WHAT IS THE A.A. MEANING OF SOBER?
The Man-on-the-Street-Speak: May define the word “sober” as: “clear-headed with normal emotions and logical thinking,” e.g.: A jaywalker who jumps in front of traffic would not be considered sober—he would not be sober-minded!
AA-Speak: If an AA member had not ingested an alcoholic drink in fifteen years, they would qualify for a fifteen-year sobriety token. This would apply to schizophrenics, manic depressives, bi-polar personalities, jaywalkers, and even Lizzie Borden!
Consequently, I have learned to differentiate between whether the person I am listening to is doing “Man-on-the-Street” talk or speaking the language of Alcoholics Anonymous.
For instance, suppose someone, at your next AA meeting, concludes that member X cannot come to logical conclusions, lives in great fear, fury and confusion. Therefore, he or she is not sober.
Question—Is this, Man-on-the-street-speak? . . . or AA-speak? You’re right! This is “Man-On-the-Street-speak!”
It isn’t that one of these statements are right and the other is wrong, it’s just to whom you are listening!
This also applies to other Big Book words such as “recovered.” This makes for an interesting study as you listen around the A.A. tables.

WHAT IS THE A.A. MEANING OF RECOVERED?
The Man-on-the-Street-Speak: Often believes the word “recovered” means, as defined from a dictionary, as: “A return to a normal state of health, mind, or strength.” Or “To get back on one’s feet.” Consequently, comes the false notion that if one becomes “recovered” they could once again drink like a normal person. An oft-heard statement: “If I thought I was recovered, I might go back to drinking.” This notion is often followed, from a Non-Big-Book alcoholic, by a lecture on the danger of using that word at A.A. meetings.

Willingness Goes a Long Way

Step 8 requires a willingness to reflect on your past and be honest about your part in hurting others or in strained relationships. Perhaps you’ve hurt your parents, your spouse, friends, a neighbor, a co-worker, and so on. Maybe your drinking landed you in some deep depression and anger that made you difficult to live with.

When I was knee deep in my addiction, I wasn’t there for my children like I could have been, and I hurt my partner over and over. I knew apologizing wouldn’t be easy, but I was willing to do my part in making amends.

Step 8 prepares us for Step 9, where we actually make amends when possible. As daunting as that may sound, rest assured that you’ll not be asked to do anything that would further hurt another person or yourself. Trust in the process; it works!

Dominica A.
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**WHAT IS THE A.A. MEANING OF RECOVERED?**
(Cont. from page 1)
A.A. Speak: Members who have studied the Big Book understand the implication of the page 85 statement, “The problem has been removed. It does not exist for us” they would understand the physical allergy (Phenomenon of craving after a shot of whisky) will never be removed. If this is true then one may ask, well, if the physical allergy still exists, then what does the Big Book mean by “recovered?” Does it mean anything?
Answer: It means that the once powerful mental obsession to drink has diminished greatly, or perhaps, as one recovered alcoholic expressed: “To drink is no longer in my emotional vocabulary.”
What a wonderful freedom for an alcoholic! Please read how an alcoholic (Fitz Mayo) couldn’t drink even if he would (pp. 56-57). Our co-founder, Dr. Bob, had thoughts of drinking for over two years, yet never yielded.
One might ask whether his great miracle will happen automatically? Well, recovered is only a conditional state of mind, of which, can rapidly disappear. Page 85 tells us: “This is how we react so long as we keep in fit spiritual condition.” I knew there would be a trick to it!
Bob S.

**MIA-MI-DADE INTERGROUP**
Would like to give our thanks to........
Penny G. and Lee A. for their amazing 2 year of service as part of our Steering Committee.
We also would like to thank Manuel N. for having served as our Secretary for that period of time and done an amazing job.
We are happy to announce our new members for our Steering Committee.
Chris W. from the Something Happens Group and Manuel N. from the Brickell Circle Group.
And as our new Secretary we would like to welcome Lee A. from the South Dade Group.

