



# SOUTH FLORIDA AREA 15 GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY “Our Great Responsibility”

Hosted by District 8 | Palm Beach County, Florida | April 3-5, 2020  
Registration Friday 4:00 PM - 8:30 PM, Saturday 8:00 AM - 8:30 PM, Sunday 7:00-9:00 AM

## Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

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

## Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>

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 Vina Committee*
9:00-10:50am	Literature Committee
9:00-10:50am	PI/CPC Committee
9:00-10:50am	Accessibilities Committee**
9:00-10:50am	Spanish Linguistic Committee
11:00-12:30pm	Traditions Workshop
11:00-12:00pm	Website Committee

## Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> (continued)

12:30-1:30pm	District Chairpersons Meeting
12:30-1:30pm	District Treasurers Meeting
12:30-1:30pm	District Secretaries/Registrars Meeting
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 Meeting
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, April 5<sup>th</sup>

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

\*Spanish Language Interpreter provided; \*\* ASL Interpreter Provided (if requested); \*\*\*ASL (if requested) & Spanish Language Interpreter Provided.  
Arrangements for Accessibilities accommodations at any meeting, workshop, hotel room with wheelchair access or interpreter for the hearing impaired for the Sunday morning business meeting can be made by contacting the Area Accessibilities Chair at [accessibilities@area15aa.org](mailto:accessibilities@area15aa.org) by 3/27/20.



### SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET

No. of Blackened Mahi Mahi	_____
No. of Sirloin Steak with Chimichurri Sauce	_____
No. of Vegan (Roasted Pepper Ragu)	_____

Total Tickets @ \$48 each	_____
Total Amount Enclosed	_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
District \_\_\_\_\_  
Guests with Special Dietary Needs (state needs): \_\_\_\_\_

Payments due upon order receipt.

**Make checks payable to:** District 8 – note “banquet” on check

**Mail order in (with coupon) to:** General Service District 8, Attention:  
Treasurer, PO Box 13, West Palm Beach, FL 33402

### Boca Raton Marriott at Boca Center

5150 Town Center Circle, Boca Raton, FL 33486

#### Hotel Room Reservations:

**Book your group rate for South Florida General Service**

**Conference April 2019**

(561) 392-4600

Room Rate: \$159.00 per night + tax; Parking is free

**Reference: “South Florida General Service Conference”**

HOTEL RESERVATIONS OPEN ON JANUARY 6, 2020 at 9AM  
AND MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 6, 2020

From I-95, exit Palmetto Park Road (exit 44) go west.

Turn right (North) at Military Trail.

Turn right at Town Center Circle & follow road to hotel entrance.

#### QUESTIONS?

**Please contact the Quarterly Assembly Chair at**  
**[altchair@district8area15.org](mailto:altchair@district8area15.org)**

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



## The 2nd Step ...

Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.



### *Why did Bill W. replace the original 6 Step program with the 12 Step program?*

The book *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* (AACA), authored by Bill W, provides some answers on the origins of the 12 Steps. ( pages 159-162).

By early 1938 some of the fellowship felt the need for a book and the decision was made to produce one. Bill was to be the author of the book and by the fall of 1938 Bill had completed writing four chapters with the titles "Bill's Story" "There is a Solution" "More About Alcoholism" and "We Agnostics." In *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, on page 159, Bill says:

"It was now realized that we had enough background and window-dressing material and that at this point we would have to tell how our program for recovery from alcoholism really worked. The backbone of the book would have to be fitted in right here."

On pages 160-161 of AACA, Bill describes how he wrote the 12 Steps. Bill says that on one afternoon in fall 1938:

"I lay in bed at 182 Clinton Street with pencil

in hand and with a tablet of scratch paper on my knee. I could not get my mind on the job, much less put my heart into it. But here was one of those things that had to be done.

"Slowly my mind came into some kind of focus. Since Ebby's visit to me in the fall of 1934 we had gradually evolved what we called 'the word-of-mouth program.' Most of the basic ideas had come from the Oxford Groups, Williams James, and Dr. Silkworth. Though subject to considerable variation, it all boiled down into a pretty consistent procedure which comprised six steps." (See below for the six steps.)

Bill says that, after reflecting on these developments between the fall of 1934 and the fall of 1938, he decided he wanted to write more than 6 Steps and didn't really want to document the 6 step program that the fellowship was actually using at the time.

In AACA Bill says: "Finally I started to write. I set out to draft more than six steps; how many I did not know. I relaxed and asked for guid-

(Continued on page 3)

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.

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  
The next district meeting on  
will be in the Registration  
Building on the campus,  
upstairs in room W243.

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.**

..... the 1st Saturday of month 11:00 a.m.  
*Corrections Committee* ... the 2nd Saturday of month, 10:30 a.m.  
..... the 3rd Saturday of month, 10:30 a.m.  
PI/CPC..... the 4th Saturday of month 10:00 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 Shawn M.:  
[mickeyd729@yahoo.com](mailto:mickeyd729@yahoo.com)  
1-561-801-9093

**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)**



# Why Bill W. gave the Program 12 Steps

(Continued from page 3)

helping others in need, without the usual demands for personal prestige or material gain.

