he Messenger MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP



aamiamidade@bellsouth.net

Florida - USA

April 2020

4315 NW 7th St. Suite 36 - Miami, FL 33126 / 305,461,2425 (24 hrs) /

ONLINE MEETING INFORMATIO

FROM YOUR INTERGROUP OFFICE

Wishing that all of you are in good health and safe at home. We find ourselves in a very difficult time dealing with a virus that has changed everyone's life worldwide.

The Intergroup Office remains physically closed but working dilligently to make the necessary updates on it's website to keep all of us Alcoholics Anonymous members informed of local groups online meetings.

At this moment groups are currently using the Zoom app and/or website to conduct their online meetings. As we all learn how to deal with online/virtual meetings we are thankful to have this option today to connect with each other at a distance, at least for now.

We all miss our fellowship, the hand shakes, the hugs and the close contact but we need to make and effort and "be safer at home" to flat the curve so we can go back to our normal lives and activities as soon as possible.

We are very happy to see how fast groups made the effort to start their online meetings as soon as their rooms were closing. This was a great help to many alcoholics in need of meetings. Our appreciation to the group reps for their effort in contacting us at the Intergroup Office to update their meeting ID's, meeting passwords, etc. Without you reaching out to us it wouldn't have been possible for us to have the best and accurate information on our website.

We are very grateful to all the volunteers that have been working the phones answering calls from newcomers, oldtimers and visitors wondering where to attend meetings or how they can connect to online meeting. The 12 STEP RELAY have been a blessing and continues to be one; our deepest gratitude to each one of this areat volunteers.

Our regular meeting locations, Districts, Committees, Miami-Dade Intergroup and GSO still have operating expenses. If you are in a virtual meeting set aside your \$2 dollar donation for the basket to be given to your group. Some groups have set up the ability to contribute digitally. Please check with the meeting chair person on lvour next meetina.

Even though the Intergroup Office is physically closed we continue to provide the essential services as to monitor e-mails, keeping the website updated, constant contact with the 12 Step Relay, book sales and in order to keep our expenses covered we still need the support and contributions from all our groups in our area. Every contribution either small or large helps us to keep providing the services that only a Central office can offer to reach most groups and members.

("Online meetings are popping up everywhere! I am allowed to attend those in the safety of my home at no cost to me. The pamphlet, "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix", tells me self-support begins with me, because I am a part of us- the group. Tradition One tells me, "Our common welfare comes first; personal recovery, (my recovery), depends on A.A. unity." Tradition Seven reminds me, Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." It's back to me, again!"

I want my group to survive so all the other entities and services will survive. So A.A. will survive. I will do that by making my usual contributions to my home group as if I was there in person; so we will survive. `...and for that I am responsible.' - Virginia B. from San Antonio, TX)

In Love & Service....Your Intergroup Office Staff

STEP FOUR "Made A Searching And Fearless Moral Inventory Of Ourselves."

A Spiritual Experience—Third Legacy Style

Service work came to her late, but once it took hold, she was able to learn and grow in ways she had not anticipated I'm a late bloomer when it comes to service work within our Third Legacy. It started six years ago at 21 years sobriety when I was voted in as GSR for my then home group, Happy Hour. I didn't know anything about Service Assemblies, the Concepts, or our service structure. I was a bit overwhelmed and quite honestly thought it was personally the worst possible time to be a GSR, since my 16-year-old daughter was dying of alcoholism. However, the truth was it was the best time to be a GSR. It forced me to get and stay in the middle of the triangle (not the circle).

Our Second Tradition holds us accountable to God speaking through the group conscience and I knew that quitting as GSR was not an option. God had spoken through my group and I knew I needed to fulfill my commitment. I was pulled into a group study of the Concepts, attended the monthly district meetings and the Area 10 assemblies. It was there that I saw the spiritual principles within our Traditions and Concepts come to life. Eighteen months into my rotation, I realized I had fallen in love with Alcoholics Anonymous in a completely different way. I had spiritual experience as a result of our Third Legacy.

