

SCAAN

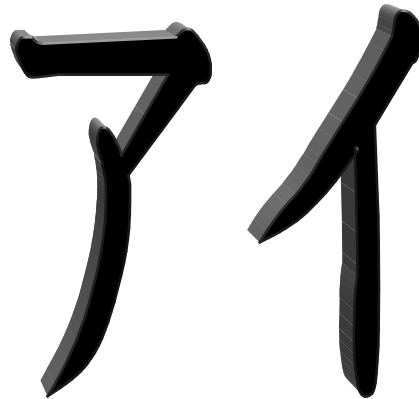
DON'T FORGET ALKA-THON 2004

Newsletter of the South Palm Beach County Intergroup Association, Inc.

Step Twelve

"Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

Understanding is the key to right principles and attitudes, and right action is the key to good living; therefore the joy of good living is the theme of A.A.'s Twelfth Step.



Tradition Twelve

"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."

The spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. Because A.A.'s Twelve Traditions repeatedly ask us to give up personal desires for the common good, we realize that the sacrificial spirit—well symbolized by anonymity—is the foundation of them all.

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My Higher Power, The Light Bulb

By Clarence Snyder

In their sincere and honest attempt to maintain a "hands off" policy regarding fellow members' religious beliefs and perhaps sensitivities, our AA founders exercised gentle wisdom and proffered spiritual freedom. No one, it was rightly thought, should be permitted to impose his or her own religious concepts and beliefs upon any other member of the fellowship. The area was much too important to the prospective recoveree to be tampered with by mortal man. The very life of the prospect depends, ultimately, upon his or her "personal relationship" with a "Power greater than themselves." The notion was valid in the Program's early days -- and it still is!

In no way, shape or form, however, was the idea conceived to avoid guiding our beloved newcomer along the path of spiritual progress. Quite the contrary, our whole purpose as recovered alcoholics was, and is, to help the next person achieve sobriety. If that person is a real alcoholic his only hope is a loving God, a healing God. So in its most basic and simplest terms, our only real purpose is to help the still-suffering alcoholic to find God.

This is no easy task. A vast array of difficulties present themselves to thwart the new person's journey. The foremost adversary, of course, is the illness itself. It seems that many, many alcoholics have a fierce, emotionally charged resistance to accepting any dependency upon a Power, which, to them, may seem an abstract and remotely distant concept. This internal resistance is most effectively broken down by the potential recoveree's initial desperation. It seems such a shame that today's A.A. actually encourages the newcomer to avoid reaping the blessing of that desperation. If intense enough and deep enough, this emotional "bottom" will be the very propellant the prospect needs to thrust him into the recovery process offered by AA through its 12 steps.

Another stumbling block, which many people who are new to the Program are currently encountering, is us! We seem to be full of fear regarding the responsibility that we have been given in the area of spiritual guidance. We shirk this responsibility by evasiveness or by the direct side-stepping of the issue by such statement as, "It's God as you understand Him," and, "It's up to you to come to your own conclusions." So, the newcomer is left to his own devices. He is expected to arrive, alone and unguided, at a relationship with his Creator. One of the most powerful and hope-filled

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SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Email us: southcountvaa@bellsouth.net, also visit www.aainpalmbeach.org ~ www.alcoholics-anonymous.org ~ www.aagrapevine.org

INTERGROUP MINUTES, Oct. 27, 2004

Diane S. The Vice Chair, Welcomed everyone and stated she would be chairing the meeting as Rick G, the Intergroup Chairperson, is out of the country. The meeting was opened at 7:00 pm with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. The twelve traditions were read, and last month's minutes were approved.

Treasurer: John S. See Financial Report in the SCAAN.

Office Manager: Pam T. See report.

Public Information: Bill J. reported that things were slow due to the hurricanes. John S. is helping Bill with contact FAU. Bill is open for ideas Ray D. suggested showing a movie like Bill W in one of the schools auditoriums and having discussion afterwards.

Gratitude Dinner: Stephan C. reported that the Gratitude Dinner is going to be a fabulous evening of food, fellowship, and fun. Tickets are still on sale for the dinner; only have a couple of tables left. The ticket price is \$30 per person and you can contact Pam at the Intergroup office for tickets. Bears are still needed. Stephan reminded all of us that gratitude is an action word.

