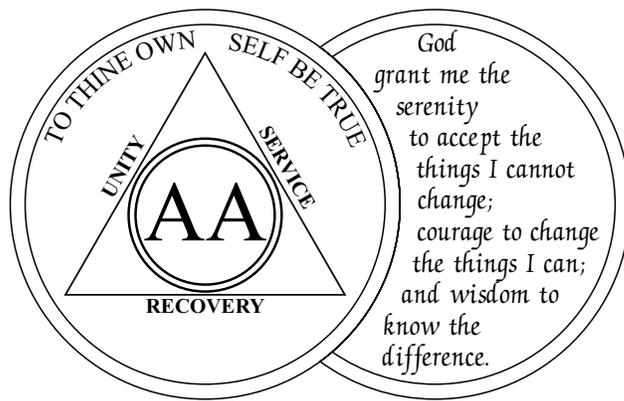


TODAY

Palm Beach County Intergroup Association

To serve our associated groups in carrying the A.A. message to the still suffering alcoholic according to the principles of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of A.A., always remembering that our common welfare comes first.



May 2012

24 Hour AA Hotline 561-655-5700

General Service
District 8



Founders' Day Dinner

Saturday June 16, 2012

Finland House

301 Finlandia Blvd. Lantana, FL

Dinner tickets \$10



Doors Open: 6pm, Dinner 7pm,

Speaker Meeting 8pm

Fellowship
Dinner



Tickets are available through groups' GSR &
at the PBC Intergroup Office

Please bring a desert to share.

Step 1 A Historical Perspective

Some 2,400 years ago a Greek playwright by the name of Euripides wrote a play called, "The Libation Barers." It is a play about wine making coming to the Greek islands and the intoxicating effects it was having on the people and the sometimes devastating effects it had on some of them. There was a King on one of these islands who decided people were not going to make or drink wine on his island, because he would not tolerate such nonsense as these bacchanal parties and sometimes orgies. Bacchus was their god of wine and celebration.

In trying to stop one of these parties he begins climbing a hill on which one is taking place. Incensed that anyone would try to stop them, the merry makers begin throwing stones at the King, oblivious as to who he is. Several strike him on the head and he is killed.

When the party goers come down to see who they have stoned to death, they discover it is the King of the island and his wife and mother were among the stone throwers. This play ends with a cautionary word about drinking and how one should deal with those who are drinking.

I doubt those who crafted the Prohibition Amendment in 1920 would have taken seriously a play by a Greek playwright some 2400 years ago. Yet, even then, mankind was becoming aware that making and drinking wine was not going away and we had better learn how to deal with it.

The prohibition Amendment began January 17, 1920 and was repealed on December 5, 1933. The co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, Bill Wilson, got sober in Towns Hospital in New York City in December 1934. He did not drink alcohol ever again and died January 24, 1971. So, prohibition was in effect for 14 of the last 15 years of Bills drinking.

Continued on page 2

\$		\$
		The Palm Beach County Intergroup Association
\$	is lowering the price on all Conference Approved literature as well as Grapevine material	\$

TODAY Is looking for submissions
Articles, cartoons, etc.
today@aa-palmbeachcounty.org

I mention prohibition and Euripides because prohibition proved a dismal failure while the problem of excessive drinking has been with civilization for some 5000 years (the Egyptians were believed to be making wine and beer some 3000 years before the advent of Jesus Christ.)

So what does Bill Wilson have to offer us with respect to the drinking of alcohol? Answer: absolutely nothing if you are still enjoying your drinking. Absolutely everything if you are not, or not enjoying the consequences of your drinking. Those consequences can be loss of health, loss of friendship, family relationships, marriage, employment, car, home, sanity and even life itself. Alcohol can and does take away everything worth living for, for some people. Many an alcoholic has found that the above sad truth has become their truth and they feel that they have nothing left to live for.

