The Messenger



MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP

aamiamidade@bellsouth.net

Florida - USA

15 NW 7th St. Suite 36 - Miami, FL 33126 / 305.461.2425 (24 hrs) /

305.461.2426 (Fax)

September 2020

If your group is reopening the doors for meetings in person please do not forget to reach out to the Intergroup Office so we can post the correct information on our website promptly.

ONLINE AND IN PERSON MEETING INFORMATION WWW.AAMIAMIDADE.ORG

Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others

How Rigorous Must Honesty Be Devoid of All Motives to Deceive

Is there a difference between being honest and being rigorously honest, and if not, why add the word rigorous, unless to imply that honesty comes in degrees? I know that when I first was faced with the challenge of being honest, (where it is mentioned three times in the first paragraph of How It Works in the Big Book), I wasn't against being honest and I was willing to give it my best shot. Could I attain perfect honesty? I think not. I could, however, reign in my lying about things that mattered, but that still left me with, what I felt was, a half measures approach and that did not sit well with me. If I was willing to be dishonest about anything, I was leaving myself opened to rationalizing and still I was conflicted. If I could lie once, wouldn't that be like taking just one drink? The second lie comes easier. Was I dishonest if I embellished the size of the fish, I caught last weekend? All these questions ran through my mind, and many more before I came upon an approach that worked for me, and it all seems to rest upon what my motives are.

I was attending a discussion meeting one evening and the topic was RIGOROUS HONESTY, and many of these questions were discussed without resolution until a gentleman defined the word HONEST, as DEVOID OF ALL MOTIVES TO DECEIVE. That meaning of the word gave me the latitude to practice that principle in the spirit that I believe the founders of AA would approve of. If you read the Big Book and the 12X12 you will find some overriding principles concerning these dilemmas. One that comes to mind immediately is: We cannot buy our own peace of mind at the expense of others. (Step 9 in the 12X12) and I would add "my own self-righteousness at the feet of my loved ones.

If the definition of honesty is "devoid of all motives to deceive" it leaves me with room to be kind during those innocent moments when my wife returns from the hair dresser and asks me if I like her new hair-do. I always like her new hairdo. The being kind clause trumps the rigorous clause and I am not trying to deceive anyone. What are hairdos supposed to look like anyway?

There is one area where I must be rigorously honest, and that is, with Myself. I must not let, what I refer to as, overriding principles get stretched out of proportions to the degree that I start to rationalize and become deceptive again. The trust and respect we gain when we follow these principles does not come easy and if we compromise it, we may never get it back. In step 9, it also makes exceptions where full disclosure would cause actual harm. When in doubt, I can enlist the help of a trusted advisor and, I can be rigorously honest with him, live in the spirit of these principles and still have honest integrity.

By Rick R.

Due to COVID-19 and the inability of the groups to meet in person we find ourselves limited to attend mostly online meetings. Even though people do contribute as per our 7th Tradition the Intergroup Office has been very affected and will be having a hard time keeping the doors open in the near future if us, the members and the groups don't contribute to keep its doors open.

Please keep your Intergroup Office in mind when you send your contributions, the office has a direct link for contributions on our website. www.aamiamidade.org -Thank you!

STEP NINE: THE CHECK'S IN THE MAIL

One afternoon during my college years, an idea on the order of a revelation came to me. I should quit my parttime tutoring job and push my way into the renting office of the building my family managed. My mother, my aunt, and my sisters had conspired to keep my father out of the business, but they wouldn't do the same thing to me. So my thinking went. In handling rent money paid by the tenants of the single-room occupancy, I could easily find a way to siphon funds for my own personal use. The justification for such an action continued to present itself to me. Hadn't I grown up with my mother's stories of how ther sister, my aunt, had purchased the building only to fall victim to unscrupulous people, including the current owner, who took title to the property and kept us on as the managers? Wouldn't I, if I began to extract sums of money, simply be righting a long-standing wrong? Such was the epiphany that gripped me that afternoon.

Within a day I had situated myself, with my mother's permission, in the renting office. Twenty-one at the time, I thought I would just be staying on for a few months as a way to relieve my financial circumstances. I did not know that the sums of money I extracted would grow and grow any more than I knew my need for alcohol would sizably increase over these years.

Within a few years I had a daily reliance on alcohol. Alcohol was my friend. Unlike my girlfriend, it would never let me down. Nevertheless, some years later I came to Alcoholics Anonymous. I had progressed in my drinking to the point where blackouts were a frequent occurrence and the few people remaining in my life were more than a little tired of me.

One evening, as I sat at a meeting, the speaker shared that as part of his recovery, he had made financial restitution, including parking fines he had accumulated.

