

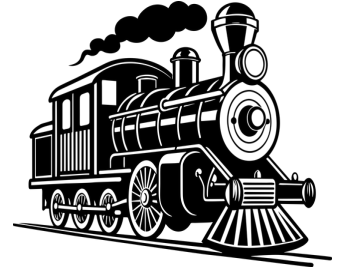


INTERGROUP-EXPRESS

March—April 2026, Vol 46 #3

Lee County Area Intergroup, 7050 Winkler Rd. #119, Fort Myers, FL 33919
(239) 275-5111—Email: leeintergroup@gmail.com—Website: <https://leecountyaa.org>

Office Hours: 10:00am-6:00pm Monday—Friday; Closed on weekends



Principles

We hear this word at almost every meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is found in both our steps and traditions:

- ◆ Step 12—Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these **principles** in all our affairs.
- ◆ Tradition 12—Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place **principles** before personalities.

So, what are these principles and where do I find them?

They are found in each of the twelve steps and are outlined in more detail in the *Twelve and Twelve*:

- ◆ Step 1: HONESTY, Acceptance, Admission of Defeat, Open-mindedness, Willingness, Humility
- ◆ Step 2: HOPE, Open-mindedness, Humility, Acceptance
- ◆ Step 3: FAITH, Willingness, Humility
- ◆ Step 4: COURAGE, Honesty, Fearlessness, Willingness, Humility
- ◆ Step 5: INTEGRITY, Humility, Willingness, Honesty, Forgiveness, Open-mindedness, Acceptance, Prudence, Serenity
- ◆ Step 6: WILLINGNESS, Honesty, Open-mindedness, Acceptance, Humility
- ◆ Step 7: HUMILITY, Willingness, Open-mindedness
- ◆ Step 8: LOVE, Forgiveness, Calmness, Brotherhood, Thoroughness, Responsibility, Honesty, Humility, Acceptance, Tolerance, Objectivity
- ◆ Step 9: DISCIPLINE, Good Judgment, Courage, Prudence, Patience, Sincerity, Forthrightness, Generosity, Responsibility, Avoid Harm, Willingness, Humility
- ◆ Step 10: PERSEVERANCE, Discipline, Acceptance, Patience, Persistence, Self-restraint, Honesty, Humility, Willingness, Forgiveness, Fair-mindedness, Tolerance, Love, Kindness, Justice, Courtesy, Understanding, Helpfulness, Gratitude
- ◆ Step 11: AWARENESS, Humility, Willingness, Love, Forgiveness, Harmony, Truth, Faith, Hope, Compassion, Understanding, Self-forgetting, Strength, Wisdom, Serenity
- ◆ Step 12: SERVICE, Love, Honesty, Humility, Open-mindedness, Willingness, Tolerance, Unselfishness, Strength, Serenity, Giving, Fortitude, Faith, Brotherhood, Service, Understanding, Courage, Wisdom, Gratitude, Acceptance

The core spiritual principles of Alcoholics Anonymous are Willingness, Open-mindedness, Honesty, and Humility.

I am so grateful A.A. is a program of repetition and practice. I'd be doomed if perfection was expected.

Stephanie H., Office Manager

Service

Good for Your Recovery

Lee County Area Intergroup

- ⇒ Get involved in our 12 Step Call program, Speaker Exchange, as a volunteer at the office/store, or join a fundraising committee
- ⇒ Attend the monthly meeting—3rd Thursday, 6:30pm, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers
- ⇒ Become an Intergroup Representative for your home group

District 7

- ⇒ Become a General Service Representative for your home group
- ⇒ Attend the monthly meeting—last Sunday, 2:00pm, YANA Foundation, Fort Myers
- ⇒ Join a committee:

Accessibilities—Bob L—accessibilities@district7area15aa.org

Archives—Kathie W—archives@district7area15aa.org

Corrections—Linda S—corrections@district7area15aa.org

Corrections committee meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday at 6:30pm on Zoom*

Grapevine—Martin C—grapevine@district7area15aa.org

Grapevine committee meets monthly on the 3rd Monday at 6:30pm on Zoom*

Literature—Deb F—literature@district7area15aa.org

Outreach—Steve M—outreach@district7area15aa.org

Outreach committee meets monthly on the 3rd Saturday at 9am on Zoom*

PI/CPC (Public Information & Cooperation with the Professional Community)—Shawna C—picpc@district7area15aa.org

PI/CPC committee meets monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 7pm on Zoom*

Treatment—Kyle—treatment@district7area15aa.org

Treatment committee meets monthly on the 1st Sunday at 2:00pm at YANA

Website—Nick S—website@district7area15aa.org



***ZOOM DETAILS CAN BE FOUND ON THE DISTRICT 7 WEBSITE AT DISTRICT7AREA15AA.ORG.**



RULE 62: "Don't take yourself too damn seriously."

~ Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 149



- ⇒ I have neither the time nor the crayons to explain this to you.
- ⇒ Did you ever notice there are no recipes for leftover chocolate?
- ⇒ Why do I have to use leaves as toilet paper when I go camping, while we have bears out there using Charmin?
- ⇒ Dealing with some people is like trying to nail Jello to a %#*\$ wall.
- ⇒ I love the phrase "bear with me" because it either means "be patient" or "the zoo heist was a success."
- ⇒ If you see someone wearing camouflage, make sure to walk right into them so they know it's working.
- ⇒ Sorry I'm late. I put lotion on my hands and became a prisoner of my bathroom for 30 minutes.
- ⇒ If I die choking on a gummy bear, tell everyone I was killed by a bear and say no more.
- ⇒ If someone is chugging chocolate chips straight out of the bag in the baking aisle at the grocery store, I suggest you just let them be.
- ⇒ An apple a day is nonsense. Apples are dangerous. Just look at Eve, Snow White, or any pig at a luau.
- ⇒ Raisin cookies that look like chocolate chip cookies are the main reason I have trust issues.
- ⇒ I love it when my pet sighs. Like, what ails you my little unemployed freeloader?
- ⇒ I'm so jealous of people who know how to shut up. I shut up and subtitles come out my face.
- ⇒ I bought satin sheets and satin pajamas. I just went to jump in bed and landed in the neighbor's flower garden.
- ⇒ I'm not overthinking. I'm pre-solving problems that don't exist yet.

Office Monthly

We've probably all heard the expression, "We're all here because we're not all there." An over simplified but interesting assessment of AA's membership in general. We are a diverse group of individuals who probably would not have associated prior to joining the program. We are joined together by our common purpose, staying sober.

These varied personalities do, however, come in conflict from time to time. In my years in the program, I've seen and have participated in challenges at the group level, degrees of discord. In my mind, we don't need power drivers and self-aggrandizing individuals or disrupters. But they do, on occasion, occur.

These disruptive influencers often cause discourse in the group, leading to negative reactions resulting in some members leaving the group or personality conflicts and even more problems. This has led to the expansion of AA, bringing more meetings into existence. "A resentment and a coffee pot."

Keeping allegiance to our "principals before personalities" tradition has challenged many of us over the years. When we see actions and opinions that we judge to be potentially threatening to other members, we often bristle and react in protest.

So, what is the answer to these situations? It's in our AA traditions and I will include page 417 in the fourth edition of our book, "acceptance is the key."

First, we must remember that the group conscience is the guide to governing what the group should follow. The group cannot ban someone from a group unless they are excessively disruptive or show a tendency toward violence. Even then, it's difficult to enforce. Our traditions state that we avoid controversy. Not always easy.

In one instance, I had to remove myself from a group, as did others, and eventually, that group disbanded. But most importantly, I did not leave AA. I just found another group. My life depends on my sobriety and I will not allow anyone to interfere with my recovery.

These incidents are usually rare and most often resolved in due course, but unfortunately, it does happen. Our fellowship will survive with the help of sponsors and sub sponsors, friends and mentors. The program of Alcoholics Anonymous will continue. It is my belief that the hand of God led Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith to create our program, along with Bill's wife Lois, Dr. Silkworth, Sister Ignatia among others, and it is with his hand we will endure.

Tim B., Lee County Area Intergroup Chairperson

And may your God be as good to you as mine has been to me.

OFFICE STATS for February 2026

(all are approximate)

Visitors = 116

When visiting our office, please sign our DAILY visitor log!

Phone Calls (during business hours) = 108

CALLS

12 Step & Newcomer = 3

Spanish = 2

Meeting Info = 35

Treatment & Other 12 Step (Al-Anon, NA, CA, etc) = 7

General Info (hours, location, merchandise, etc) = 41

Management (inquiries that require manager assistance) = 20

I would like to offer my sincerest apologies. February was not a good month for the Intergroup Office. I was out sick with the flu for almost two weeks. During that time, we did our best to keep the doors open. Unfortunately, due to the lack of or unavailability of volunteers, we were forced to close our doors early or all day several times.

