

## Speakers

Beth H, Cary NC

Chuck H, Cary NC

Cindy S, Helotes TX

Cushing P, Montgomery AL

Heather G, Powell TN

John S, Helotes TX

Pat Y, Palm Desert CA

Teresa F, Van Nuys CA

## Workshops

### **Rule 62**

**The (Higher) Power of Prayer**

**We Agnostics & Free-Thinkers**

**Our Primary Purpose**

**Corrections – We Are  
Responsible**

**Archives: Our History**

**Register and Pay Securely By  
Visa/MC:**

**[www.floridastateconvention.com](http://www.floridastateconvention.com)**

**For Payments by Check, Mail  
Form on Left To:**

**61<sup>st</sup> Florida State Convention**

**PO Box 57442**

**Jacksonville, FL 32241-7442**

**No Refunds After 6/1/2017**

## **61<sup>st</sup> Florida State Convention**

**Jacksonville, FL**

**July 27 – July 30, 2017**



**Experience Jacksonville's  
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## Step Four

*Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves*



# AA doesn't work? Really?

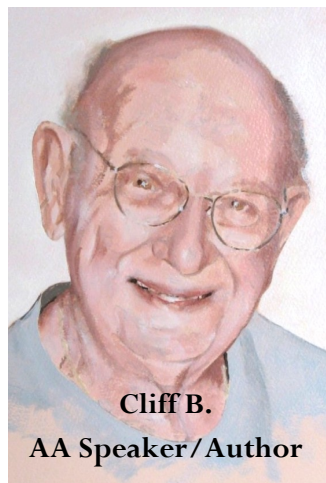
By Cliff B.

One of the saddest statements I have ever heard is, "I've been to A.A. and it doesn't work." There is no way I can count the number of times over the past couple of decades I have found an alcoholic coming off a drunk who made that statement. Just today, one of my protégés called to tell me of a man, holed up in a cheap motel room, he was asked to locate and see if he could help him.

My protégé was successful in locating the suffering alcoholic and did what he had been instructed to do on a Twelve Step call. He told him some of the story of his drinking and how he had come to know it to be an illness over which he had no control nor did the medical profession have a solution.

The suffering alcoholic finally said, "You're going to try to tell me about A.A., aren't you?" Jake said, "That is where I found my solution." The sick one said, "I have gone to A.A. meetings for the last eight months and did what they told me to do. It doesn't work for me."

Jake asked, "Did you take the Steps with a sponsor who had been blessed with a spiritual experience as the result of having taken the Steps?" The sick one said, "I think I did but the main thing they told me was just keep coming back and you'll be OK. When I asked what else I should do, I was told: Don't drink and keep on going to more meetings. I did what they told me to do and A.A.



Cliff B.

AA Speaker/Author

just doesn't work."

A member of Alcoholics Anonymous found me near death in 1964 and told me he could help me. He said to me, "I understand. I have been where you are and I want to help you if you will let me." I was willing to do anything. He took me to his A.A.

club and began sobering me up on orange juice with some honey mixed in it. When I began having delirium tremens, they added some Bay Rum to the mixture. There were no treatment centers in our area at that time and hospitals would not admit us for alcoholism. We either shook and sweat it out in jail or at an A.A. club. By far, most of them made it to the end sober or they still are. I wasn't one of them. I saw an opportunity to return my ego to its earlier level by getting involved in a new and exciting profession and so I went for it. Sixteen years after my last drink; 11 years after my last meeting, on a day without a cloud in the sky, I thought having a beer would be a good idea, so being in a very dry county, I drove 70 miles for a six-pack. It took me 2 years to make it back

(Continued on page 2)

ST LUCIE INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION, INC.

883 E Prima Vista Blvd.  
Port St Lucie, FL 34952  
(772) 873-9299

(in the NW corner of Prima Vista & US 1, located in Port St Lucie Plaza)

Visit our website at:

[www.aastlucieintergroup.com](http://www.aastlucieintergroup.com)

Where you can view and download PDF copies of this and recent newsletters

To receive a PDF copy of *In Gratitude* Newsletter via  
e-mail send a request to:  
[stlucieintergroup@att.net](mailto:stlucieintergroup@att.net), attn: Rex B., editor



The District 6 Monthly  
Business Meetings  
are held on the second  
Tuesday of each month  
Indian River State College  
3209 Virginia Avenue  
Ft. Pierce At 6:30 pm  
Building R Room 131  
Come support your  
District!!  
Visit [district6aa.org](http://district6aa.org)

**GSRs — ARE YOUR BASKET DONATIONS  
HELPING AA AS A WHOLE?**

Does your Home Group distribute the remaining  
donations after Group expenses and prudent  
reserve according to AA Tradition?

