that “MUST” be used, just a simple prayer of your own wording to confirm your willingness to take action as a result of your decision, to do whatever is necessary to place your Higher Power in control of all aspects of your life, to abide by His will, that you might stay sober this day, Today.

Is it odd . . .
or is it God?

THE STEPS & THE TRADITIONS

STEP 3 - Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.

TRADITION 3 - “The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.”

Some favorite quotes from our vast literature ~ Compiled by John T.

“We’re not cured of alcoholism. What we really have is a daily reprieve contingent on the maintenance of our spiritual condition.” - Reprinted from Alcoholics Anonymous p. 85 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

“With few exceptions our members find that they have tapped on an unsuspected inner resource which they presently identify with their own conception of a power greater than themselves.” - Reprinted from Alcoholics Anonymous pp. 569 and 70 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

“Faith has to work twenty-four hours a day in and through us, or we perish.” - Reprinted from Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 16 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

No words can tell of the loneliness and despair I found in that bitter morass of self-pity. Quicksand stretched around me in all directions. I had met my match. I had been overwhelmed. Alcohol was my master. - Reprinted from Alcoholics Anonymous, p.8 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

“When working with a man and his family, you should take care not to participate in their quarrels. You may spoil your chance of being helpful if you do.” — Reprinted from Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 100 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.,

“As we felt new power flow in, as we enjoyed peace of mind, as we discovered we could face life successfully, as we became conscious of His presence, we began to lose our fear of today, tomorrow or the here-after. We were reborn. - Reprinted from Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 63 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

You may already have asked yourself why it is that all of us became so very ill from drinking. Doubtless you are curious to discover how and why, in the face of expert opinion to the contrary, we have recovered from a hopeless condition of mind and body. If you are an alcoholic who wants to get over it, you may already be asking—“What do I have to do?” Reprinted from Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 20 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

“By going back in our own drinking histories, we could show that years before we realized it we were out of control, that our drinking even then was no mere habit, that it was indeed the beginning of a fatal progression.”- Reprinted from Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 23 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

“The primary fact that we fail to recognize is our total inability to form a true partnership with another human being.” - Reprinted from Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 53 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

“Why all this insistence that every AA must hit bottom first? The answer is that few people will sincerely try to practice the AA program unless they have hit bottom. For practicing AA’s remaining eleven steps means the adoption of attitudes and actions that almost no alcoholic who is still drinking can dream of taking.” - Reprinted from 12 Steps and 12 Traditions page 24 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

“Provided we strenuously avoid turning these realistic surveys of the facts of life into unrealistic alibis for apathy or defeatism, they can be the sure foundation upon which increased emotional health and therefore spiritual progress can be built.” - Reprinted from As Bill Sees It p. 44 with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Do you have some favorite quotes from Big Book or 12 & 12? Submit them to the Intergroup Office for possible inclusion in future issues of the SCAAN.

Meeting Updates/Changes March 2012

Wine into Water Group that meets on Sundays - 7:30 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Delaray will NOT meet on April 15, 2012.

Our Club in Lake Worth has moved from 219 S. Dixie Hwy. to 217 S. Dixie Hwy. effective immediately.

11th Step Group @ Our Club in Lake Worth has changed their schedule: Meetings Monday through Saturday, 12:00 Noon & Saturday at 6:00 PM

Right to Sobriety @ Our Club in Lake Worth has changed their meeting time to: Sunday 12:00 Noon

Eye Openers Group, Lake Worth has moved from Our Club to: The First Baptist Church of Lake Worth, 127 South M Street. Meetings: Monday through Saturday at 7:00 AM (no longer meets on Sundays)
Codes: Mon O(+); Tues OT; Wed O(+); Thurs OL; Fri OB; Sat O(-)

Activity Log ~ January 2012

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Meeting Inquiries | 216 |
| Business Calls | 319 |
| Visitors | 277 |
| Sales | 367 |
| Other Inquiries | 32 |
| 12th Step Calls-Office Hours | 10 |
| Relay Phone Calls | 380 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 1601 |
| E-mails Received/Answered | 490 |

Website Activity ~ January 2012

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| New Visitors | 3560 |
| # of Visits | 6561 |
| Referred from AA.org Site | 305 |
| Visits from: | |
| United States | 6494 |
| South Africa | 13 |
| Indonesia | 7 |
| Canada | 6 |
| Unknown Country | 5 |
| United Kingdom | 4 |
| Brazil | 4 |
| Japan | 3 |
| Philippines | 2 |
| Germany | 2 |

