

# ST. LUCIE INTERGROUP

27th ANNUAL

## Volunteer Recognition Buffet

Saturday, January 26, 2019

### Featuring

Roast Pork

Lemon Chicken

Baked Ziti

Veggies, Spuds



Doors open at 5  
Dinner at 6  
Speaker at 7 p.m.  
Sobriety  
Countdown,  
50/50

Tickets \$15

Call (772) 873-9299

Or Purchase  
at the door

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





## The 1st Step...

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



# *Happy New Way of Life!!!*



## *A Non-Contemptuous Look At a Favorite AA Slogan*

The quote attributed to Herbert Spencer, "Contempt prior to investigation", found in Appendix II *Spiritual Experience* in our Big Book, is arguably one of the most beloved and oft repeated lines of the book.

Yet there is some controversy and drama behind this famous reference. What is the work of an obscure 19th-century British philosopher doing in Alcoholics Anonymous?

The Big Book was written by a group of Americans, including Bill Wilson and other early members of AA (many relatively uneducated), and was published in 1938. The Spencer quotation is one of the few references to outside thinkers in the entire book. How did it get there?

It first appeared in the First Edition of the Big Book, as the introduction to the story by Ray C. (Ray Campbell) an artist who got sober through AA in 1938 and who was responsible for designing the first cover of Alcoholics Anonymous. He wrote the story "An Artist's Concept."

Probably 12-stepped by Bill Wilson himself, Camp-

bell relates that the next day he met 20 men who were staying sober in AA. Campbell, who had rejected religion as a cure for his drinking problem, was deeply moved by the group. "It was not so much what these men told me in regard to their experiences that was impressive as it was a sense or feeling that an invisible influence was at work," he wrote. Campbell's story was dropped from the second edition of the Big Book, but Bill Wilson salvaged the epigraph as an afterword to the new Appendix II.

Since 1939, over twenty million copies of Alcoholics Anonymous have been printed and, with each copy, another copy of this quotation attributed to Herbert Spencer. The quotation has since been used by a variety of authors. A variation has even appeared in one dictionary of quotations. On the Internet, new variations multiply and mutate. By now, the quotation is famous and has made the nearly forgotten Herbert Spencer famous in the 21st century for saying it.

But Herbert Spencer never wrote or said anything resembling this quotation.

*(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

## 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 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)



# A Non-Contemptuous Look At a Favorite AA Slogan

(Continued from page 1)

It is derived from a Christian apologetic work by the 18th century British theologian William Paley. The variations of wording that have come down through the past two centuries only bear a skeletal resemblance to Paley's original meaning and form.

In *A View of the Evidences of Christianity* (1794), William Paley wrote: "*The infidelity of the Gentile world, and that more especially of men of rank and learning in it, is resolved into a principle which, in my judgment, will account for the inefficacy of any argument, or any evidence whatever, viz.*

*contempt prior to examination.*"

In this context, Paley was trying to give reasons why the Christian faith was rejected by the ancient Greeks and Romans. He was trying to boil down the cause of their non-belief to a single principle.

Eighty-five years later, a Canadian named Rev. William H. Poole argued that the Anglo-Saxon race is actually descended from the ten lost tribes of Israel. On the title page of *Anglo-Israel or, The British Nation: The Lost Tribes of Israel* (1879), Poole attributes the following to Dr. Paley: "There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all argument, and which cannot fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance. This principle is, contempt prior to examination".

It may be impossible to trace a clear and contiguous lineage for this quotation. However, it is possible to identify recurring themes in the sources which use it. Appendix II is a redefinition of spiritual experiences as they are mentioned in the first phrase of AA's Twelfth Step: "Having had 'a spiritual awakening.' "

Concerned that others might think an experience like his own—a lightning flash and a stentorian voice from above—was a necessary entry to sobriety, Bill Wilson explained in Appendix II that spiritual experiences can

"develop over time." In fact, Bill wrote, anyone who is honest, willing and open to the idea of recovery has already had a kind of spiritual experience.

Contempt prior to investigation, he implies, is the only barrier to spiritual recovery. In fact, contempt prior to investigation is as much a symptom of alcoholism as cirrhosis of the liver, lying to your doctor or hiding the vodka bottle.

Who really came up with the phrase "contempt before investigation" and how it ended up in Appendix II in *Alcoholics Anonymous* may not matter much to anyone's actual recovery. Alcoholics love to scoff—at rules and regulations, at religion and God—until suddenly their lives are saved in spite of their scoffing. The quotation may be misattributed and mangled, but it still jumps off the page for anyone who thinks like an alcoholic. You read it. You see yourself. You know you are in the right place.