Is your Home Group doing it's part to help  
support your local

Intergroup Office?

District 6? Area 15?

The General Service Office ?

Is your Home Group represented at the local  
monthly Intergroup steering committee  
meeting?

Is your local Intergroup Office and its members  
properly serving the needs of the local Groups?

These are questions you should be asking at your  
Home Group business meetings.

Get involved.

Support AA as a whole!

**DOES YOUR GROUP HAVE AN  
INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVE ?**

Intergroup Steering Committee  
and Group Representatives meet  
the 3rd Thursday of every month  
@ 7pm. Help support Intergroup

**REMEMBER:**

*"I am responsible . . .*

*When anyone, anywhere, reaches  
out for help, I want the hand of  
A.A. always to be there.*

*And for that: I am responsible."*

**District 6 Committee Meetings  
(at the Intergroup Office  
**883 E Prima Vista Blvd.  
Port St Lucie, Fl 34952)****

**DCMs/GSRs** Meeting ..... the 1st Saturday of month 10:30 a.m.

**Corrections Committee** Meeting... the 2nd Saturday of month, 10:30 a.m.

**Events Committee** Meeting ..... the 3rd Saturday of month, 10:30 a.m.

**PI/CPC Committee** Meeting ..... the 4th Saturday of month 10:30 a.m.

**Please send all  
District 6 Group  
donations to:  
District 6 Treasurer  
P.O. Box 12248  
Fort Pierce, Fl  
34979-2248**

**Want to get Involved?  
Bridging the Gap  
needs volunteers as contacts for  
individuals leaving treatment.  
Be their first contact.  
To sign up contact the District 6  
Treatment Committee  
BTG Coordinator  
[Howard\\_F@comcast.net](mailto:Howard_F@comcast.net)  
772-441-8006**

**St. Lucie Intergroup needs to update our  
Twelfth Step list. If you would like to be  
contacted to help insure that the hand of AA  
is always there, please contact the Intergroup  
Office and leave your information: name,  
phone number and hours available so we can  
continue to help the still sick and suffering  
alcoholic. Call 772-873-9299 or e-mail  
[stlucieintergroup@att.net](mailto:stlucieintergroup@att.net)**

# *But you have to WORK it!*

(Continued from page 1)

to Alcoholics Anonymous very, very drunk.

But what a difference 13 years can make! There were no alcoholics laying around the club with dry heaves. There were no blood shot eyes, sweating faces, no vibrating bodies; the aroma of alcoholism was missing. There was no orange juice in the refrigerator nor honey near the coffee pot. There was no Bay Rum in the file cabinet. It was no longer needed because almost everyone had gone to treatment and been medicated through the process of what is termed de-tox. They had missed those wonderful golden moments of the misery, suffering and pain of sobering up. At first, I thought the new approach was good but then I began to see the results. There was less and less commitment to the group and the action necessary for long term emotional sobriety was being ignored.

There were very few Big Book study or speaker meetings but a large number of discussion/participation meetings where everyone was given an opportunity to talk about whatever was on their mind whether or not they

knew anything about alcoholism or recovery from alcoholism. There were even non-alcoholics participating in these meetings. This newer approach of learning to live with alcoholism was beginning to prove to be a dismal failure.

I heard a tape of Joe McQ. and later attended a weekend of Joe McQ. and Charlie P. presenting their Big Book Comes Alive program. It then became very clear why so many were returning to the bottle. Not only were we without sick alcoholics laying around the meeting places, there was so little program in our meetings, it was almost hidden from the newcomers. No wonder so few were finding more than a few months of physical sobriety. They were denied what is required for long term emotional sobriety.

Without the sick alcoholics laying round the meeting place, I had to find a place where I could again see and smell alcoholism. I needed a frequent reminder of where I came from and what was waiting for me if I didn't continue to pay the price for emotional sobriety. Over the years since I have been blessed to have been given another opportunity to survive the deadliest disease known to mankind, I have volunteered in many wind-up places where those coming off a drunk are present and available to talk with. Again and again, I heard that

sickening statement, "I went to A.A. and it doesn't work."

