

# Twelve Tips on Keeping Your Holiday Season Sober and Joyous

Holiday parties without liquid spirits may still seem a dreary prospect to new A.A.s. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober—an idea we would never have dreamed of, wanted, or believed possible when drinking. Here are some tips for having an all-round ball without a drop of alcohol.



**1** Line up extra A.A. activities for the holiday season. Arrange to take newcomers to meetings, answer the phones at a clubhouse or central office, speak, help with dishes, or visit the alcoholic ward at a hospital.



**2** Be host to A.A. friends, especially newcomers. If you don't have a place where you can throw a formal party, take one person to a diner and spring for the coffee.



**3** Keep your A.A. telephone list with you all the time. If a drinking urge or panic comes—postpone everything else until you've called an A.A.



**4** Find out about the special holiday parties, meetings, or other celebrations

given by groups in your area, and go. If you're timid, take someone newer than you are.



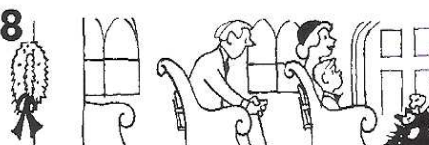
**5** Skip any drinking occasion you are nervous about. Remember how clever you were at excuses when drinking? Now put the talent to good use. No office party is as important as saving your life.



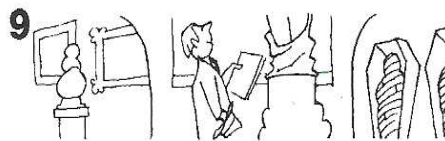
**6** If you have to go to a drinking party and can't take an A.A. with you, keep some candy handy.



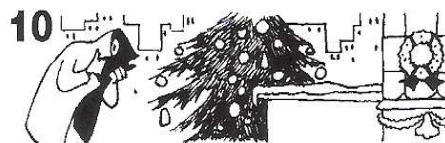
**7** Don't think you have to stay late. Plan in advance an "important date" you have to keep.



**8** Worship in your own way.



**9** Don't sit around brooding. Catch up on those books, museums, walks, and letters.



**10** Don't start now getting worked up about all those holiday temptations. Remember—"one day at a time."



**11** Enjoy the true beauty of holiday love and joy. Maybe you cannot give material gifts—but this year, you can give love.



**12** "Having had a . . ." No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.



## The 12th Step ...

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



# A Christmas Story

*(A Very AA Version!)*

*On this Christmas, December 25, 2018, Alcoholics Anonymous will have seen millions of members who have been able to celebrate the Holiday Season sober. I remain humbled and forever grateful for the privilege to be a member of the*

*Blessed Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, and I find this an appropriate time to reflect on the history and the "Miracle" of AA. With love in sobriety, Bob S.)*

The first Christmas for AA was the depression year of 1935. There

were "established" members to mark it and hardly a dozen newcomers to share it with them. In Akron, Dr. Bob and Bill D. were going on their second six months, while four recruits had from four

*(Continued on page 7)*

## *The Meeting Before Christmas ...*

'Twas the night before Christmas, we were all in the club,  
Enjoying a meeting, instead of a pub.  
The ashtrays were clean, and the coffee was made,  
The Big Books were out and then we all prayed.  
When out in the lot, there arose such a clatter,  
We all jumped up to see what was the matter.  
The Chair with his Big Book, and I with my smokes,  
Headed outside to find these two blokes.  
They came inside and sat at a table,  
And said that they'd chair, as soon as they're able.  
To start with, they said, "It's more than not drinking,  
It's doing your best to have God fix your thinking."  
"First Things First!" and the slogans we used,  
Help keep the newcomer from getting confused.  
Step 1 is a start, they said we should know,  
But after Step 2, we'll be all aglow.  
We make a decision when we got to Step 3,  
Step 4 was a bit tough, we all could agree.

Step 5 is the one where we let it all out.  
And after Step 6 and 7, we're left with no doubt.  
When we got to Step 8, we made our full list,  
And then with Step 9, we have to persist.  
After Step 9, more promises ring true,  
We didn't just make that up, right out of the blue.  
After that, it's on with the rest,  
The things we must do, to be our best.  
They put on their coats and got ready to leave,  
A very good end, for this Christmas Eve.  
As to their names, we only could guess,  
Must have been Bill W. and Dr. Bob S.  
The two men hopped into a '35 Ford,  
And as they pulled out, one of them roared:  
"We leave this message, for our sisters and brothers:  
Trust God, clean house, and be of service to others.  
And for all of you people, I just want to say:  
Have a nice Christmas, and don't drink today!"