South Palm Beach County Intergroup

| | Jan 2012 | January 2012 | |
|--|----------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense- Cash Basis | | | |
| Income | | 100.00 | Expense |
| CC Sales Fee Reimbursement | 6.00 | 15.00 | Bank Service Charges |
| Contribution-Non Group | | 284.00 | Fees Credit Cards |
| Anonymous | 23.30 | 181.00 | Fund Raising Expenses |
| Faithful Fivers | 1,645.00 | 13.00 | 2012 Picnic expenses |
| Total Contribution-Non Group | 1,668.30 | 3,801.60 | Intergroup Gratitude Dinner |
| Group Contribution Income | 100.00 | 1,050.92 | Total Fund Raising Expenses |
| 12 O'Clock High,W Boca | 116.43 | 34.00 | Insurance |
| Big Book Adventure, Boca | 75.00 | 1,084.92 | Employee Insurance |
| Boca Women's Group | 20.00 | 4,141.25 | Total Insurance |
| Boynton Boat Ramp Group | 40.00 | 191.25 | Inventory Purchases |
| Cardinal Lane, Lantana | 200.00 | 230.61 | Payroll Expenses |
| Double Digit Gang, Delray | 69.00 | 591.25 | Postage and Delivery |
| East Delray Men's Group | 100.00 | 187.75 | Professional Fees |
| Friendship Group, West Boca | 5.00 | 849.00 | Computer Technology |
| Inside Out Group | 66.00 | 412.50 | Total Professional Fees |
| Intergroup Meeting | 163.00 | 46.05 | Rent |
| Journey to Freedom, Boca | 50.00 | 600.15 | Storage |
| Language Of The Heart, Delray | 285.00 | 23.45 | Supplies |
| Lunch Bunch, Boca | 300.00 | 2,213.00 | Commissary |
| Men's Tuesday Solution, Boca | 125.00 | 36.85 | Computer Software & Supplies |
| Midday Miracles, Delray | 97.75 | 499.50 | Office Supplies |
| New Beginnings, Wayside | 400.00 | 10,022.61 | Total Supplies |
| New Life Group | 46.54 | 499.50 | Total Expense |
| One Page at a Time, Delray Beac | 25.00 | \$ 16,583.43 | Net Ordinary Income |
| Road To Recovery, Boca | 350.00 | | Other Income/Expense |
| Sober Sunset Group, Boca Pines | 50.00 | | Other Expenses |
| Sobriety For Breakfast, W Boca | 85.75 | | Sales Tax Adjustment |
| SOS (10am), Boca | 28.63 | \$ 29,107.81 | Total Other Expenses |
| Spiritual Awakenings,Boca | 410.50 | \$28,736.80 | Net Other Income |
| Sunny Isles, Lantana | | | Net Income- January 2012 |
| | | | \$ 4,181.22 |

Office Manager Report 1/25/12

As we review what our Intergroup has accomplished not only in 2011 but through the years with the support and dedication of those who love AA - our Trusted Servants, scores of volunteers and the Intergroup Staff, we can feel confident that we are indeed providing the services needed in our community.

One of the highlights of 2011, is this Steering Committee prepared and presented the SPBC Intergroup revised By Laws that now include the principles of the Right of Decision, the Right of Participation and grant Authority to match responsibility which is directly from our AA Concepts.

SPBC Intergroup is a 501C3 Corporation which entitles us to Tax Exemption on purchases, relieves us of paying taxes on our Income. With our annual Gross Revenue of just over \$200,000 last year (Actually \$208,201 to be exact), this is, of course the prudent and practical method of protecting the "business" of our Intergroup office so we can continue to fund AA services to those in need. Our Intergroup Office Manager prepares, files and pays all required taxes in a timely manner, and we follow the laws of our state and our federal government in all tax regulations. Our Inventory Assets (paid inventory) at the end of the year was \$25,640. We offer over 20 opportunities for service at our office every week - and these volunteers answer the AA phones and are in charge of 12th Step work. Some of our volunteer staff assist with the sales and other duties as well. We are all on janitorial detail. Through your support of time and contributions we can keep our doors open and provide the vital services of AA available to anyone asking for help. Our co-founder Bill refers to Central Offices & Intergroups as the "frontline of AA", and we are all responsible to keep these doors open.