Wait a minute, says Bill Wilson and the first 100 recovered alcoholics, we came back from that dark place that you are now in and we will show you how we did it. To quote the Forward to the First Edition of the Big Book, "We of Alcoholics Anonymous are more than one hundred men and women who have recovered from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body. To show other alcoholics precisely how we have recovered is the main purpose of this book."

To say Bill Wilson was a master of the English language, a genius and a man who would not give up on any project that truly interested him is not to overrate him at all. Aldous Huxley, his friend, and a great scientist-philosopher-writer himself, said of Bill that, "He is the greatest social architect of the twentieth century." Most of us who try to live the AA program and have read "Pass It On," Bill's biography, as well as "the Big Book" and "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" would heartily agree.

The original twelve steps of Alcoholics were six steps that he and Dr. Bob worked out while he was in Akron, Ohio. Those six steps are:

1. Complete deflation
2. Dependence and guidance from a higher power
3. Moral inventory
4. Confession
5. Restitution
6. Continued work with other alcoholics. *

According to the author of "Pass It On" Bill further developed those six steps into:

1. We admitted that we were licked, that we were powerless over alcohol.
2. We made a moral inventory of our defects or sins.
3. We confessed or shared our shortcomings with another person in confidence
4. We made restitution to all those we had harmed by our drinking.
5. We tried to help other alcoholics, with no thought of reward or money or prestige.
6. We prayed to whatever God we thought there was for power to practice these precepts. **

When Bill began the Big book of Alcoholics Anonymous it was March or April of 1938.*** It was completed in less than one year and "came off the press in April 1939**** His first draft of the first step read:

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol- that our lives had become unmanageable.

Exactly what we have today as our first step. The other eleven steps are somewhat different from what we have today, please see "Pass It On" if interested.*****

The "We" of "We admitted we were powerless over alcohol" refers to the first hundred alcoholics who are going to show us "precisely how they recovered from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body." Also, we are told the "we" refers to all of us in the 12 step recovery programs. One hears in the rooms of AA that this is a "We program" because we do this together, we don't try to do it alone. We have found time and again that doesn't work.

Also, the 12 steps of AA are thrown into the past tense because it is what the first one hundred Alcoholics did to recover. Thus, it is their experience that these steps worked for them and is therefore being suggested that they can work for the newcomer or returning alcoholic as well.

The word "admitted" is significant because for years we would not admit to ourselves or anyone else that we had a real problem with alcohol. We could stop when we wanted to, we could control our drinking, etc. when, in truth, we were out of control in our drinking long before we found the doors of AA. So, the "admission of powerlessness" is a big step toward the truth of our condition. This admission is our admission ticket to the rooms of AA.

That I was, "powerless" became clear to me from the "Doctors Opinion" through chapters I, II, and III. I am allergic to alcohol in mind, body and spirit. Yet I thought about it, become obsessed with it until I felt compelled to drink and then I experienced the phenomenon of craving and couldn't stop drinking until drunkenness ensued and I would pass out. This cycle was repeated over and over again and neither knowledge of my condition nor will power was sufficient to put an end to it. I had to find a power greater than my will power to put a stop to this cycle of self destruction.

Step One is a statement of despair, helplessness, humility and honesty. The second part of Step One "that our lives had become unmanageable" does not say because I drank alcohol. For I may not have had a drink for months or years and yet I still couldn't manage to have a successful career or marriage or good health. This condition of unmanageability is related to my thinking, with or without the drinking. I found that the unmanageability of my lifes gots worse after I stoped drinking!

So then, what was wrong with my thinking? That is what I found out as I proceeded through the remaining eleven steps. But to conclude this article, let us see what Bill says about the first step in the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

"Why all this insistence that every AA must hit bottom first?"

"Under the lash of alcoholism. We are driven to AA, and there we discover the fatal nature of our situation."