6. By meditation, he sought God's direction for his life and the help to practice these principles of conduct at all times.

The thing about the original 6 Step 'word of mouth' program is that it varied from person to person in the early fellowship. Each of the members had a slightly different personalized version that they used. Just like Bill says in AACA, there was "considerable variation" between the versions, but it was still "a pretty consistent procedure that comprised six steps." For example, here is a version of the 6 Steps from one of Bill's taped talks:

1. We admitted we were licked.
2. We got honest with ourselves.
3. We got honest with someone else.
4. We made amends for the harm we'd done.
5. We tried to help others with no thought of return.
6. We prayed to whatever God we thought there was for the power to take these actions.

Probably the most compelling reason Bill decided to expand on the six steps? Bill says on pages 162-164 of AACA that, in 1938-1939, when the 12 Step program of the Big Book was being written, there were three "camps of drunks". Bill describes them as:

*Conservatives:* "Akronites like Paul and Dick S. liked the new steps very much....Fritz M., the Episcopal minister's son from Maryland and the sec-

ond man to recover at Towns Hospital, made constant journeys to New York in order to reinforce the conservative position. Fitz thought that the book ought to be Christian in the doctrinal sense of the word and that it should say so. He was in favor of using Biblical terms and expression to make this clear. Another New York A.A., Paul K., was even more emphatic about this."

*Liberals:* "The liberals were the largest contingent and they had no objection to the use of the word 'God' throughout the book, but they were dead set against any other theological proposition. They would have nothing to do with doctrinal issues."

*Radicals:* "They wanted the word 'God' deleted from the book entirely....What Henry, Jimmy, and company wanted was a psychological book." Henry was Hank Parkhurst. Jimmy was Jim Burwell. Bill never specifies exactly who he meant by "and company" but it likely included Ray Wood and Howard A.

The ultimate salesman, and diplomat, Bill was able to navigate the three prevailing "Camps of Drunks" and provide a series of steps that could be agreed upon by all. History is still being played out in the lives of all of us who are currently following this path.

*With Love in Sobriety, Bob S.*



## Visit District 6 AA at St. Lucie County Fair

"Public Information committee is attending the 2020 St. Lucie county fair February 28th - March 8th. This is a 10 day event where we display AA literature, display AA websites, screen PSA's, and extend a hand to other community services. " — PC/CPCChair Erin G.

The District's info booth has participated in the Fair for several years now, attracting interest from and offering information to fair-goers visiting the Public Services Building.

# 2019 Group Contributions thru December 31

GROUP	Group #	DEC	YTD	GROUP	Group #	DEC	YTD
11th Step Candlelight PSL		0.00	0.00	Lunch Bunch PSL	169623	75.00	595.00
A Desire To Stop GP		0.00	25.00	Men's Sobriety Group Sun.AM	172529	0.00	280.00
Alternate MC Beginners AA GP	645696	0.00	0.00	Midday Matinee	172992	0.00	0.00
Back To Basics	617295	0.00	325.00	New Hope Group	163611	0.00	200.00
Bayside GP	134955	0.00	0.00	New Windmill Point	148626	0.00	0.00
Begin Where You Are	666125	0.00	300.00	Okeechobee Discussion		0.00	0.00
Better By The Beach	688860	0.00	619.20	Okeechobee Night Group	103633	0.00	0.00
Better Understanding	670079	0.00	0.00	Okeechobee Noon Group	147217	0.00	150.00
Easy Does It	149241	0.00	25.00	Okeechobee Sobriety Group	643907	0.00	0.00
Emotional Sobriety Group		0.00	0.00	Okeechobee Women's Group		0.00	25.00
Ensolielle (French, seasonal)	681471	0.00	50.00	Primary Purpose Welcome Home	141056	0.00	100.00
Eye Opener	169889	25.00	335.00	Primary Purpose Bayshore	679364	94.00	94.00
First Things First	697413	0.00	367.00	PSL AA Tues. Nite Group	103698	0.00	40.00
Friday Night Men's	604208	0.00	300.00	PSL Sat. AM Men's Group	606637	250.00	1200.00
Friendship Group	103470	0.00	105.50	Reach Out Group	714201	0.00	230.00
From Darkness To Light		0.00	0.00	Sisters of Sobriety	700856	0.00	15.85
Gays In Recovery	655112	0.00	25.00	Step Into Action	696779	0.00	120.00
Good Guys North	678914	25.00	75.00	Step Sisters	683996	0.00	122.50
Grupo Renacer Hispano FP (Spanish)		0.00	0.00	Talking Feathers	728541	57.00	177.00
Grupo Serendad PSL (Spanish)		0.00	0.00	There Is a Solution		0.00	0.00
Happy Hour Living Sober	653464	350.00	1125.00	Tough Love Group	721766	12.70	407.90
Heard It Thru the Grapevine	662713	0.00	50.00	Wake-Up Group Okeechobee		0.00	0.00
Helping Hands Group	654010	1.00	51.00	Warriors		0.00	1.00
Higher Power Sunday	679339	0.00	250.00	Watch your Steps	645676	0.00	205.00
Just For Today	168564	0.00	0.00	We Stopped in Time	669606	0.00	2.00
Keep It Simple— Okeechobee	643906	0.00	0.00	Westside Group Ft Pierce	125608	0.00	180.00
KISS	127410	100.00	400.00	Wolff Road Group Okeechobee	703404	0.00	0.00
Lakewood Park	177727	0.00	280.00	Women Stepping Up	157843	0.00	200.00
Last Call	151221	0.00	0.00	Women's New Beginnings	611306	0.00	50.00
Late Risers	681809	100.00	1000.00				
Lunch Box Ft. Pierce		0.00	0.00				
				<b>TOTAL AA GP Contributions</b>			
				<b>1064.70 10097.95</b>			