Telephone Relay: Mike B. thanked Neil for taking the phone for last month. Mike also announced that Albert has volunteered to chair this committee. Mike Made a Motion to accept Albert as the new chairperson for the Telephone Relay Committee. Seconded by Al A. Motion unanimously carried. A big thank you to Mike B for all his service and commitment to keeping the phone covered for the Alcoholic that needs help. Albert introduced himself and asked that any group interested in taking the phones for a month or would like to be added to the 12-step list to please see him after the meeting.

General Service Liaison: Jim M. reported that the Florida Area Quarterly and Assembly were held the weekend of October 1-3. Elections for the next 2 years occurred. Steve P. of Lake Placid moved up to Delegate. Among local candidates, Michelle P of Lake Worth is now Registrar aka Corresponding Secretary. The Palm Beach District monthly was held on Sunday, October 10. Billy C. is the new Chair for the next 2 years. Jim M. will continue to be the South County Intergroup liaison and will also be the new DCM (District Committee Member) for Sub-district 15, which covers the AA groups held at Crossroads. There are still openings for Archives and Grapevine chair. Additionally, many sub-districts, even in South County need DCMs. Any current or former GSR (General Service Rep) is eligible to stand. The next monthly District business meeting will be Sunday, November 14 at 5:45PM at the Triangle Club in West Palm.

Institutions Committee: Charlie O. reported that donations are needed to continuing to supply literature to institutions. Charlie reminded everyone that South Palm Beach County Intergroup Institution Committee meets the last Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at Central House, and anyone interested in helping please come.

Group Information Committee: Christine H. No report at this time but will have a report for the November meeting.

SCAAN: York L. reported that next months SCAAN deadline is moved up a week due to the Intergroup meeting being re-scheduled to November 17, please send all information by November 8th. York also announced he is moving in January 2005 and asked if anyone is interested the taking over the SCAAN. David R. volunteered and will get with York in the next month to review.

Speaker Exchange: Barbara Mc. reported that several meetings requested speakers last month and the groups reported back that the speakers were great. Barbara also asked if anyone is interested in being a speaker or if your group is interested in having a speaker at their meeting to call Pam at the Intergroup office.

Events Chair: Ray D. reported on the success of the first annual Serenity Scramble golf tournament with an approximate \$2,400 profit to be applied to the reserve account. Ray mentioned several new ideas for events like tennis tournament, movie night featuring Bill W story and more. If you are interested in helping with events please leave a message for Ray at the Intergroup office.

Where and When and Internet Liaison: Al A. announced the great news that South County Intergroup has it own web page now. Al recognized Bob M for designing the web page at no charge to the Intergroup. Al also introduced David R as part of the Internet Liaison Committee. David reported on how to access the page and get current meeting schedule along with written directions plus maps noting the exact location. David has added almost all of Boca but needs help with the Delray, Boynton and Lantana groups. David requested that groups in these areas to please supply directions. A Big Thank You to Al, Bob and David, a great team. The new website for South Palm Beach County

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was announced. It is www.aainpalmbeach.org.

Old Business: No old business to report.

New Business: Alka-Thon - Diane S. announced that the Alka-Thon format is an AA meeting on every even hour and fellowship on every odd hour starting at noon the eve of the holiday until midnight on the night of the holiday. Central House is supplying the meeting room and coffee. Diane stated that drawing slips will be passed around for Group Representative to select and to put their group name, contact person and phone number. Diane also stated that when a group chairs that meeting slot they are to chair it the same format as their meeting. It was also suggested for groups to come a little early before the meeting and to stay for a little while after the meeting as the host group, and if possible bring a snack or two to share. No other business brought before the group, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. In Love and Service. Nancev P.

ALKA-THON 2004

Each year, South Palm Beach County Intergroup hosts an ALKA-THON at Central House during the Christmas and New Year Holidays. **See the meeting schedule on page 4.**

The ALKA-THON offers a meeting every other hour starting at 12 noon on Christmas Eve through midnight on Christmas Day, then again from 12 noon on New Years Eve through midnight New Years Day.

See old friends, meet new ones and bring a dish to share. This is a great way to give back what has been given so freely.