At the end of my GSR rotation, I made myself available to serve at district at whatever capacity the DCMs felt fit and was ratified as the District 7 Public Information Chair. With this position I learned even more about our Traditions and how key they are to presenting what AA is and is not to the public. That we are a fellowship that is anonymous but not invisible, carrying our message so that those who might need us one day will know where to find us.

I was asked to stand for Alt-DCM during my last 6 months as PI Chair, then was blessed with the opportunity to serve as Co-DCM for our district. Again, I was challenged to grow personally and within the Fellowship to be of service to our GSRs, the groups and the district, and to participate at the Area Assemblies in a different capacity.

As I write this article, I am wrapping up my duties as Co-DCM and starting my next role in service. I have been taught to make myself available to serve and again, trusting God to speak through the group conscience. It is my experience that service work challenges my Step work. I am forced to let go of ego and of self.

My message is this: Whether you are called to service or not, take the time to learn our spiritual principles – all 36 (Steps, Traditions, and Concepts). Support your trusted servants. If you become active in service, be open to learn and grow in ways you haven't experienced. I know I would not be who or where I am in life if not for these experiences and for that, I am forever grateful. P.S. My then 16-year-old daughter is now 22 and coming up on 6 years of sobriety – thank God for AA!

- Beth G. |Woodland Park, CO Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc. April 2019 Reprinted with permission.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CANCELLED *



Tradition Four: Group Autonomy Let Them Sing

It's hard to fathom how well Alcoholics Anonymous has fared throughout its years of existence which began in 1935. Navigating the waters in those early days was a lot more treacherous than the average member of today's AA population would be aware of, since efforts of the founders have been proven to have weathered every storm that appeared on the horizon. The AA members of that time did however, have the experience of understanding the mistakes of their predecessors, The Oxford Group, which had some success where it had recorded ever one hundred thousand sober members before it ventured outside certain boundaries and got off the track when religion seemed to become more of an agenda than sobriety. Then there was the similar experience when it came to the Washingtonians that also let outside influences like politics and outside money issues take over the agenda. These mistakes did not go unnoticed by the early members of the AA program and may have been the things that set the tone for being very careful about sticking to our singleness of purpose requirement, and structuring the tradition in a way that gives the individual groups as much leeway as possible as not to discourage diversity yet staying on course when it comes to rules that would omit any alcoholic that wants to get sober. Autonomy is simply a form of independence that gives each group the latitude to be creative in their own way, when it wants to appeal to certain factions of the alcoholic community at large so long as it doesn't cross over into making those painful mistakes that could lead us down that path that led to the dismantling of those groups that came before AA. Today, in AA we have meetings that cater to specific segments of the AA population, such as: Men's Meetings, Women's Meetings, Closed Meetings, (alcoholics only), Open Meetings, Gay and Lesbian Meetings, Step Study, Big Book, Spanish Speaking, and on and ion. The common theme for all these meetings is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Anyone who has a desire to stop drinking cannot be turned away if; indeed, that meeting wants to continue to be called an AA meeting. I was serving in the U.S. Navy at the time when I got sober in late 1969 and shortly after my one year sober celebration, I was on a plane heading to the Philippines to go aboard a fuel tanker and I spent the next four months hauling fuel out to the Tonkin Golf and refueling the convoys of ships out there during the Vietnam War. During that four months period I was unable to go to a single AA meeting. What did happen during that time when I was cut off: from the daily news concerning the AA program, without my knowledge was the sad news that Bill W. had passed away. This happened shortly after I left the country and by the time, I returned home it was no longer the topic of conversation and I heard nothing about it. Shortly after I returned home my wife and I attended an AA convention in California and to my surprise, the main event at that convention was the Bill W. Memorial Meeting, and I had no idea when he had passed away, it could have been ten years earlier for all I knew. On the istage at that meeting there were ten chairs lined up and seated in those chairs were ten of the most prominent speakers of that time, and each of them were to tell a five-minute story of their own personal experience with Bill. The one story that I still remember from that meeting goes something like this. On a request from some of his AA friends on the west coast, Bill was on a train going to California to speak at several well planned out meetings. The members of AA in a small Midwestern town heard that his train would be stopping in their town and asked if he would consider stopping over for a day and speaking at their meeting. He agreed to do it as he usually did those days.