**This is not intended to direct AA members to specific meetings; please refer to our Where & When or the online Meeting Guise app for area meeting places, types and times. If your group's number is not shown here, please contact the Intergroup Office to 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."**

# Why Bill W. gave the Program 12 Steps

(Continued from page 1)

ance. With a speed that was astonishing, considering my jangling emotions, I completed the first draft. It took perhaps half an hour."

Bill seems to be claiming that it was divine inspiration (i.e. "guidance" in the Oxford Groups practices of the time was listening for God's voice) that led him to write the 12 Step program.

Bill says: "When I reached a stopping point, I numbered the new steps. They added up to twelve. Somehow this

number seemed significant. Without any special rhyme or reason I connected them with the twelve apostles."

Surprise, surprise. 12 steps, 12 apostles. I think a point can be made that Bill was intentionally looking for the religious symbolism of the number 12 when he decided on writing a new 12 Step program, instead of documenting the original 6 Step program that the two fellowship groups in New York and Akron were actually using between 1934 and 1939.

Bill intentionally cultivated and promoted the idea that the 12 Steps were divinely inspired by God's "guidance" to Bill on that fall day in 1938.

Another factor at play in the time period of 1938 and 1939 is that the early members did not understand alcoholism (addiction to alcohol) and what was really keeping them sober.

Jim Burwell wrote: "You see the real idea was that all you had to have was a spiritual experience. Get down on your knees, understand your problem, and no more booze. We had no more idea in the world, I give you my word on

this, in '38, that the reason we were staying sober was that we were holding on to each other ... We began to see that only those going to meetings were staying sober." (James Burwell, AA pioneer, author of "The Vicious Cycle" Alcoholics Anonymous -- Second Edition).

Ebby T. was Bill W.'s sponsor. Ebby applied a version of the six steps to his own life and transmitted them to Bill in 1934. In the pamphlet *Three Talks to Medical Societies*, Bill describes the 6 Step program Ebby Thatcher used:

1. Ebby admitted that he was powerless to manage his own life.
2. He became honest with himself as never before; made an 'examination of conscience.'
3. He made a rigorous confession of his personal defects and thus quit living alone with his problems.
4. He surveyed his distorted relations with other people, visiting them to make what amends he could.
5. He resolved to devote himself to

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## ADDRESSES FOR GROUP DONATIONS

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

South Florida Area 15  
Treasurer  
PO Box 1784  
Pompano Beach Fl 33061

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

## Help us share information to make Alcoholics Anonymous accessible to all who reach for the hand of AA

GSRs, DCMs and District Committee Chairs and Members: If you are aware of AA members who are using online resources to overcome hearing, sight, movement, distance, language or other challenges to accessing The Hand of Alcoholics Anonymous or are seeking such resources, please have them e-mail useful links to our St. Lucie Intergroup Webmaster at [stlucieintergroup@att.net](mailto:stlucieintergroup@att.net). We are attempting to create a link page on our Intergroup website as a resource for enabling access for all.

## *On the Second Step ...*

### The Second Step ...

Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves  
could restore us to sanity.

## *A SECOND STEP PRAYER*

*Heavenly Father, I am having trouble with personal relationships. I can't control my emotional nature. I am prey to misery and depression. I can't make a living. I feel useless. I am full of fear. I am unhappy. I can't seem to be of real help to*



*others. I know in my heart that only you can restore me to sanity if I am just willing to stop doubting your power. I humbly ask that you help me to understand that it is more powerful to believe than not to believe and that you are either everything or nothing. AMEN*

## *On the Second Step ...*

### The Second Tradition ...

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.

Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

### The Second Step Principle...

The principle behind the Second Step is COURAGE

### The Second Tradition Checklist ...

1. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?
2. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibility?
3. Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?
4. Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group
5. Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?
6. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?