As your Office Manager, it is my responsibility to report to our Officers not only the status of our services, but our cash flow on a monthly basis. Through the past year, as we have been reporting to you each month, the Contributions have not supported these services and we must rely on our Net Sales income and special events which raise funds for our Intergroup office. We were able to support our projected budget for 2011, but our Prudent Reserve of \$28000 is short. Therefore I have made several suggestions to our Officers to determine what we can do if the Contributions do not begin to cover our regular monthly expenses.

The most costly expenses are our Rent and our Payroll Expenses:

- We moved into our current location nearly 5 years ago - and we pay a fair rent for this area. I have done some research on other rental properties that will continue to offer 1st floor space (which is essential for AAWS deliveries by truck); a centralized location for our groups; and room to provide space for committees, volunteers and visitors; plus we intend to attempt negotiations with our current landlord, however the rent we pay is fair for this area.
- Our Payroll expenses increased over a year ago when three things happened:
- I received a raise in January 2011 - the first in several years, that not only gave me additional salary but also a vote of confidence from this Intergroup that after years of stagnant wages I would begin to receive a fair wage for the job I do.
- It was approved for me to hire a Full Time Assistant - following years of Part Time employees that did not work out; and my announcement to this body that I could no longer work over 40 hours per week.
- And the Federal Government placed a penalty on Florida charging each and every employer additional Fica payments. (which continues today)

Other than the PR Taxes, this was all outlined in our 2011 Budget last year. No one objected at that time. Now that the Contributions have not paid for this Budget there seems to be a sudden interest in our Intergroup, and for that I am

grateful. Hopefully this will bring new volunteers to assist us at the office and on the committees.

We are hoping that this Survey handed out tonight will help us to accurately assess our situation going forward. We need your assistance with this and request that you pass these out; fill them out; go to the website and print them out. If we work on this together, we can achieve the results that you and your groups want and are willing to support.

In February at the Steering Committee meeting, I will be presenting options to my Officers that may need to be considered at least in the short term. Just as our General Service office manager, Phyllis, needed to make temporary employment adjustments in 2010, I will be looking at and providing suggestions to my officers to reduce the payroll costs if necessary. Any member of AA can ask to see this report, or make suggestions and I welcome the assistance of experienced business people and constructive criticism.

Finally I would like to mention that I learned early on in my employment with an Alcoholics Anonymous service office that NONE of the problems or questions that come up are new or original, and the answers are always in our literature if we look for them. My work experience and work ethic can run an office; but my opinion does not matter when it comes to running an Intergroup office - the words of experience from those who have been on the Frontline of action does matter.

Respectfully submitted in love and service,

Pam T.

Did You Know . . . ???

In the past year, your Intergroup . . .

- Had over 14,338 logged calls & visits
- Received calls 24/7/365
- Received approximately 3,640 emails
- Processed over 4,000 sales receipts
- Received 4,093 referrals from the aa.org website
- Received 64,056 visits to our website
(From: United States, Canada, South Africa, United Kingdom, India, Mexico, Brazil, Ireland and the Ukraine).
- Provided 12th step help to over 240 callers
- Had 7 "walk-in" 12th step visitors!!!
- Held at least 12 in house AA meetings for newcomers
- Hosted 9 workshops for Treatment Center tours to Intergroup
- Offered 1,040 opportunities for service at your Intergroup office
- Had 15 Committees - offering additional opportunities for service
- Printed a newsletter - distributed free & available on the website
- Printed our local meeting lists every 3 - 4 months
- Hosted an Anniversary Picnic, a Golf Tournament, & a Gratitude Dinner
- Was open 6 days a week
- Has been here to serve you for 28 years!

Did you visit your Intergroup office last year?

INTERGROUP MINUTES - JANUARY 25, 2012

Chairperson: Sheryl S. Meeting opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Minutes from December 28, 2011 were approved. Basket was passed according to the 7th Tradition. New group reps were welcomed. Announced that the meeting had a full agenda which included an end of year financial and budget report from the Treasurer, an introduction to an Intergroup survey, elections for open committee chair positions and pre-scheduled New Business.

Welcome New Group Reps: Michael S.-Deerfield Beach Saturday Night; Paige P.-North Delray Steps and Traditions; Trevor T. (alt)-North Delray Steps and Traditions; Nick L.-East Delray Men's Group; Darlene C.-Boynton Beach Beginners; Kate M.-West Boynton Group; Charleen E.-Sober Sister/ Boca Pines; Patrick C.-Sobriety on Sunday (SOS); Tanasy B. (alt.)- West Boca Beginners Group; John M.-Welcome Home in Delray.