The 2005 International Convention Coordinator is requesting suggestions for possible speakers for the many, many meetings that will be held during the Convention. Meeting topics will include such titles as:

Pioneers in AA, Healing Through Laughter, Start by Forgiving, Renewing Primary Purpose, Recovery through Service, Informed Group Conscience, Tolerance and Trust, and Anonymity Our Spiritual Foundation.

Also, Old Timers with more than 40 yrs for the OLDTIMERS meeting on Saturday night.

Speaker Suggestion Forms are at South Palm Beach County Intergroup office. Please call Pam for more information.

Still seeking a Spanish speaking person to take on a new meeting in South Palm Beach County.

September 2004: Office Manager Report

As of September 1st, all sales receipts and invoices are now computerized at point of sale, i/1/o/ having to enter after the fact. Inventory will be maintained at point of sale beginning Jan 1st.

Our Intergroup office has a new (4 in 1) printer/fax/scan/copy machine, and 2 new bookcases. I want to acknowledge my appreciation for approval of these purchases, and Rick G.'s time and effort in obtaining these items.

Several errors are present in our current Where & When due to incorrect information received and passed on to Al:

Please note the following corrections:

ADD *Delray Beach Central House*
Open Beginner Mtg Wed & Fri 10:30 AM

DELETE *Delray Crossroads Club*
Open Discussion Mtg Mon 8:30 AM

Our new Website is nearly finished and I'll defer to Al A. Bob M and Dave R. for a full report. New Website address:

www.aainpalmbeach.org

I'm asking each representative present here tonight to ask their group for one volunteer/month willing to accept 12 step calls from Intergroup. Your volunteers may call the Intergroup office with their names and phone #.

Thank you for your support and your service.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Trankina, Office Manager

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statements to be found in the entire text of Alcoholics Anonymous can be found on page 25.

"The great fact is just this, and nothing less: That we have had deep and effective spiritual experiences which have revolutionized our whole attitude toward life, toward our fellows and toward God's universe. The central fact of our lives today is the absolute certainty that our Creator has entered into our hearts and lives in a way that is indeed miraculous. He has commenced to accomplish those things for us which we could never do for ourselves."

Are we, today, so far removed from our founders' results of our recovery program that these words are nothing more than a nice thought or an exaggeration due to artificially elated emotions? If so, we obviously cannot transmit something we don't have. We cannot share awareness we don't have. We cannot give guidance we have never gotten. We cannot share a vision of a God we have never seen. Our lack, thereby, becomes the newcomer's lack and he may die because of it!

Our resistance becomes his license. In his liquor-befogged mind he does not seek and experience God but begins to create one. It's no wonder his dryness becomes so barren that in a short while he returns to drink. His Higher Power was a light bulb! (No joke, We have heard this concept voiced more than once, and not only by a newcomer!) Or perhaps this power greater than himself was a chair, or a wall, or even a mere mortal sponsor. A quick glance at the top of page 93 of the Big Book makes instantly clear a very important qualification in the concept of "...as you understand Him," and that is: "He can choose any conception he likes, PROVIDED IT MAKES SENSE TO HIM. The main thing is that he be willing to believe in a Power greater than himself and that he live by spiritual principles."

Power greater than himself -- a light bulb? A simple flick of a switch turns off that power. A wall? Not so powerful when confronted with a bulldozer. A chair? An axe can make quick kindling of that higher power. A sponsor then? If the sponsor fails to perfect his spiritual life, his old foe alcohol is sure to reclaim him. So he won't do very well as a greater power. How about a whole group? Possibly for someone else, but not for us.

If one person who is powerless over alcohol is joined by another who is powerless over alcohol, and another, and another, we do not have a group of people who ARE POWERFUL over alcohol. We would have a group of people who are POWERLESS over alcohol. Yet they do not drink! They have gained access to something more powerful than alcohol.

Phrases such as "higher power," "power greater than ourselves," or "as we understood Him" were not created as an enabling device to justify our membership's continued avoidance of a connection with our Creator. Page 46 of the AA book says,

"We found that as soon as we were able to lay aside prejudice and express even a willingness to believe in a Power greater than ourselves, we commenced to get results, even though it was impossible for any of us to fully define or comprehend that Power, which is God." Again, "... that Power, which is God."