I left the meeting completely rattled. The prospect of coming to terms with that part of my past terrified me. I called my sponsor and went over with him that period of my life that involved the renting office, including the money I had taken. I began to try to justify my action. Hadn't the owner been taking more than his fair share of the income, according to my mother? (Cont. on pg 3)

My Own Ideas Did Not Work The God Idea Did

In the meetings that I attend on a regular basis the topic of God comes up quite often and that's not surprising since there is such an emphasis on trusting in some form of a higher power in order to stay sober. Alcoholics who continue to show up at the doors of A.A. all come from differing cultures and it is a blessing that the founders of A.A; when forming the structure of the steps and traditions, had the insight to insure that no alcoholic was left out, regardless of where they stood on this topic. The question of whom or what God is may never be answered to everyone's satisfaction lest A.A. could be turned into a religious organization and the Oxford Group proved that it doesn't work. In A.A. we have members from many different religions with different versions of what God means to their members. We have Buddhism which doesn't worship any form of a God. We have atheists that get sober in A.A. and do just fine as long as they have a conscience and live by good moral standards.

On page 52 in the Big Book it says "When we saw others solve their problems by a simple reliance on the spirit of the universe, we had to stop doubting the power of God. Our ideas did not work. But the God idea did." When I first read this line it made me ponder. Is the Spirit of the universe God, or is God the spirit of the universe? Considering the fact I have never seen God in person (that I know of) it occurred to me that God resides in the Spiritual Realm. Most of my life troubles stem from my instincts gone astray and they are spiritual in nature. Fear, guilt, shame, dishonesty and above all, pride and selfishness all reside within my spiritual makeup. As the result, I cheat, steal and lie. As I progressed through the steps I was introduced to several prayers to help me to weather the storms that I faced as I took responsibility for my past failings and they helped me to get right with myself and the people I had harmed in the days when I had no scruples. Things changed dramatically for me when I addressed step nine with the faith that I acquired in the program up to that point. When I reached step eleven the word ONLY" threw me a curve ball. It tells me that I should ONLY pray for knowledge and strength. I read that to mean, God show me what to do and please give me the strength to do it. I don't know if anybody hears my prayers, but I hear my prayers and the right answers seem to come.... (Cont. on pg 5)



AAGRAPEVINE, Inc.



Just a quick note to let you know the new book bundle "The Best of the Grapevine" volumes 1,2 and 3 will be available later this month.

Item #GV41

Making Amends (Finding a New Freedom)

Features 55 candid, firsthand stories from A.A. Grapevine magazine of members' experiences with Step Nine of the A.A. program. The book includes chapters on making amends to parents, children, family members, exes, financial institutions, friends and coorkers. These powerful stories illustrate how practicing Step Nine can help us, as AA's co-founder Bill W. wrote, "know a new freedom and a new happiness."





MAKING AMENDS Finding a new freedom

STEP NINE: THE CHECK'S IN THE MAIL (Cont. from pg 2)

Since childhood, I had been afraid of this building owner, and in that period as a young adult when I "worked" in the renting office, if he called on the phone I would panic, barely able to speak, and begin a desperate search for my mother, so she could deal with him and I could continue to hide.

There is no particular mystery about the Eighth or Ninth Steps. By the time we arrive at them, there is some semblance of a relation-ship with a Higher Power that can move us from the posture of "no, never" to "not yet" to "okay."

Desperate to move forward, after checking with my sponsor, I called this man I had feared for so long. When I toldhim of my past activity and my plan of action in terms of repaying the debt, he said simply that I should do as I needed to do, but that he would not hold me to it.

And so, for over twenty years, I would send a monthly check to the address that the man had given me. I can only say that it felt good and proper to be amending a wrongful action in this way. Writing out these checks has been a way of acting myself into right thinking and has given me a sense of peace that I treasure. One day some months ago, a check to this man was returned to me by the post office. On the envelope was stamped "Moved—no forwarding address." I interpreted the event as a gift from the Higher Power. I called my sponsor—the very same sponsor—and told him of the returned check. He agreed that it was a message of sorts, yet counseled that perhaps before suspending the amends I should send a letter to the same address explaining that the check had been returned. After all, it was possible that the post office had made a mistake.

I listened and agreed, while inwardly I resented the suggestion. But, send the letter I did. As the weeks passed without a response, my sense that I could now move on began to grow, until I received a communication from the building owner. Actually, the communication was from the building owner's son. Yes, he said, the post office had made a mistake, and he supplied me with a direct address to which I could send future checks. As my mind struggled for a solution, fear and doubt crept in. From the extreme of thinking that the amend ought now to be discontinued, I found myself at the other pole and wondering if the solution was to liquidate my modest assets and turn them all over to the owner's son as a way of speeding up the amend.

The next day, I began the draft of a letter to the owner's son. Into family history I plunged. Would it do any harm to let the owner's son know that my mother and aunt perceived his father's treatment of them to be unfair? Would it hurt to mention that the store rents were supposed to be ours? With every word I wrote, my discomfort grew.