Vice Chair: Liz S. Gave Alcahthon report. Thanked Central House and everyone who participated at the two events. Received \$ 1050.92 for our split with Central House of 7th Tradition collections. **Distributed an Intergroup Survey to group reps and asked them to bring them back to their homegroups to be filled out by individual AA members. The Steering Committee is aware of the financial difficulties that it is experiencing and the purpose of the survey is to find out what the AA community wants of their Intergroup office and how Intergroup can best be of service. John S. volunteered his services to help collate the information collected. Intergroup will report all findings and data received from the survey. Intergroup asks that the surveys be completed within 60 days. Completed surveys can be emailed back at southcountyaa@comcast.net, faxed to 561-274-2096, mailed back or brought in for collection.

Treasurer: Sarah P. Went over the December 2011 and year to date financial report. Gave details on the 2011 Intergroup Budget Report which included the projected vs. actual figures and announced that Intergroup performed very well considering unforeseen expenses and that it was the first time Intergroup had a budget. The basic analysis is that expenses exceed net income and we need to find a way to either cut costs and/or increase our income. Any and all suggestions are welcomed. Charts, graphs and detailed financial information are available for anyone interested in reviewing the information.

Secretary: Cheryl S. No report.

Office Manager: Pam T. See report in SCAAN.

Archives: Nick L. In January, District 8 held the annual Archives Winter Workshop which included a slide show presentation of the General Service offices in New York City. South Palm Beach County will host the Archives Summer Workshop on July 14, 2012 from 10am-12pm. More details to follow. The Gratitude Dinner tapes are still in the process of being compiled.

Bridge the Gap: Willie B. Volunteers are needed. The purpose of the committee is to help alcoholics who are getting out of jail or treatment facilities, getting them to meetings and to help them find a support network. Requirement is 1 year of sobriety and the completion of the 12 steps. The committee had 5 calls this month. Foreign language speakers are needed especially French, Creole and Portuguese.

Hospitals and Institutions: Carey A. All positions are currently filled. If interested in volunteering, please attend the monthly meetings which are held on the third Saturday of every month at 2pm at the Intergroup office. 1 year of sobriety is required to volunteer.

Public Information: Kathleen H. No report.

SCAAN: Maryanne T. Articles are wanted for the upcoming SCAANs and can be emailed to the Intergroup office.

Liaison to NPBC Intergroup: Andrew H. A spaghetti dinner and Old Timer's Speaker panel will be held on March 24, 2012. The next business meeting will be held on February 8, 2012. For further details of the meeting, contact the Intergroup office.

Telephone Relay: Zach S. Phone commitments are filled until June 2012. Groups are needed for July to the end of the year.

Where and When: Todd L. The new W&Ws are out for January 2012. Special thanks went to Pam and Deanna for helping put it together.

12th Step Committee: Bill J. - excused absence. Bari W. Male and female volunteers are needed.

Old Business: A proposal to bring back the plan of having an Intergroup Inventory was reintroduced. The idea to have an Intergroup Inventory was tabled last year when it was presented. Intergroup has expressed the need to have this inventory to ascertain what the AA community wants from their Intergroup office. A motion was made to have an Intergroup Inventory by Bari W. and seconded. The motion was voted upon and passed. An idea was presented to have the Inventory scheduled for an afternoon as to allow the reps enough time for discussion.

New Business:

(1) Elections: The positions for committee chairs for Group Information and General Service Liaison were held. Sheryl S. went over the description of each position.

Newly elected Chairs: General Service Liaison- Chip C.
Group Information- Taylor R.

(2) The request to form an Ad Hoc committee independent of the steering committee to examine various practices of the Intergroup office was made by Dorothy T. The motion was made by Susan S. and seconded. The motion was tabled until the next business meeting due to time constraints.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl S.

The Hand of AA is Available 24 Hours a Day!
With Gratitude to these Groups for
covering our Relay Phone:

March: Boca Speaker Group
April: East Delray Men's Group
May: Diva's (Women's Group), Delray

FAITHFUL FIVERS

With Gratitude for their support for this year:

Anonymous; Bari W.; Jim S.; Gerald M.; Suzy V.;
Chris E.; Jeanne McT.; Kathryn S.; Jennifer L.;
John T.; Deanna D.; Stan R.