Of course, they are right: *Alcoholics Anonymous* does not work! We must work it! But they were not told the truth. My basic text reads, "**Rarely, have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path**" The path being the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous as outlined in a book titled *Alcoholics Anonymous*. My basic text does not read, "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of 'don't drink and go to meetings.'" It reads, "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and practice these principles in all our affairs."

Our real problem is ego driven sponsorship with very little if any real concern for the welfare of the newcomer. Proclaimed members of our fellowship who have never taken the Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous will assume the responsibility for the life of a newcomer and will proudly announce the number of sponsees they have. As one of my dear friends said, "The manner in which we now fail our responsibility to the newcomer borders on slaughter." The demise of our sense of responsibility to those seeking help for alcoholism is one of the greatest tragedies of our time in history. It works only if we work it (working all 12 Steps, meetings/fellowship, and being of service expecting nothing in return)!

## *Anniversaries*

**MARCH 2017**

### **Begin Where You Are**

Bari H	28 yrs
Wes B	17 yrs
Dan B	12 yrs
Donna	2 yrs

### **Lakewood Park**

Stephen	32 yrs
Mike	28 yrs
Terry M	5 yrs
Brian G	2 yrs
Mike	1 yr

### **ADDRESSES FOR GROUP DONATIONS**

St. Lucie Intergroup  
Association, Inc.  
883 E Prima Vista Blvd.,  
Port St Lucie, Fl 34952

District 6 Treasurer  
PO Box 12248  
Ft. Pierce, Fl 34979-2248

South Florida Area 15  
Treasurer  
PO Box 56  
Sebring, Fl 33870-0056

GSO  
PO Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163

## WESTSIDE GROUP'S DECEMBER 2016 CONTRIBUTION OMITTED

A \$50.00 contribution from Fort Pierce's Westside Group (The Old School House meeting) was inadvertently omitted from January's Newsletter. We regret and apologize for our error.

## 2017 Group Contributions through Feb. 28

GROUP	Group #	FEB.	YTD	GROUP	Group #	FEB.	YTD
A Desire To Stop GP		0.00	0.00	Lunch Bunch	169623	0.00	0.00
AA Promises GP	671816	0.00	0.00	Men's Sobriety Group	172529	200.00	200.00
Alternate MC Beginners AA GP	645696	0.00	0.00	Midday Matinee	172992	0.00	0.00
Back to Basics	617295	0.00	66.00	New Hope Group	163611	0.00	0.00
Bayside GP	134955	0.00	37.82	New Windmill Point	148626	0.00	0.00
Begin Where You Are	666125	0.00	0.00	Okeechobee Discussion		0.00	0.00
Better By The Beach	688860	0.00	169.19	Okeechobee Night Group	103633	0.00	0.00
Better Understanding	670079	0.00	0.00	Okeechobee Noon Group	147217	0.00	30.00
Bleeding Deacons	710958	0.00	0.00	Okeechobee Sobriety Group	643907	0.00	0.00
Easy Does It	149241	60.00	60.00	Okeechobee Women's Group		0.00	0.00
Ensollielle (French, seasonal)		0.00	0.00	One Page at a Time	648188	0.00	0.00
Eye Opener	169889	100.00	350.00	Primary Purpose Welcome Home	141056	0.00	0.00
First Things First	697413	51.77	131.11	Primary Purpose Bayshore	679364	0.00	0.00
Friday Night Men's	604208	0.00	0.00	PSL AA Tues. Nite Group	103698	0.00	10.00
Friendship Group	103470	0.00	0.00	PSL Sat. AM Men's Group	606637	0.00	0.00
From Darkness To Light		0.00	0.00	Reach Out Group	714201	0.00	10.00
Gays In Recovery	655112	0.00	0.00	Sisters of Sobriety	700856	0.00	0.00
Good Guys North	678914	0.00	0.00	Step Into Action	696779	0.00	0.00
Grupo Renacer Hispano FP (Spanish)		0.00	0.00	Step Sisters	683996	0.00	80.00
Grupo Serendad PSL (Spanish)		0.00	0.00	Sun Rise 11th Step		0.00	0.00
Happy Hour Living Sober	653464	0.00	0.00	Talking Feathers		7.00	17.00
Heard it thru the Grapevine GP	662713	0.00	0.00	The Future of AA (Young People)	697507	0.00	0.00
Helping Hands Group	654010	0.00	60.00	Tough Love Group		0.00	0.00
Higher Power Sunday	679339	0.00	0.00	Warriors		0.00	0.00
How It Works-Bayshore		0.00	0.00	Watch your Steps	645676	0.00	0.00
Just For Today	168564	0.00	0.00	We Stopped in Time	669606	0.00	146.00
Keep It Simple— Okeechobee	643906	0.00	0.00	Westside Group Ft Pierce	125608	0.00	0.00
KISS	127410	0.00	200.00	Wolff Road Group Okeechobee	703404	25.00	25.00
Lakewood Park	177727	40.00	80.00	Women Stepping Up	157843	50.00	50.00
Last Call	151221	0.00	0.00	Women's New Beginnings	611306	00.00	100.00
Late Risers	681809	150.00	300.00				
Lunch Box		0.00	0.00	<b>TOTAL AA GP Contributions</b>		<b>683.77</b>	<b>2122.12</b>