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

## Notices ...

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  
(*Except July in Room 248*)

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 third 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)

..... the 1st Saturday of month 10:30 a.m.  
*Corrections Committee* Meeting... the 2nd Saturday of month, 10:30 a.m.  
..... the 3rd Saturday of month, 10:30 a.m.  
..... 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 our District 6  
Treatment Committee BTG  
Coordinator Chris B:  
[Cbrady561@gmail.com](mailto:Cbrady561@gmail.com)  
1-561-628-3604

**St. Lucie Intergroup 2019 Officers**  
Chairperson Gina L.  
Secretary Mike M.  
Treasurer Frank M.  
News Editor Rex B.  
Where & When Editor Micheal S.  
Liason Joan H.  
Delegate-at-Large Rich A.



# A Very AA Christmas Story!

(Continued from page 1)

months to two months. In New York, Bill W. had thirteen months since his last drink, seven months since his historic trip to Akron and the start of AA.

In Akron, the six gathered with their families at Dr. Bob's. There was no ceremony ... no exchange of presents.

The Twelve Steps had not yet been written. The Big Book was only a vague stirring that would not even be in manuscript until three more Christmases had passed.

But there was joy that this most dangerous of times for the alcoholic had arrived ... and the concept of living one day at a time was proving to be very effective.

"There was thanks," remembers one of the two who celebrated that first Akron Christmas, "that we had come this far. However, I am certain that there was still considerable fear and trembling ... not fear that this new way would not work, but doubt and uncertainty that we would be able to hold on to it."

Bill W. recalls only a quiet day in New York that Yule of 1935, where there were very few involved. Five years later, there was a

place in New York for an AA Christmas party ... the first AA clubhouse. And about the 24th Street Club there hangs a real Santa Claus story!

Or rather, it is a Saint Nicholas story. Just one hundred years before, in 1840, that very building was erected at Number 334 1/2 West 24th Street ... the property of a family named Moore, large landowners in Manhattan Island's Chelsea section. And driving across the snow-covered lawn, Dr. Clement Clarke Moore began to compose (some say just as his sled runners touched what is now the meeting room of AA's first clubhouse!) his immortal gift to children of all ages ... " 'Twas the night before Christmas."

## ADDRESSES FOR GROUP DONATIONS

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

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

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

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

## ST. LUCIE INTERGROUP 27th ANNUAL Volunteer Recognition Buffet Saturday, January 26, 2018 Saint Andrew Lutheran Church 295 NW Prima Vista Blvd. in Port St. Lucie

### Featuring

Roast Pork  
Lemon Chicken  
Baked Ziti  
Veggies, Spuds  
and Salads

Please bring a dessert  
to share

Doors open at 5

Dinner at 6

Speaker at 7 p.m.

Sobriety Countdown,  
50/50 And Raffles

Tickets \$15

Call (772) 873-9299

Or Purchase at the door

If willing, please bring  
AA Conference-  
Approved Literature for  
raffle prizes