**Introducing Grapevine’s New Books**
- AA In The Military
- Frente a Frente
One on One (Sponsorship book) translated into Spanish
www.aagrapevine.org/store
Years before I came to Alcoholics Anonymous I was aware that there was something dreadfully wrong with me but not one person ever suggested that I might be an alcoholic or that I should try A.A. Perhaps that was due to the denial of the people around me that drank like I did. Suggesting that I had a problem with alcohol would mean outing themselves and others. Looking back on it now, I feel fortunate that I survived those last few years of failed attempts at life and when I ran out of options I came to A.A. sincerely looking for answers. The denial within me was gone. My mind was open and for the first time in my life I was desperate and I was listening. At my first A.A. meeting I was moved by what I heard. It was different than anything I had experienced before. The people were being honest and candid about things that only brought shame and guilt to me in the past. I felt safe for the first time in my life and could discuss those things openly, that had been taboo up until then. Prior to that, everything in my life was a façade. At that moment On October 15, 1969, my perception of the world had changed and I have not wanted a drink since. Call it a Spiritual Awakening if you like, and it was for me, but it came in the form of a Profound Change in Perception. In appendices 2, in the Big Book, it describes a man who had "undergone a profound alteration in his reaction to life". I began to question all of the decisions I had made in the past, and how the residue of those decisions had tarnished and eroded any chance of a successful, happy life. I became aware that the values system that I had learned as a child, at church and at the Boy Scout meetings, etc. was lost in the dust, and was replaced with guilt and shame. I was in trouble when I violated my own value system. I now realize that, I wasn’t a bad kid but I was a kid that wasn’t strong enough to do the things I knew to be right. The more I broke the rules, the easier it became and moral standards were meaningless. Soon drinking was the only thing that eases my conscience. When that quit working for me, I found myself at the door of Alcoholics Anonymous. Once I had that change of perception I knew what to do. It may be as simple as "trying to stop doing the things that I regret" but the key to it all is “Being honest with myself”, and never going back to my old way of thinking. I said that I was fortunate to have survived those last few years of drinking and that I came to A.A. looking for answers. Being desperate enough to ask for help was the most important part of that experience. I don’t believe that anyone could have convinced me to stop drinking against my will. I may have stayed dry long enough to get the heat off, but I doubt that I would have sincerely surrendered to the degree necessary to have that change of perception and therefore no spiritual awakening. Getting off in the right direction from the start was very important to any success I’ve had in A.A. I know that I only live once and I don’t want to waste one moment of the precious life God gave me. Today, as I continue to practice the all of the things I’ve learned in A.A. it has resulted in a peace of mind that was unimaginable when I first walked through the doors of alcoholics anonymous and, for that, I am extremely grateful.
LA CUARTA DIMENSIÓN

Bill W. describe su derrota ante el alcohol de la siguiente manera:

-El día del Armisticio de 1934 incurrí en un nuevo desliz. Todos se resignaron entonces a la certidumbre de que tendría que ser confinado en algún sitio o seguir de traspiés en traspiés hasta el fin de mi misera jornada. ¡Que obscuro es todo antes de que amanezca! En realidad ese fue el comienzo de mi última calaverada. Muy pronto haría de sumergirme en lo que me complazco en llamar la cuarta dimensión de la existencia.

- Había de conocer la felicidad, la paz, y el goce de ser útil, acogiéndome a un modo de vida que a medida que pasa el tiempo, resulta más y más maravilloso.

OCTAVO PASO

HICIMOS UNA LISTA DE TODAS AQUELLAS PERSONAS QUENINES HABÍAMOS OFENDIDO Y ESTUVIMOS DISPUESTOS A REPARAR EL DAÑO QUE LES CAUSAMOS

OCTAVO PASO

HICIMOS UNA LISTA DE TODAS AQUELLAS PERSONAS QUENINES HABÍAMOS OFENDIDO Y ESTUVIMOS DISPUESTOS A REPARAR EL DAÑO QUE LES CAUSAMOS

Convención Internacional - Detroit, Michigan
Julio 2 al 5 de 2020

Para el otoño de 2019, se dispondrá de información sobre la inscripción para la Convención y reservaciones en hoteles. Se proporcionará la información necesaria en los paquetes de inscripción, que también estarán disponibles en otoño de 2019. El paquete incluirá una lista de números telefónicos a que llamar para informarse en concreto sobre el alojamiento, el programa, etc.