Our founders held no reservations whatsoever with Who was dealing with them. Perhaps we would be well advised to think twice before we attempt any reservations ourselves. Alcoholics Anonymous is not allied with any religion, as we well know. But it is allied with God, "for our very lives as ex-problem drinkers depend on it." It is allied with spirituality, for despite what our preamble states, A.A. is not just a "fellowship," it is a spiritual way of life.

It is our most earnest desire that no one reading this feels that we are trying to impose any presentation of God or His nature on anyone. Our real hope is that a reader may be jolted from a position of complacency or spiritual evasion and get about the business of recovery.

Visit www.cametobelieve.org for more recovery information

First Annual Serenity Scramble A Success!

"We are not a glum lot," was proven on Sunday, October 10 at the Lake Worth Golf Club, home of the First Annual Serenity Scramble for the benefit of the Prudent Reserve Fund. Initiated by the Boca Men's Central Group, the first tournament was participated in by around seventy golfers and volunteers. Close to 50% of the participants were women. It was a worthy fund raiser and a superb day of fellowship and fun. Thanks to the committee whose service made this reality, including Sandy T, Jack C., Dale G., Mike D., Bob P.

Since this was a closed tournament, self-supported through our own contributions, it was a risk to see if it could be profitable for Intergroup. The first tournament is estimated to have made over \$2,600.00 after expenses.

Much thanks to the seventeen Groups and individuals who came forward as hole sponsors, and over twenty-five other individuals who contributed cash or prize donations. There were more than thirty prizes given out, including \$324.00 in the 50/50 raffle.

Events Chair, Ray D., announced that the Second Annual Serenity Scramble has already been scheduled for Sunday, October 16th at the Lake Worth Golf Club. Individuals interested in becoming involved in this, or other future special events, are encouraged to e-mail Ray at r_dryden@BellSouth.net.

**SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY INTERGROUP
FINANCIAL REPORT ~ OCTOBER 2004, YEAR-TO-DATE**

I NCOME	OCTOBER	YEAR-TO DATE
BIRTHDAY CLUB	40	558
GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS	2,084	24,731
LITERATURE SALES	3,940	33,548
FUND RAISING (OLD TIMERS MEETING)	0	133
FUND RAISING (ALCATHON)	0	856
FUND RAISING (SERENITY SCRAMBLE)	7,231	7,231
TOTAL INCOME	\$13,295	\$67,057
EXPENSES		
ADVERTISING	94	376
BANK SERVICE CHARGE	0	146
ELECTRIC	87	709
EMPLOYEE EXPENSES	3,819	19,157
INSURANCE (LIABILITY)	75	728
INSURANCE (EMPLOYEE HEALTH)	0	4,525
LICENSES & PERMITS	0	61
LITERATURE (BOOKS,CHIPS,MEDALLIONS, ETC)	2,181	23,519
OFFICE EXPENSES	170	2,391
OFFICE REPAIRS	0	444
PRINTING (SCAAN / WHERE & WHEN)	690	2,879
RENT	617	5,939
TELEPHONE (OFFICE & CELL)	461	2,617
FUND RAISING (SERENITY SCRAMBLE)	4,745	4,745
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,939	\$68.236
SEPTEMBER LOSS		
INCOME MINUS EXPENSES	(\$ 356)	(\$1,179)
PRUDENT RESERVE BALANCE 10/31/04	\$ 4,485	
OPERATING ACCOUNT BALANCE 10/31/04	\$ (674)	

GRATITUDE DINNER	
BALANCE 10/31/04	\$11,245
GOLF TOURNAMENT	
BALANCE 10/31/04	\$ 2,485

HOSPITAL & INSTUTIONS	
BALANCE 9/30/04	\$ (162.15)
GROUP DONATIONS	86.45
INTERGROUP DONATION	100.00
PERSONAL DONATIONS	135.00
EXPENSES	<u>(534.00)</u>
BALANCE 10/31/04	\$ (374.70)
THANK YOU	

SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY INTERGROUP
75 NE 6 AVENUE ~ SUITE 208 ~ DELRAY BEACH, FL 33483
PHONE - 276-4581 ~ email southcountyyaa@bellsouth.net
OFFICE HOURS ~ MONDAY ~ FRIDAY 9am to 5pm ~ SATURDAY 10am to 3pm

SOUTH PALM BEACH COUNTY INTERGROUP ~ 2004 GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