With Gratitude for their service at the
Intergroup Office during the month of February:

Bari W.; Katie E.; Rich W.; Andrew H.; Michael G.; Fred O.;
Toni H.; Nick L.; Stan R.; Susan K.; Clark A.; Ray H.;
Michael S.; Zach T.; Michelle K.Lynn E.; Mr. Bo Jangles;
Jeannie G.; Bob K.

BIRTHDAY CLUB

Kathryn S. - Lunch Bunch - 2/21/07 - 5yrs
Kathi M. - Big Book Adventure - 3/26/03 - 9yrs
Karin K. - ——— - 4/10/87 - 25yrs
Ron C. - Boynton Beach Boat Ramp - 12/20/86 - 26yrs
Peggy W. - Women Living Sober - 2/14/89 - 23yrs

March Service Meetings

March 11

General Service District 8 Business Meeting
Sunday @ 5pm-Triangle Club

March 13

SPBC Intergroup Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday @ 5pm-Intergroup Office

March 17

Intergroup H & I Committee Meeting
Saturday @ 2pm-Intergroup Office

March 28

SPBC Intergroup Business Meeting
Wednesday @ 7pm-Delray Central House

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

March 30-April 1

***2nd Annual Weekend Retreat Women's Traditions Workshop**

"Girls with Gratitude" A retreat for prayer & meditation.

Location: Camp Wingmann, Avon Park, FL.

\$115/pp Cabin sleeping & meals included

For more info: 863-214-6594 or 618-980-5089

March 16-18

***Soberstock-Unity, Recovery, Music!**

Speakers, live bands, food, camping, fellowship, & fun!

Location: Tampa Bay, FL

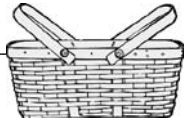
For more info: www.soberstock.com

April

April 15

South Palm Beach County Intergroup's 28th Anniversary Picnic

Beginning at 11am @ John Prince Park. Tickets \$10, Children under 10 are free. All are welcome! Games, raffles, prizes, Bounce House, playground, volleyball, food, & lots of fun for everyone!



April 20-22

***Spring Into Sobriety Women's Conference**

Location: The Helmsley Sandcastle Resort Lido Key, Sarasota, FL

Room Rates: \$190(mention SIS conference rates)

Registration: \$25

For more info: www.sisconference.com

May

May 4-6

***22nd Spring Conference "The Woodstock of AA"**

Location: International Palms Resort & Conference Center

Room Rates: \$96 reserve by April 5th (mention Woodstock of AA)

Registration Fee: \$30 For more info: 321-783-2271

August

August 1-5

***56th Florida State Convention "Always Be There"**

Location: Innisbrook Golf & Spa Resort, Palm Harbor, FL

Phone: 727-942-2000 (convention room rates available)

Speakers, workshops, marathon meetings, & a full AI-Anon family groups program!

For more info: www.56.flstateconvention.com

August 17-19

***17th Annual SE Women To Women Seminar**

Location: Marriott Beach Hotel, Delray Beach, FL

Opportunity for sober women to experience recovery & fellowship together!

For more info: www.sewomentowomen.org

October

October 14

SPBC Intergroup 9th Annual Serenity Scramble Golf Tournament

Location: Delray Beach Golf Club

November

November 9-11

Southeast Regional Forum "Sunlight of the Spirit"

Hosted by: Area 15 *Location:* Boca Raton Marriott, FL

For more info: www.area15aa.org

South Palm Beach County Intergroup Association, Inc.

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Delray Beach, FL 33483

24-hours: 561.276.4581

Email: southcountyyaa@comcast.net

Website: www.aainpalmbeach.org

Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 9am - 5pm

Saturday: 10am - 3pm

STEERING COMMITTEE

Chair - Sheryl S. Vice Chair - Liz S.
Treasurer - Sarah P. Secretary - Cheryl S.
Office Manager - Pam T.

COMMITTEES

Archives Nick L.
Archivist Michael G.
Bridge the Gap Willie B.
General Services Liaison Chip C.
Group Information Taylor R.
Hospitals & Institutions Cary A.
Liaison to North County Intergroup Andrew H.
Public Information Kathleen H.
SCAAN Maryanne T.
Telephone Relay Zach S.
Twelve Step Committee Bill J./Bari W.
Webmaster David R.
Where & When Todd L.
Anniversary Picnic Open
Intergroup Gratitude Dinner Open
Serenity Scramble Open