Finally, I stopped and called a close friend who knew my history. After I read her the contents of the letter, she basically said that just because I had written those words didn't mean I had to send them. She also suggested, in regard to giving the building owner's son everything I had, that recovery was about building a life, not wrecking it, and that balance was essential.

Year after year, my recovery had been about increasing peace of mind, but that peace had been steadily eroded during this period of indecision. With my friend's words in my ears, that calm state of being returned. That day, I reached for my checkbook, wrote out a check, and mailed it to the owner's son. I saw what it meant to be on higher and higher ground in recovery, and all the small repetitive actions that were necessary to maintain that condition—the meetings, the Twelve Steps, including a daily practice of prayer and meditation, sponsoring and being sponsored, service.

For the rest of the day, gratitude came easily and abundantly to me for having this wonderful program and people to love and guide me back to health.

David S., New York, NY Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc., September 2005.

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A.A. WON'T KEEP YOU FROM
GOING TO HELL NOR IT IS A TICKET TO
HEAVEN BUT IT WILL KEEP YOU SOBER
LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO MAKE UP
YOUR MIND WHICH WAY YOU
WANT TO GO!

THE BIG BOOK IS LIKE A COOKBOOK
YOU CAN READ IT ALL DAY LONG AND
STARVE....

YOU HAVE TO TAKE THE ACTION!
OUR NEIGHBORS WINDOW LOOKS
MUCH CLEANER IF WE FIRST WASH
OUR OWN!





LAS DOCE TRADICIONES



En abril de 1946, Bill W. escribió un artículo para el Grapevine titulado "Doce puntos sugeridos para la Tradición de A.A.", una presentación temprana de lo que llegaría a conocerse simplemente como las Doce Tradiciones. Con su acostumbrada previsión, Bill había echado una mirada al programa unos diez años después de haber conocido al Dr.

Bob en Akron en 1935, y se había dado cuenta de que a medida que A.A. fuera creciendo, sería importante preservar su unidad y unicidad de propósito. Durante la década de los años cuarenta, Bill recibió centenares de cartas de parte de grupos de A.A. que se fueron iniciando en todas partes del país, cartas en que se le hacían preguntas constantemente acerca de la autonomía de los grupos, cuestiones del anonimato, la recomendación de empresas ajenas por parte de A.A. y similares.

Estas cartas, que Bill describió como "un maremágnum de experiencia temible y emocionante," desempeñaron un papel importante en la redacción de las Doce Tradiciones. Publicadas individualmente en una serie en el Grapevine, desde diciembre de 1947 hasta noviembre de 1948, y adoptadas por la primera Convención Internacional, en Cleveland, las Tradiciones ofrecieron guías (no reglamentos) que servirían para ayudar a los grupos de A.A. de aquel entonces y en el futuro a comportarse apropiadamente en sus relaciones con el mundo externo y con Alcohólicos Anónimos en sí mismo. "Ofrezco estas sugerencias", escribió Bill en ese primer artículo publicado en abril de 1946, "no como el dictado de un solo hombre ni como ningún tipo de credo, sino como un primer esfuerzo para describir ese ideal de grupo al que sin duda, durante los pasados diez años, nos ha conducido un Poder Superior".

Hoy en día, los grupos de A.A. siguen haciendo uso de las Tradiciones en su búsqueda de ese ideal de grupo a medida que van llevando su mensaje de esperanza a los alcohólicos que aún sufren en todas partes del mundo.

REUNIONES VIRTUALES EN ESPANOL

WWW.AAMIAMIDADE.ORG

GRUPOS:

VIVIENDO SOBRIO CORAL GABLES LA GRAN MANZANA NORTH MIAMI GROUP

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.

HUMOR

- Mi papá viene siempre llega a casa con una copa de más.
- ¿Alcohólico?
- No, roba en los bares.

Entra un borracho en una farmacia, y pregunta:

- Tienen alcohol? Si, por supuesto
- Entonces ponme un par de copas.

NOVENO PASO

"Reparamos directamente a cuantos nos fue posible el daño causado, excepto cuando el hacerlo implicaba perjuicio para ellos o para otros."

NOVENA TRADICION

"A.A. como tal nunca debe ser organizada; pero podemos crear juntas o comités de servicio que sean directamente responsables ante aquellos a quienes sirven."



FAITHFUL FIVER MEMBERS 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: ____ Check Enclosed: _____ Name: _____ Address: _____ ______ State: ______ Zip Code: ______ Tel: _(_____)___ Yes, I would like my name to be added in "The Messenger." No, I would like to remain anonymous For Credit Card recurring contribution information please call the office at: 305.461.2425 "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

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. **5 Anonymous.**

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

carrying the message of hope to the still suffering alcoholic.'