	OCT	YTD		OCT	YTD		OCT	YTD
BOCA RATON			Wed Night Beginners		0	Depression & The Alcoholic		0
Happy Hour	200	600	We're Just Beginners		0	Double Digit Gang		150
Journey to Freedom		50	Just Do It		167	Young At Heart		200
Saturday with Bill W		100	Mon Night Step & Tradition		0	DELRAY BEACH		
Boca Friendly		500	First Things First		0	Central House		617
N Boca Step & Tradition		200	Last Chance Candlelight		0	Young People w/Solution	60	60
Sat Night Live @ Five		618	Sober Friday Night		0	Westside Delray		394
Prime Time Sunset Step		0	Spiritual Candlelight		0	Beach Meeting (Tues)		0
Women Living Sober		0	West Boca Serenity	35	35	Delray Step & Tradition	65	379
Keep It Simple		0	WEST BOCA RATON			Wine Into Water		260
We Agnostics	15	95	West Boca Beginners		200	Monday Night Miracles		0
Women's BB Study		0	Boca Boyz	21	21	New Beginning		0
Spiritual Awakening		43	Sunday Night Speaker		175	Five Time Losers		225
Sobriety On Sunday	400	1,179	9 th Chapter		0	One Paragraph At A Time		0
Boca AA Study	68	118	Friendship Group		100	Oceanside Step		94
Lets Do Lunch		0	BOYNTON BEACH			Sunday Night Men's		0
Lunch Bunch		1,425	Boynton Beach Group		697	Open Your Heart		0
Today Not Tomorrow	25	125	Downtown Group	20	70	Delray Recovery - DAF		45
Women In Recovery	33	493	Sat Boynton Beach BBSS		0	Language Of The Heart	28	501
Step Into The Solution		0	North Delray Step		0	Bridge Back To Life		0
Big Book Adventure	92	801	Boynton Beach Men's		400	LAKE WORTH		
B.A.S.I.C.S.		0	Friday Night Special		105	Wednesday Nite Women's		0
By The Book		0	Saturday Evening Post		0	Saturday Sobriety		20
Men On-Track	180	1,030	West Boynton		0	LANTANA		
Men's Boca Central		400	Neighborhood		0	Sunny Isles		732
Inner Voice Candlelight		0	Re-Entry Group		146	Grapevine Group		0
Easy Does It		391	KISS Group		0	Lake Worth Serenity		0
Road To Recovery		100	We Are Not Saints		244	Recovery First		0
Boca Men's / St Gregory		65	Experience, Strength, Hope		0	Lantana Group, Monday		0
Boca Men's Recovery	20	20	Line By Line		0	Lantana Group, Thurs		0
Boca Women's		2	Safe Harbor		100	Serenity On The Beach		200
We Believers	15	216	DELRAY BEACH			Cardinal Lane		49
Just For Now	120	1,225	Sunrise(at the Beach)7am		548	Women's 4 th Dimension		0
Steps & Traditions		0	Beach At Atlantic 7am		800	ANONYMOUS	102	172
123 Step Group	300	900	CROSSROADS CLUB			INTERGROUP 7 TRADIT	50	436
BOCA PINES CLUB			One Day At A Time		636	FCYPAA		50
Sobriety For Breakfast		75	Sober Solutions		0	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$2,084	\$24,731
Sunday Serenity	50	50	Big Book Study		0			
Morning Medicine	90	300	Living Sober Women		254			
Saturday Beginners		376	Downtown Delray 10am	50	137			
Sunday Morning Spiritual		0	Serenity On Saturday		42			
12 O'clock High	45	95	Midday Miracles		1,203			
Something Old, New...		0	Serenity Hour		1,644			
Living Sober		0	Women's Step By Step		130			
Sober Sunset		0	East Delray Men's		130			
Peace Of Mind		100	Second Chance Women's		194			
Step & Tradition		0	Thank God Its Friday		200			
Romance & Finance		225	4 th Step Workshop		0			
Singleness of Purpose		0	Sobriety In The Wind		341			
Primary Purpose		0						

**ATTENTION ALL GROUPS – Please check your group contributions and if you have any questions please call or email Intergroup and Pam will help you.
Phone 276-4581 or email southcountyyaa@bellsouth.net**