(Cont. on pg 7)

Thoroughness Ought to be the Watchword The Willingness to Move Forward

When I attended my first AA meeting, I had no idea what the 12 steps entailed but at that meeting I heard the things that were read, and I heard people sharing about steps and, looking back on it now, I realized that I came away from that meeting a changed man. My life took a 180% turn at that point and I have never been the same since. For the first time in my life I saw a refreshing new approach to living an all I had done, up to that point, was to show up and listen. From that day on, I've had a huge change of perception and I've learned to recognize faulty thinking and to find the answers to life issues as they were articulated by the collective sharing in that meeting. While attending a step study meeting recently, we were on Step 4 and as each person shared their experience with what we had read, it occurred to me that the same thing was happening there, that happened at my first meeting decades before. It seemed that many of the people were assimilating, into their thinking, the things we had read and talked about, and that it had influenced them in ways that they probably didn't even realize at the time. I've heard people in the program, when attending structured step study meetings, say that there may be as many as 50 people at the meeting when they started on Step 1, but by the time they got to Step 4 they might be down to 12 people left in the room. There seems to be something in Step 4 that their ego would not let them address, at the time. It appears they had reached a fork in the road. When this happens, I believe they may not be ready for Step 4 yet, and if they are hurried into it, they may start to search for an easier softer way. If they stay on the softer path for long, they may end up developing a half measures approach and they may waste many precious years, or worse, they may relapse and do irreparable damage that can't be undone. When I hear of a person who has a relapse after long term sobriety I often wonder if it was due to skimping on Step 4 and 5, which may lead to a superficial approach to the remaining steps. "Thoroughness ought to be the watchword when taking inventory. "(12X12 pg.54) I use the 4th step to illustrate what I mean when describing the way reading and hearing the things described in Step 4, are the things that we live with every day of our lives, and each time we cycle through them again, we realize that we have addressed some of these issues without being aware of it. I've heard people who have not taken Step 4 yet using such terms as "Restraint of pen and tongue" or "Remove the word blame from my speech" and, without realizing it, they are reducing their problems as the result of this different mindset. As long as they are honest, about, not being ready to take Step 4, it leaves the door open for the time when they are more confident, and they will be able to revisit this step and make a clean slate of it without feeling guilty about it. I believe that the main reason why they wrote and published the 12 X 12 was because they did not want to establish a precedent of editing the big book, and they wanted to give amplifying information and examples of how to navigate the 12 steps. We can tell stories and drunkalogues of our drinking days and that's fine, but if we don't go through a meaningful process of addressing the causes and solutions to our problems and "The willingness to move forward " (12X12 pg.54) We will be selling ourselves short, and life is much too precious to waste. By Rick R.

GENERAL SERVICE DISTRICT 10 MIAMI



Tickets \$10

Fellowship - Food (11-1) - Speaker (1-2) - Games

Desserts welcome!