"We stand ready to do anything which will lift the merciless obsession from us." ▲

— Jim N., Lake Worth

1. Alcoholics Anonymous, Fourth Edition, pg. XIII

1. Twelve Steps of Twelve Traditions, pg. 24

* pg. 263 Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous ** Pass It On pg. 197

Pass It On pg. 193 *Pass It On pg. 203 *****Pass It On pg. 198

Financial Reports

Palm Beach County Intergroup
Operating Report
04/01/2012 - 04/30/2012

Revenues:	
Literature Sales	\$4,543.81
Sales Tax	272.02
Tax Exempt Sales	275.00
Group Contributions	3,805.90
Spaghetti Dinner	430.00
"Today" Subscriptions	23.00
Birthday Club Memberships	184.00
Meeting Baskets	67.00
Total Revenues:	\$9,600.73
Expenses:	
Literature Purchases	\$3,316.44
Sales Tax	275.03
Picnic - Booking fee	100.00
Office Salary	2,461.52
FICA & Unemployment Tax	145.86
Paychex(monthly fee)	69.00
Rent & Water	475.00
AT&T (Internet, Phone, Website)	332.02
FP&L	108.60
Quickbooks 2012 Software	138.26
Exterminating	35.00
Printing	205.00
Office Supplies / Postage	474.86
Total Expenses	\$8,136.59
Monthly Surplus / (Deficit)	\$1,464.14
Checking Account Balance \$14,614.26	
Prudent Reserve Interest	0.35
Transferred from	
Prudent Reserve Account	(7,815.44)
Prudent Reserve Balance	\$16,675.09

PALM BEACH COUNTY
INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE
Operating Report
04/01/2012 - 04/30/2012

Beginning Balance	\$7,544.60
Group Contributions:	
Tiki Hut Beach Group	\$ 90.00
Monday Night Men's Group	\$ 98.40
Days End Group	\$ 90.00
Big Book Spiritual	\$ 56.00
Total Contributions:	\$334.40
Expenses:	
Printing	\$ 24.07
Rent	\$ 60.00
Total Expenses:	\$ 84.07
Monthly Profit/Loss:	\$250.33
Ending Balance:	\$7,794.93

Office Activity for April

Requests for meetings info:	181
12th Step requests:	8
BTG:	0
Other information:	42
Public Information requests:	8
Institutions Meeting requests:	0
Visitors:	237
Emails:	227
Total Activity:	703

Website Visits for April

Web Stats First Time Visitors:	1628
Returning Visitors:	367
Total Visits:	1995

Public Information Committee

As with all Intergroup Committees, the primary purpose of the Public Information Committee is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the still suffering alcoholic. We do this through visiting local governmental and civic organizations, health care providers, schools and libraries, as well as legal and law enforcement agencies that deal with alcoholics in their respective fields. We provide AA approved literature and offer our service as speakers to inform interested parties as to what AA is, and is not, while always being mindful of the importance of anonymity at all levels of our public interaction. Our efforts may be as simple as staffing a table or booth at a "health fair", or as high profile as participating in radio and television public service announcements or being interviewed

for newspaper or magazine articles concerning the role of AA in helping alcoholics to achieve sobriety and become useful and productive citizens in our communities.

We are always available to help out in our community whenever someone seeks information about this amazing fellowship. As you see, service in the P.I. Committee is a very important and rewarding way to give back to the A.A. fellowship. Serving in this committee is a very rewarding way to connect with our community and extend the hand of Alcoholics Anonymous to those who may not otherwise be aware of the solution we have found. If you have an interest in becoming a member of this committee please contact the Intergroup office or by email through the Intergroup website. ▲

Coming Events

May 2nd: PBC Intergroup Committee Chair Meeting 6:15pm @ Intergroup Office. All are welcome to attend.

May 6th: Institutions Committee Meeting @ Triangle Club (4:30pm - Orientation) 5:00pm Committee Meeting.

May 9th: PBC Intergroup Business Meeting 6:15pm @ Intergroup Office.