**In 1957, Bill W. said, "We pay our rent and utility bills, buy coffee, snacks and AA Literature. We support our Central Office, our Area Committee and our General Services Office. If it were not for these entities, many people would never discover the miracle of AA."**

# ST. LUCIE INTERGROUP ANNUAL



**GIANT  
RAFFLE!!!**

**RAIN OR  
SHINE!!!!**



# 2017

# B.B.Q.

**Saturday, April 29, 2017, 11 am-2 pm**

**Food served at NOON**

LYNGATE PARK BALLFIELD PAVILLION  
PORT ST. LUCIE  
TICKETS \$10 AT THE GATE  
OR INTERGROUP OFFICE  
(772) 873-9299 FOR INFO

## MENU

HAMBURGERS  
HOTDOGS  
CHICKEN

.....  
PLEASE BRING  
A DESSERT  
OR COVERED  
DISH



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
*You're invited*  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
*To a Saturday*  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
*Of Fun, Food*  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
*And Fellowship!*  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



**PLEASE, NO DOGS!!! (Yes, really!!!)**



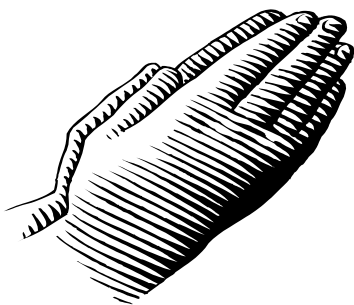
# *On the Fourth Step ...*

## The Fourth Step ...

Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

## The Fourth Step Principle ...

The principle behind the Fourth Step is Courage.



### Fourth Step Prayers ...

The Inventory suggested by the Fourth Step can be regarded as such a challenging prospect that it is often postponed. So a number of prayers have been composed based on the Big Book to offer reassurance as we prepare for this vital exercise:

#### *A Fourth Step Resentment Prayer:*

"God, Please help me to be free of anger and to see that the world and its people have dominated me. Show me that the wrong-doing of others, fancied or real, has the power to actually kill me. Help me to master my resentments by understanding that the people who wrong me were perhaps spiritually sick. Please help me show those I resent the same Tolerance, Pity and Patience that I would cheerfully grant a sick friend.\*\* Help me to see that this is a sick man. Father, please show me how I can be helpful to him and save me from being angry. Lord, help me to avoid retaliation or argument. I know I can't be helpful to all people, but at least show me how to take a kindly and tolerant view of each and every one. Thy will be done."(66:2, 66:3, 66:4, 67:0, 67:1)

#### *A Freedom from Bondage Prayer:*

Dear God, I have a resentment towards a person that I want to be free of. So, I am asking you to give this person everything I want for myself. Help me to feel compassionate understanding and love for this person. I pray that they will receive everything they need. Thank you God for your help and strength with this resentment. (BB, Freedom from Bondage: 552)

#### *An Example of Fear Prayer:*

"God, thank you for helping me be honest enough to see this truth about myself and now that you have shown me the truth about my fears, please remove these fears from me. Lord, please help me outgrow my fears and direct my attention to what you would have me be. Father, demonstrate through me and help me become that which you would have me be. Help me do thy will always, Amen.(68:3)

## *On the Fourth Step ...*

### **The Fourth Tradition ...**

Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting  
other groups or AA as a whole.

### **My Fourth Tradition Checklist ...**

1. Do I insist that there are only a few right ways of doing things in AA?
2. Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?
3. Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different from mine or do I learn from it?
4. Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?
5. Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths — his lengths, not mine — to stay sober?
6. Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?