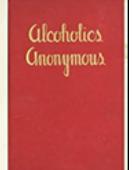
For more information call the Intergroup Office 305.461.2425



FIRST EDITION BIG BOOK

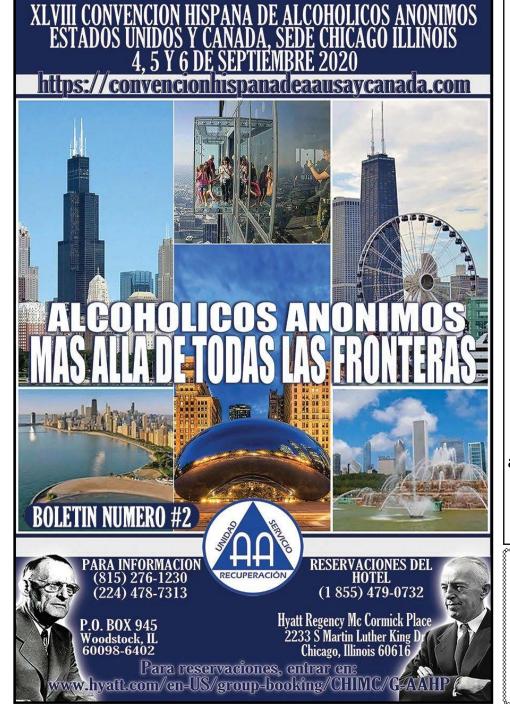
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In 1938, Bill W. began writing the book, Alcoholics Anonymous. At the Newark office, he dictated his handwritten notes to Ruth Hock as she typed, reviewing and revising drafts all the while. These chapters were mimeographed and mailed to potential financial backers. Harper & Brothers offered to publish the Big Book, but Hank P. convinced Bill to sell shares in their own company



and to publish the volume themselves. Four hundred mimeographed copies of the Big Book manuscript were sent out for comments and evaluation by members, friends, and other allies. In April 1939, some 5,000 copies of Alcoholics Anonymous rolled off the press.

As explained in the book, A.A.'s recovery program has reached millions of sufferers around the world. In 2015 at A.A.'s 80th Birthday celebrated in Atlanta, the 35 millionth copy of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, was presented to the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, the religious order of Sister Ignatia.



REUNIONES VIRTUALES EN ESPANOL

WWW.AAMIAMIDADE.ORG

GRUPOS:

VIVIENDO SOBRIO

CORAL GABLES

LA GRAN MANZANA

Si necesitan postear sus reuniones virtuales en el website de Miami-Dade Intergroup por favor enviar e-mail a aamiamidade@bellsouth.net o llamar al 305.461.2425 con su informacion.

CUARTO PASO

"Sin miedo hicimos un minucioso inventario moral de nosotros mismos."

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

CANCELADA!



FAITHFUL FIVER MEMBERS

Yes, I want to participate in the Faithful Fiver Club!

Contribution information:	Date:			
Amount:	Monthly:	Quarterly:	Annually:	5
I am a new Member:		nber can contribute more than \$3 Member:	3,000 per year) Returning Member:	
Check Enclosed:	Name:	Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:	Tel: _()	
Yes, I would For Credit Card recurring	like my name to be added g contribution informa	d in "The Messenger." tion please call the office a	No, I would like to rerat: 305.461.2425	nain anonymous

"Each day that your Group participates in the work of our local A.A. services, whether through those who "Contribute their Time" or Group Contributions, or Sobriety Contributions, something wonderful happens in A.A. When a newcomer calls us and finds your meeting, it is indeed a miracle. Your contributions show that you care about the services we as a fellowship provide and continued hope for the newcomer that reaches out for help. Words cannot fully express the deep gratitude about the energy that your A.A. Group devotes into carrying the message of hope to the still suffering alcoholic.'

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. **9 Anonymous.**

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 Corrections Committee

Miami FCYPAA Host

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month @ 1:30pm at the Lambda Miami Dade Club 28 NE 54th St. Miami, FL 33137

Archives Committee

Remote Communities

3rd Sunday of the month @ 10:00am at Little River Club 51 NE 82nd Tr.