# 2018 Group Contributions thru October 31

GROUP	Group #	October	YTD	GROUP	Group #	October	YTD
A Desire To Stop GP		25.00	146.00	Lunch Bunch PSL	169623	50.00	400.00
AA Promises GP	671816	0.00	0.00	Men's Sobriety Group	172529	0.00	250.00
Alternate MC Beginners AA GP	645696	0.00	0.00	Midday Matinee	172992	0.00	0.00
Back To Basics	617295	0.00	348.00	New Hope Group	163611	100.00	300.00
Bayside GP	134955	0.00	0.00	New Windmill Point	148626	0.00	0.00
Begin Where You Are	666125	0.00	234.00	Okeechobee Discussion		0.00	0.00
Better By The Beach	688860	159.80	690.70	Okeechobee Night Group	103633	500.00	960.00
Better Understanding	670079	0.00	0.00	Okeechobee Noon Group	147217	30.00	330.00
Bleeding Deacons	710958	0.00	0.00	Okeechobee Sobriety Group	643907	0.00	0.00
Easy Does It	149241	0.00	0.00	Okeechobee Women's Group		0.00	0.00
Emotional Sobriety Group		0.00	0.00	Primary Purpose Welcome Home	141056	0.00	250.00
Ensollielle (French, seasonal)	681471	0.00	100.00	Primary Purpose Bayshore	679364	215.00	315.00
Eye Opener	169889	50.00	800.00	PSL AA Tues. Nite Group	103698	0.00	300.00
First Things First	697413	58.00	764.50	PSL Sat. AM Men's Group	606637	2.00	1100.00
Friday Night Men's	604208	103.00	300.00	Reach Out Group	714201	25.00	10.00
Friendship Group	103470	0.00	223.50	Sisters of Sobriety	700856	0.00	0.00
From Darkness To Light		0.00	0.00	Step Into Action	696779	30.00	186.00
Guys In Recovery	655112	0.00	100.00	Step Sisters	683996	75.00	289.00
Good Guys North	678914	0.00	45.00	Sun Rise 11th Step		0.00	0.00
Grupo Renacer Hispano FP (Spanish)		0.00	0.00	Talking Feathers		25.00	98.00
Grupo Serendad PSL (Spanish)		0.00	0.00	The Devine Appointment		0.00	0.00
Happy Hour Living Sober	653464	0.00	683.00	The Steps We Took		0.00	0.00
Heard it thru Grapevine GP	662713	100.00	180.00	Tough Love Group	721766	0.00	0.00
Helping Hands Group	654010	0.00	140.00	Two Alternatives		0.00	0.00
Higher Power Sunday	679339	0.00	300.00	Wake-Up Group		0.00	0.00
Just For Today	168564	80.00	160.00	Warriors		0.00	340.00
Keep It Simple— Okeechobee	643906	0.00	0.00	Watch your Steps	645676	0.00	125.00
KISS	127410	0.00	750.00	We Stopped in Time	669606	0.00	105.00
Lakewood Park	177727	40.00	400.00	Westside Group Ft Pierce	125608	0.00	50.00
Last Call	151221	0.00	0.00	Wolff Road Group Okeechobee	703404	0.00	50.00
Late Risers	681809	200.00	650.00	Women Stepping Up	157843	75.00	2250.00
Lunch Box Ft. Pierce		0.00	0.00	Women's New Beginnings	611306	0.00	0.00
				<b>TOTAL AA GP Contributions</b>		<b>2010.80</b>	<b>12787.74</b>

**This is not intended to direct AA members to specific meetings; please refer to our Where & When for area meeting places, types and times. If your group's number is not shown here, please contact the Intergroup Office so we may correct it. Thank you.**

**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."**



**Living on a Spiritual Plane**

**South Florida Area 15  
General Service Assembly  
JAN 11-13, 2019  
www.area15aa.org**

Hosted by Districts 1 and 15

Registration Friday 4:00 PM - 8:30 PM, Saturday 8:00 AM - 8:30 PM, Sunday 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

**Friday Jan. 11**

8:30-9:30pm **Speaker Meeting\*\*\***  
10:00-11:00pm **Night Owl Meeting**  
10:00-11:00pm **Spanish Night Owl Meeting**

**Saturday Jan. 12**

7:00-8:00am **Early Bird Meeting**  
7:00-8:00am **Spanish Early Bird Meeting**  
8:00-9:00am **Concepts Workshop**  
8:00-9:00am **Spanish Concepts Workshop**  
8:30-10:50am **Treatment Facilities Committee**  
9:00-10:50am **Remote Communities Committee**  
9:00-10:50am **State Convention Committee**  
9:00-10:50am **Archives Committee**  
9:00-10:50am **Current Practices Committee**  
9:00-10:50am **Grapevine/La Viña Committee\***  
9:00-10:50am **Literature Committee**  
9:00-10:50am **PI/CPC Committee**  
9:00-10:50am **Accessibilities Committee\*\***  
11:00-12:30pm **Spanish Linguistic Committee**  
11:00-12:00pm **Traditions Workshop**  
12:00-1:30pm **Website Committee**