Interesting side note: William Spencer is credited with designing the precursor to the modern paperclip. He designed a wire contraption, more similar to a clothespin than a paperclip, for the purpose of securing his numerous documents. His design was gradually improved upon and has become one of the most ubiquitous of office supplies.

*Submitted with love in sobriety by Bob S.*

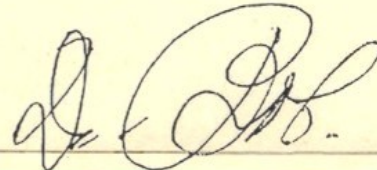
## ADDRESSES FOR GROUP DONATIONS

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

R. H. SMITH, M. D.	
2ND NATIONAL BLDG.	AKRON, OHIO
TELEPHONE: HE-8523	REG. NO. _____
FOR <u>alcoholics</u>	
ADDRESS _____	DATE <u>Feb 1937</u>
<u>always remember it</u>	
1. Trust God 2. Clean house 3. Help others	
	
M. D.	

NR	1	2	3	INF.
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# 2018 Group Contributions thru November 30

GROUP	Group #	November	YTD	GROUP	Group #	November	YTD
11th Step Candlelight PSL		0.00	0.00	Lunch Bunch PSL	169623	0.00	400.00
2 Alternative Bayshore			175.00	Men's Sobriety Group	172529	100.00	350.00
A Desire To Stop GP		0.00	146.00	Midday Matinee	172992	0.00	0.00
AA Promises GP	671816	0.00	0.00	New Hope Group	163611	0.00	300.00
Alternate MC Beginners AA GP	645696	0.00	0.00	New Windmill Point	148626	0.00	0.00
Back To Basics	617295	118.00	466.00	Okeechobee Discussion		0.00	0.00
Bayside GP	134955	0.00	0.00	Okeechobee Night Group	103633	0.00	960.00
Begin Where You Are	666125	0.00	234.00	Okeechobee Noon Group	147217	0.00	330.00
Better By The Beach	688860	0.00	690.70	Okeechobee Sobriety Group	643907	0.00	0.00
Better Understanding	670079	0.00	0.00	Okeechobee Women's Group		0.00	0.00
Bleeding Deacons	710958	0.00	0.00	Primary Purpose Welcome Home	141056	0.00	250.00
Easy Does It	149241	0.00	0.00	Primary Purpose Bayshore	679364	0.00	315.00
Emotional Sobriety Group		0.00	0.00	PSL AA Tues. Nite Group	103698	40.00	340.00
Ensollielle (French, seasonal)	681471	0.00	100.00	PSL Sat. AM Men's Group	606637	330.00	1430.00
Eye Opener	169889	50.00	850.04	Reach Out Group	714201	25.00	255.00
First Things First	697413	0.00	766.50	Sisters of Sobriety	700856	0.00	0.00
Friday Night Men's	604208	0.00	300.00	Step Into Action	696779	0.00	186.00
Friendship Group	103470	40.00	263.50	Step Sisters	683996	0.00	289.00
From Darkness To Light		0.00	0.00	Sun Rise 11th Step		0.00	0.00
Gays In Recovery	655112	0.00	100.00	Talking Feathers		0.00	98.00
Good Guys North	678914	0.00	45.00	The Devine Appointment		0.00	0.00
Grupo Renacer Hispano FP (Spanish)		0.00	0.00	The Steps We Took		0.00	0.00
Grupo Serendad PSL (Spanish)		0.00	0.00	Tough Love Group	721766	0.00	0.00
Happy Hour Living Sober	653464	0.00	683.00	Two Alternatives		0.00	0.00
Helping Hands Group	654010	0.00	140.00	Wake-Up Group		0.00	0.00
Higher Power Sunday	679339	0.00	300.00	Warriors		50.00	340.00
Just For Today	168564	80.00	160.00	Watch your Steps	645676	0.00	125.00
Keep It Simple— Okeechobee	643906	0.00	0.00	We Stopped in Time	669606	0.00	105.00
KISS	127410	0.00	750.00	Westside Group Ft Pierce	125608	0.00	50.00
Lakewood Park	177727	40.00	440.00	Wolff Road Group Okeechobee	703404	0.00	50.00
Last Call	151221	0.00	0.00	Women Stepping Up	157843	0.00	225.00
Late Risers	681809	0.00	650.00	Women's New Beginnings	611306	0.00	0.00
Lunch Box Ft. Pierce		0.00	0.00				
<b>TOTAL AA GP Contributions</b>				<b>743.00 13705.74</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."**

AA Public Information now has a YouTube Channel. Find it at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2nfvf9DeDA7QYvLeq4pQ-w>