Accessibilities

GS DISTRICT 10 Grapevine Committe

1st Wednesday of the month @ 7:15pm Upper Room 822 NE 125th St. # 111 North Mami, FL 33161

GS DISTRICT 10 Literature Committee

Meetings at the **CORAL ROOM**

1100 Ponce de Leon, CG 305.446.9558 *********

GS DISTRICT 10 PI/CPC

4th Saturday of the month @ 3:00pm

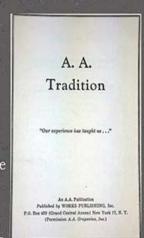
Treatment Committe

3rd Saturday of the Month @ 3:00pm *******

For more information go to www.district10miami.org

THE TWELVE TRADITIONS

In April of 1946, Bill W. wrote an article for the Grapevine entitled "Twelve Suggested Points for A.A. Tradition," an early presentation of what would become known simply as The Twelve Traditions. Bill had looked around the program and realized that, as A.A. grew, it was important to preserve its unity and singleness of purpose. During the 1940s, Bill received hundreds of letters asking him sometimes contentious ques-



tions about group autonomy, anonymity issues, A.A. endorsement of outside enterprises, and the like. These letters played a key role in helping him formulate the Twelve Traditions. Published one by one in the Grapevine, from December 1947 to November 1948, and adopted at the First International Convention in Cleveland, the Traditions provided guidelines that would help A.A. groups then and in the future conduct themselves in their relationship with the outside world and with Alcoholics Anonymous itself.





INTERGROUP CONTACT LIST

aamiamidade.org

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Vice-Chair

Raz S.

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Dylan S.

Secretary

Del H.

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Jennifer R.

Tom D.

Tamara K.

Barry G.

Ian S.

Trustees

Askia K.

Founder's Day Picnic

Tom L.

Intergroup Banquet

Ian S. (Chair)

Leah L. (Co-Chair)

Intergroup Office

Jennifer R.

The Messenger

Office

Outreach

Sean-Paul G.

Public Information

Sam H.

Twelve Step Relay

Bryce C.

Big Service Breakfast

Charles A.

General Service Liaison

Tamara K.

Spanish Intergroup Liaison

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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 FOUR

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

MARCH

SOUTH DADE

Bill F. 6 Blanca 8 Shane 9 Rick S. 10 Cecile C. 19 Arlene 22 Ben S. 29

Frank B. 30 Judy K. 43 SOBER WAY

OUT

Cindy J. 2 Lisa B. 3 Jennifer V. 3 Jennifer D. 4 Aaron M. 4 Carlos H. 4 Ellen 8 Jessica S. 11 Carlos 13 MArla P. 15 John H. 16 Jersy L. 19 Annie P. 21 Robert 22 Raymond A. 23 Felix F. 27 Fred T. 30

HOMESTEAD

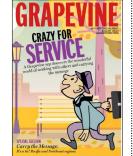
Nicole 5 Maria 7 Elisa B. 31 Mary C. 42 Ritzy 46

PALMETTO BAY

Laura 1 John M. 4 Art B. 4 Lars S. 9 Ben S. 29 Dan U. 30

SUNSET

Joaqui O. 1 David G. 2 Ron K. 9 Lina S. 22 Carlos V. 23 Scott G. 26 Becky S. 28 Carlos B. 31



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.



12 STEP HOUSE 205 SW 23rd St. Rt. Landardale, FL 6830E

www.russianaa.com russianaa.florida@gmail.com

Sobriety isn't
always all
rainbows and
butterflies.
But it is always
less puke and
regret.







TRADITION FOUR (Cont. from page 2)

When the train arrived the town, members expected Bill to arrive with an entourage of people assisting him, and they had arranged a welcoming with a band, a large crowd, and an all the town's dignitaries. When the train stopped, the only one that got off was Bill, as he walked down the ramp alone with one suitcase. He proceeded to the planned meeting place and as the meeting began, Bill was somewhat shocked when the members started the meeting with several church hymns. Nevertheless, he fulfilled his promise and gave his talk and was again disturbed when the meeting ended with several more hymns. After completing his stay, he boarded a train and continued on his way. On the train, what kept bothering Bill was "what are they doing to AA with the hymns" and it didn't seem right. Then Bill started thinking about the size and the population of that small town, and about the large number of alcoholics that attended that meeting and he concluded that, per capita, that was probably the largest meeting in the country and if they wanted to sing hymns, well that's their business. I believe that tradition four leaves it up to the individual group's discretion to consider the different cultural influences that affect the makeup and the structure of the meeting format and I believe that Bill got it right as long as it does not change the spirit of our primary purpose, to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers and that no one with a desire to stop drinking can be turned away. By Rick R.