May 10-13: 34th Big Book Seminar, Sheraton Suites Cypress Creek, 555 NW 62nd St., Ft. Lauderdale. Registration \$25.00. For more info call (954) 881-8189 or visit www.bigbookseminar.com.

May 20th: General Service, District 8 Meeting 5:00pm @ Triangle Club.

June 16th: District 8 Founders' Day Dinner. Saturday June 16th, 2012 at the Finland House, 301 Central Blvd. Lantana, FL. Tickets are \$10.00. Desserts are appreciated. Doors open at 6 PM. Dinner is at 7 PM. Speakers Meeting at 8 PM. For more information contact Cheryl at:

aafoundersday2012@gmail.com.

June 23rd: Delegate's Report & Luncheon @ Triangle Club 1-4 pm. Report on the 2012 G.S. Conference. Enjoy a free luncheon. Hosted by District 8.

August 1st - 5th: 56th Florida State Convention @ Innisbrook Golf & Spa Resort Palm Harbor. More info: www.56.flstateconvention.com.

August 17 - 19: 17th Annual SE Woman To Woman Conference. Delray Beach Marriott. Info @ www.southeastwomantowoman.com

November 9th - 11th: Southeast Regional Forum @ Boca Raton Marriot. FREE! More info @ www.area15aa.org

Palm Beach County
Intergroup Association
1371 Okeechobee Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
Phone: 561-655-5700
Fax: 561-655-6441
www.aa-palmbeachcounty.org
Email: pbciaa@bellsouth.net

Birthday Club

April Celebrants

Frances H. 50 Years
 Artie B. 45 Years
 Mary Kay B. 27
 Years Jack A. 21 Years
 Yves C. 14 Years
 Bonnie C. 5 Years
 Kit N. 3 Years

Bryan P. 2 Years
 Bonnie M. 2 Years
 Carol G. 1 Year
 Blanca T 1 Years
 Michael K. 1 Year
 Lucinda B. 1 Year

May Celebrants

Robert F. 37 Years
 Daniel K. 9 Years
 Donna M. 4 Years
 Joyce C. 34 Years
 Len G. 2 Years
 Karen W. 18 Years
 Mike S. 2 Years

Gerri L. 25 Years
 Cathy M. 28 Years
 Larry M. 23 Years
 Tim S. 34 Years
 Helen B. 22 Years
 Mary D. 27 Years
 Jaki N. 5 Years

JOIN THE BIRTHDAY CLUB!

Celebrate your years of recovery
 by giving a little something back!

You get:

Bill & Bob Medallion, Birthday Flyer, and
 Name in the TODAY newsletter.*

Complete this form and mail to:

Birthday Club, 1371 Okeechobee Road, WPB FL 33401

Or email us at: pbciaa@bellsouth.net.

\$1 per year of sobriety is the suggested contribution.
 (Feel free to give more!)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Email: _____

Home Group: _____

Sobriety Date: ____/____/____

Phone # () ____ - ____

DONATION: \$ _____



* Deadline for new submissions for Today printing is
 the last Wednesday 1 month prior to sobriety month.

Subscribe to The Today!

\$6.00 per year
 12 issues mailed directly to you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail to: Palm Beach County Intergroup Association
 1371 Okeechobee Rd, West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers?

Steps • Traditions • Concepts

Step 5: Admitted to God, to ourselves and to 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.

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?

Concept 5: Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

1. Do we encourage the minority opinion, the “Right of Appeal”, to be heard at our home group, district committee meetings, area assemblies and the Conference?
2. What does our group accept as “substantial unanimity”?
3. Has our group experienced the “tyranny of the majority” or the “tyranny of the minority”?
4. Does our group understand the importance of all points of view being heard before a vote is taken? ▲



Every AA member has an individual way of working the program. Articles are not intended to be statements of the Palm Beach County Intergroup Association or A.A. policy, nor does publication of any article imply endorsement by either the Palm Beach County Intergroup Association, A.A. or the Today