Se facilitará la información por correo postal a los grupos, oficinas y contactos de A.A. alrededor del mundo, así como por el sitio web.
Yes, I want to participate in the Faithful Fiver Club!
Contribution information: Date:_________________
Amount: ________________ Monthly: _____________ Quarterly: ___________ Annually: ___________
(Note: No A.A. member can contribute more than $3,000 per year)
I am a new Member: __________________ Current Member: __________________ Returning Member: ___________
PAYMENT PLAN
Check Enclosed: ______________ Credit Card: _____Visa _________ MC __________ Amex ___________ CVS: ____________
Card #: ______________-____________-____________-____________ Expiration date: __________/___________
Name on Card: __________________________________________ Address: _________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: ______________ Zip Code: _____________ Tel: (_______)_____________________
____________________Yes, I would like my name to be added in “The Messenger.” ! ______________________No, I would like to remain anonymous!

FAITHFUL FIVER FRIENDS are fellow A.A. members who contribute $5.00 a month to the Intergroup Office as an act of gratitude. Their generosity help us to carry the message of A.A. to the still sick and suffering alcoholics throughout the year! THANK YOU TO OUR FAITHFUL FIVER’S….Your contributions are very much appreciated.
Lee A. South Dade, Penny South Dade, Isabel South Dade, Adam M., Sal G. South Dade, Charles S. South Dade, Kandice South Dade

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

GS DISTRICT 10
Monthly Business Meeting
1st Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm at the CG Congregational Ch. 3010 De Soto Blvd., CG

GS DISTRICT 10
Grapevine Committee
Meetings at the Coral Room
1st Sunday of the month @ 2:00pm
1100 Ponce de Leon, CG 305.446.9558

GS District 10 PI/CPC
Last Saturday of the month Coral Room @ 3:00pm
1100 Ponce de Leon Blvd. 305.446.9558

GS DISTRICT 10
Literature Committee
1st Wednesday of the Month @ 7 pm at North Miami Group 822 NE 125th St. # 111 305.899.8040

GS DISTRICT 10
Corrections Committee
4th Thursday of the month @ 8:00pm at Sabal Palm Room 10102 SW 107th Ave. 305.274.74.34 corrections@district10miami.org

Miami Bid for FCYPAA
2nd Friday of the month @ 7:30pm at the So. Miami Treatment Center 6900 SW 80th St Miami, FL 33143

GS DISTRICT 10
Treatment Committee
2nd Saturday of the Month @ 2:00pm Sabal Palm Room 10120 SW 107th Ave. - 33176 305.274.7434

For more information go to www.district10miami.org
INTERGROUP CONTACT LIST
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Founder’s Day
OPEN POSITION
Intergroup Banquet
Lee, Raz, April

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Office

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NOTICES

Notices published in “The Messenger” are taken from information submitted to the Miami-Dade Intergroup Office. Information is based on what is current at the time of printing.

If your group discontinues a meeting or changes it’s schedule time, please notify Intergroup as soon as possible at (305) 461-2425.

Articles and opinions expressed herein not to be attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

Further endorsements, opposing views and rebuttals to articles published are also welcomed. Also, please tell us how we can improve.

Contributions to “THE MESSENGER” will be gratefully accepted. A sign up form is on the back cover.

E-mail the Editor at:
aamiamidade@bellsouth.net

Please make checks payable to:
MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP

TRADITION EIGHT
“Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.”
Do you want to know..... How can you help? How can you do service? Come to our next monthly meeting of Miami-Dade Intergroup which will be held on Thursday- September 12, 2018 @ 8:00pm Iglesia Metodista Unida- 133 Ponce de Leon - 33135 This is a great opportunity to do service!

For more info call: (305) 461-2425 For comments / suggestions e-mail us - Editor: jamc13@bellsouth.net or aamiamidade@bellsouth.net

MEETINGS IN RUSSIAN
Do you know any Russian-speaking friend, who has drinking problems?
Please invite them to our new 7pm Sunday Russian-speaking Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.
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Please note: When you mail in this form, feel free to add something you would like to share with the fellowship (a thought, a story, a joke or something you heard at a meeting.)

HELP US CARRY THE MESSAGE!!!

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