**Alcoholics Anonymous**®



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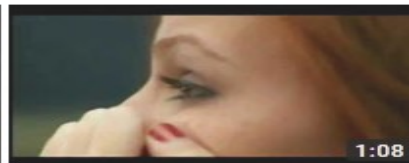
**AA Public Service Announcements - English** [PLAY ALL](#)

Alcoholics Anonymous Public Service Announcements (PSAs)



**Doors**

Alcoholics Anonymous World ...  
585 views • 3 months ago



**My World**

Alcoholics Anonymous World ...  
338 views • 3 months ago



**I have Hope**

Alcoholics Anonymous World ...  
260 views • 3 months ago

Subscribe to *In Gratitude* newsletter at: [www.aastlucieintergroup.com](http://www.aastlucieintergroup.com)

## St Lucie Intergroup

*AA Meetings, Literature and AA Links for St Lucie County*



[Home](#) [Links to AA Sites](#)

[Home](#)

### Welcome to St Lucie Intergroup

883 E. Prima Vista Blvd, Port St Lucie, FL 34952

(LOCATED IN THE PORT ST LUCIE PLAZA)

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm

24 Hour Hotline (772) 873-9299

Email us at [stlucieintergroup@att.net](mailto:stlucieintergroup@att.net)

Intergroup Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each Month at the E. Prima Vista Office  
@7:00PM

#### Pages

- [Links to AA Sites](#)
- [Welcome to St Lucie Intergroup](#)

#### Subscribe to our newsletter

Email Address (Required)

First Name

Last Name

# *On the First Step ...*

## The First Step...

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

### **Bill W. on Tradition One, 1947**

©Grapevine, December 1947, reprinted with permission

Our whole AA program is securely founded on the principle of humility that is to say, perspective. Which implies, among other things, that we relate ourselves rightly to God and to our fellows; that we each see ourselves as we really are -- "a small part of a great whole". Seeing our fellows thus, we shall enjoy group harmony. That is why AA Tradition can confidently state, "Our common welfare comes first."

"Does this mean," some will ask, "that in AA the individual doesn't count too much? Is he to be swallowed up, dominated by the group?"

No, it doesn't seem to work out that way. Perhaps there is no society on earth more solicitous of personal welfare, more careful to grant the individual the greatest possible liberty of belief and action. Alcoholics Anonymous has no "musts." Few AA groups impose penalties on anyone for nonconformity. We do suggest, but we don't discipline. Instead, compliance or noncompliance with any principle of AA is a matter for the conscience of the individual; he is the judge of his own conduct. Those words of old time, "judge not," we observe most literally.

"But," some of us argue, "if AA has no authority to govern its individual members or groups, how shall it ever be sure that the common welfare does come first? How is it possible to be governed without a government? If everyone can do as he pleases, how can you have aught but anarchy?"

The answer seems to be that we AA's cannot really do as we please, though there is no constituted human authority to restrain us. Actually, our common welfare is protected by powerful safeguards. The moment any action seriously threatens the common welfare, group opinion mobilizes to remind us; our conscience begins to complain. If one persists, he may become so disturbed as to get drunk; alcohol gives him a beating. Group opinion shows him that he is off the beam, his own conscience tells him that he is dead wrong, and, if he goes too far, Barleycorn brings him real conviction.

So it is we learn that in matters deeply affecting the group as a whole, "our common welfare comes first." Rebellion ceases and cooperation begins because it must; we have disciplined ourselves.

Eventually, of course, we cooperate because we really wish to; we see that without AA there can be little lasting recovery for anyone. We gladly set aside personal ambitions whenever these might harm AA. We humbly confess that we are but "a small part of a great whole."



# *On the First Step ...*

## **The First Step Principle...**

The principle behind the First Step is Acceptance.

## **Tradition One...**

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on AA unity.

## **The First Tradition Checklist ...**

1. Am I in my group a healing, mending, integrating person, or am I divisive? What about gossip taking other members' inventories?
2. Am I a peacemaker? Or do I, with pious preludes such as "just for the sake of discussion," plunge into argument?
3. Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I abrasive?
4. Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting AA in one place with AA in another?
5. Do I put down some AA activities as if I were superior for not participating in this or that aspect of AA?
6. Am I informed about AA as a whole? Do I support, in every way I can, AA as a whole, or just the parts I understand and approve of?
7. Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?
8. Do I spout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behavior that bristles with hostility?
9. Do I go to enough AA meetings or read enough AA literature to really keep in touch?
10. Do I share with AA all of me, the bad and the good, accepting as well as giving the help of fellowship?