Take Me To Your Sponsor

Sobriety can be tough sometimes, which is why recovering alcoholics can always use a good laugh.

In AA, members learn to not take themselves too seriously, to be happy, joyous and free. Luckily, sobriety can be pretty darn amusing.

Group Conscience/Business/Service Meetings

Brickell Group/3rd Thursday @ 1:05pm Brickell Circle/3d Saturday @ 8:15pm Coral Gables Group/3rd Thursday @ 7:00pm Good Morning Group/3rd Friday @11:00am Happy 1060 Group/3rd Sunday @ 11:45am Happy Hour Group/ 3rd Thursday @ 6:35pm Homestead Group/3rd Tuesday @ 7:00pm Lincoln Road YP/3rd Sunday @ 7:00pm Little River Group/2nd Sunday @ 7:00pm Miami Young People/3rd Saturday @ 7:00pm Mix Nuts Group/1st Monday @ 9:30pm New Beginner's # 2/2nd Thursday @ 7:30pm Night Owl Group/2nd Sunday @ 7:00pm North Miami Group/Last Wednesday @ 7:15pm Palmetto Bay/3rd Wednesday @ 6:35pm Primary Purpose/Last Wednesday @ 6:45pm Quinto Paso/1st Monday @ 7:00pm Sabal Palm/3rd Thursday @ 7:00pm Sober Way Out/3rd Sunday @ 7:00pm Something Happens/1st Saturday @ 10:00am South Dade Group/3rd Wednesday @ 7:00pm South Dixie Group/2nd Sunday @ 12:15pm Sunset Group/2nd Friday @ 7:00pm West Miami Group/3rd Tuesday @ 7:00pm We Stopped in Time/1st Monday @ 9:35pm Young, Sober &Free/Last Sunday @ 8:05pm

Group Anniversaries

Almeria Group/Last Tuesday @ 7:30pm Bickell Circle/Last Thursday @ 8:00pm Coral Gables Group/Last Monday @ 8:00pm Grupo Central/Last Sunday @ 1:00pm Good Morning Group/Last Friday @ 10:00am Happy 1060 Group/Last Sunday @ 10:45am Happy Hour Group/Last Friday @ 5:30pm Homestead Group/Last Thursday @ 8:30pm Key Biscayne Group/Last Friday @ 8:30pm Killian Pines Group/Last Friday @ 8:00pm Lincoln Road YP/Last Sunday @ 7:00pm Little River Group/Last Wednesday @ 8:30pm Miami Springs Group/Last Monday @ 7:30pm Miami Young People/Last Saturday @ 8:30pm Mixed Nuts Group/Last Monday @ 8:30pm North Miami Group/Last Friday @ 8:30pm Palmetto Bay Group/Last Saturday @ 5:30pm Plymouth Group/Last Wednesday @ 7:00pm Primary Purpose/Last Saturday @ 8:30pm Sabal Palm Group/Last Sunday @ 7:00pm Shamrock Group/Last Tuesday @ 8:30pm Sober Way Out/Last Friday @ 8:30pm Something Happens/Last Saturday @ 9:00am South Dade Group/Last Friday @ 8:30pm South Dixie Group/Last Saturday @ 7:30pm Sunset Group/Last Friday @ 7:30pm West Miami Group/Last Friday @ 8:30pm We Stopped in Time/Last Monday Young, Sober and Free/Last Sunday

LOOKING FOR MEETINGS?

Learn more at: www.meetingguide.org



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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!!!