**Saturday Jan. 12**

12:30-1:30pm **District Chairpersons Meeting**  
12:30-1:30pm **District Treasurers Meeting**  
12:30-1:30pm **District Secretaries/Registrars**  
1:00-1:50pm **Spanish Traditions Workshop**  
1:30-3:50pm **Corrections Committee**  
2:00-3:50pm **Finance Committee**  
2:00-3:50pm **Intergroup/Central Office**  
2:00-3:50pm **GSR Sharing**  
2:00-3:50pm **DCM Sharing**  
2:00-3:50pm **Quarterly Coordinators Meeting**  
4:00-5:00pm **Service Manual Workshop\***  
5:00-6:00pm **"What's On Your Mind?"**  
7:00-8:30pm **Banquet**  
8:30-9:30pm **Speaker Meeting\*\*\***  
10:00-11:00pm **Night Owl Meeting**  
10:00-11:00pm **Spanish Night Owl Meeting**

**Sunday Jan. 13**

7:00-8:00am **Early Bird Meeting**  
7:00-8:00am **Spanish Early Bird Meeting**  
9:00am **South FL Area 15 Business Meeting\*\*\***

\*Spanish Language Interpreter provided; \*\* ASL Interpreter Provided (if requested); \*\*\*ASL (if requested) and Spanish Language Interpreter Provided. Arrangements for Accessibilities accommodations at any meeting, workshop, hotel room with wheelchair access or needs a ASL interpreter for the Sunday morning business meeting can be made by contacting the Area Accessibilities Chair at [accessibilities@area15aa.org](mailto:accessibilities@area15aa.org) by 12/31/18.

**SATURDAY BANQUET**

No. of Citrus Chicken \_\_\_\_\_  
No. of Meat Lasagna \_\_\_\_\_  
No. of Vegetarian/Vegan \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Tickets at \$45 each \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_

Guests with special dietary needs  
(state needs): \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENTS DUE BY: Jan 1, 2019**  
Make checks payable to:  
District 1 General Service  
7356 118<sup>th</sup> Terrace  
Largo, FL 33773-3246

**Marriott Tampa Airport**

4200 George J. Bean Parkway, Tampa, Florida 33607

Hotel Room Reservations: 800-

228-9290 or (813) 879-5151

Room Rate: \$129.00 per night, Parking \$6.00

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS OPEN ON MONDAY,**

**OCTOBER 8, 2018 AT NOON AND MUST BE RECEIVED BY**

**DECEMBER 10, 2018**

**REFERENCE: "SFPSFA"**

For hotel room cancellations OR to be placed on  
a hotel room wait list, please contact: Quarterly  
Hotel Liaison, at: [hotelinfo@area15aa.org](mailto:hotelinfo@area15aa.org)

Directions from South: Take I-275 North to Exit 39 for FL-60 West  
toward FL-589 Clearwater/Tampa Airport,  
Keep right and continue on George J. Bean Pkwy,  
follow signs to Marriott Tampa Airport.

**QUESTIONS?** Please contact David G., Quarterly  
Assembly Chair, at [districtonechair@gmail.com](mailto:districtonechair@gmail.com) : or  
Quarterly Hotel Liaison Shelby B., at:  
[hotelinfo@area15aa.org](mailto:hotelinfo@area15aa.org) or 727-809-0098

# *On the Twelfth Step ...*

## The Twelfth Step ...

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

## The Twelfth Tradition Checklist ...

1. Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to *me* if AA as a whole disappeared?
2. When I do not trust AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
3. In my opinions of and remarks about other AAs, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?
4. Do I ever try to get a certain AA group to conform to *my* standards, not its own?
5. Have I a personal responsibility in helping an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is *my* part?
6. Does my personal behavior reflect the Sixth Tradition—or belie it?
7. Do I do all I can do to support AA financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a Grapevine subscription?
8. Do I complain about certain AAs' behavior—especially if they are paid to work for AA? Who made *me* so smart?
9. Do I fulfill all AA responsibilities in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really?
10. Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give AA critics real ammunition?
11. Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of AA so attractive that other drunks want it?
12. What is the real importance of *me* among more than a million AAs?

# *On the Twelfth Step ...*

## The Twelfth Step Principle...

The principles behind the 12th step are Charity and Love

## Tradition Twelve...

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

# ***A TWELFTH-STEP PRAYER***

Dear God, My spiritual awakening continues to unfold. The help I have received I shall pass on and give to others, both in and out of the fellowship. For this opportunity I am grateful. I pray most humbly to continue walking day by day on the road of spiritual progress. I pray for inner strength and wisdom to practice the principles of this way of life in all I do and say. I need You, my friends, and the Program every hour of every day. I give thanks for all I am thus offered.

**Amen.**