GS DISTRICT 10 Monthly Business Meeting

GS DISTRICT 10 Corrections Committee

Miami FCYPAA Host

2nd & 4th Sunday of the mont @ 1:30pm at the Lambda Miami Club 28 NE 54

ves Committee

46 Sday of the month @ 6:30pm - Sunset Room 6999 N. Waterway Dr.

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 Miami, FL 3316

GS DISTRIB

Litera e the month the month of the month of

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

My Own Ideas Did Not Work (Cont. from pg 2) to me in time.

Well-meaning people sometimes talk about praying for people to get well from a somewhat hopeless physical illness and I have got to guestion the "ONLY" Clause in step eleven. The conclusion comes to me that if praying for that to happen and it worked, the hospitals would be full of sinners and the people we pray for would be healthy and happy. I don't see any evidence that God works at that level. When someone I know is in a grave condition I ask for guidance and it usually ends up with me being quietly realistic and giving as much support to the family members and Loved ones around that person. I have heard of miracles happening in some cases, but I have seen just as many or more tragedies. We take the best that religion has to offer as we do with all respected philosophies and hopefully, we become better human beings and deep down inside every human being is the fundamental idea of God. We all have a Consciences and an EGO. As my friend once said, "you don't have to understand thermodynamics to enjoy the warmth of the sun". I say "Don't let anything block you from the sunlight of the spirit" By Rick R.

GOOD Judgment, a careful sense of timing, courage, and prudence--these are the qualities we shall need when we take STEP NINE.

INTERGROUP CONTACT LIST

aamiamidade.org

Chairman

Manuel N.

Vice-Chair

Raz S.

Treasurer

Dylan S.

Secretary

Del H.

Steering Committee

Jennifer R.

Tom D.

Tamara K.

Richard A.

Ian S.

Trustees

Askia K.

Virtual Founder's Day

OPEN POSITION

Intergroup Banquet

Ian S. (Chair)

Leah L. (Co-Chair)

Intergroup Office

Jennifer R.

The Messenger

Office

Outreach

OPEN POSITION

Public Information

Sam H.

Twelve Step Relay

Jenn G.

Big Service Breakfast

Dylan S.

General Service Liaison

Jorge L.

Spanish Intergroup Liaison

OPEN POSITION

Webmaster

Office

GENERAL SERVICE CONTACT LIST

www.district10miami.org

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Gerry S.

Alternate Chairperson

Peter D.

Treasurer

Regina F.

Registrar

Sara G.

Recording Secretary

David M.

Archives

Toni Marie

Corrections

Erik R.

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Ray S.

Grapevine

Anna G.

Gratitud Dinner

David M.

Intergroup Liaison

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Literature

Isabel C.

PI/CPC

Mario P.

Accessibilities

Melissa L.

Treatment

Glen H.

Big Service Breakfast

OPEN POSITION

District 17 Liaison

Sonia H.

Remote Communities

George R. 1

Webservant

Nino P.

"THE MESSENGER"

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4315 NW 7th St. - Suite # 36

Miami, FL 33126 Tel: (305) 461-2425

Fax: (305) 461-2426

E-MAIL:

aamiamidade@bellsouth.net WEBSITE: www.aamiamidade.org

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 NINE

"A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

AUGUST

SUNSET

Nick D. 1 Amando. 2 Natalie M. 4 Javier H. 5 Nikki S. 5 Pedro P. 19

SOUTH DADE

SV Ray B. 1 Robert G. 1 Sam 2 Shaneka 9 Laura K. 13 Dave R. 16 Drew H. 21 John M. 35 Tom Mc. 38

KEY BISCAYNE

Ruthie 7 Norma 18 Debbie C. 21 Jennifer R. 21



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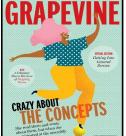
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No contribution counts as small.

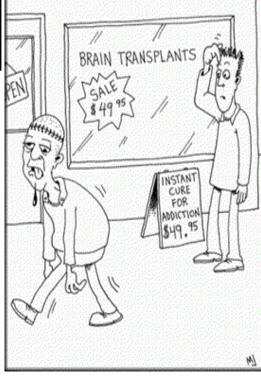
We at Intergroup appreciate your continued support!



Scan. Pay. Go.







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.



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



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

LOOKING FOR MEETINGS?

Young, Sober and Free/Last Sunday

Learn more at: www.meetingguide.org



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 - October 8th, 2020 @ 8:00pm Via Zoom. This is a great opportunity to do service!

Help Support "The Messenger" This Publication Belongs To You!

To make address changes you can notify the Intergroup Office or mail in the form below. To subscribe to "The Messenger" please fill out the form below and mail with your \$12.00 for a yearly contribution.

Please make checks payable to:
MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP
c/o The Messenger

NI			
Name:			
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	

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!!!