I understand the inconvenience this caused. However, I am hopeful that it serves as a reminder, if not a "shout out," that the office does not run itself and I am not always able to be here. Without a sufficient number of volunteers who are able to cover the office without assistance, we will find ourselves in the same predicament in the future.

Stephanie H., Office Manager

Intergroup Steering Committee

Chair: Tim B.; Vice Chair: Casey B.; Treasurer: VACANT; Secretary: Gale P.; Members-at-Large (2): VACANT; Office Manager: Stephanie H.

Intergroup Office Volunteers

Andrea, Danielle, Deb, Gary, Gretchen, Janet, Mikki, Roben, Sandy, Tom, Vicki

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

Name	Feb	YTD	Name	Feb	YTD	Name	Feb	YTD
1 2 3 Go Group	50.00	50.00	Cape Reflections Group			Just Show Up Group		
12&12 Step Study			Central Group			Keep it Real Group		
1935 Step Group			Chiquita Bananas Group			Keep It Simple Group	347.50	347.50
5 Alive! Beginners			Clean Slate Big Book Group			Kickin Butt on the High Side of Life		
5:30 Group			Clear the Air Group	366.00	366.00	LaBelle Group	200.00	200.00
CC Beginners Wed Nt			Courage to Change Women's Group	85.00	85.00	Lambda Drummers Group		
7&7 Group			Daily Reprieve Group	110.00	110.00	Lehigh 12&12		
A New Perspective			Depot Park Men's meeting			Lehigh Acres Group		
A to Z meeting	92.00	92.00	Digital Drunks Men's Discussion			Lehigh Big Book Study Mtg		
A Woman's View of ABSI Zoom	110.00	110.00	Doctor's Opinion Study			Lehigh Happy Hour Group		
ABC Beginners Group			Dragon Fly Group			Lehigh Sunday Night		
ABSI by the River Group			Drunkin Donuts Group			Life Ahead Beginners meeting		
After Hours meeting			Eye on Hope Group			Light at Heart Group	255.00	255.00
Against All Odds Group			F.B.I. (Friday Book Investigation)			Living Sober (ABSI) Group		
All Lit Up			Favorite Passages in AA literature	75.00	75.00	Living Sober by the River Group	440.00	540.00
Alva A.A. Way Group			First Things First Group	151.00	151.00	Lunch Break Big Book meeting	62.00	62.00
Another Peace of Hope			Footprints in the Sand			Lunch Hour Group		
As Bill Sees It			Fort Myers Beach Men's Group			Mad Hatters Group		
Attitude Adjustment Group	171.00	171.00	Fort Myers Group			Maintenance Grp (Came to Believe)		
B-Happy Joyous & Free Group	77.00	77.00	Fort Myers Prayer & Meditation	100.00	100.00	Meat & Potatoes Group		
Back to Basics Women's Group			Fort Myers Shores Group			Men's Big Book		
Basics Recovery Meeting			Freethinkers of Bonita Springs Group			Men's Recovery Group	250.00	250.00
Beautiful Souls in Recovery			Freethinkers of Fort Myers Group			Men's Stag		
Beginners 123			Fresh Start; Fresh Start Step mtg			Mid Day Miracles Group		
Beginners Big Book Workshop			Friday Night Beginners Group			Mixed Nuts		
Being Convinced			Friday Night Group			Mon. Morning Big Book Study Group		
Beyond Belief			Friday Night Lights			Mon. Morning Sanibel Big Book		
Big Book Babes			Friends of Bill Group			Monday Beginners Big Book		
Big Book Connections Group			Garden Group			Monday Big Book Study		
Big Book Steppers Group	289.25	289.25	Garden Group Zoom			Monday Living Sober Group		
Big Book Study			Get Well Group			Monday Recovery Group (12&12D)		
Big Book Study Group			Grupo 4 De Julio			Morning After Group	69.00	140.00
Bike Night Group			Grupo Aprendiendo a Vivir			Myana Group	140.00	140.00
Bonita Banyan Group	50.00	50.00	Grupo Hispanos de Lehigh			New 7:30 Group	115.00	266.00
Bonita Men's Group	400.00	800.00	Grupo Quinto Paso			No Name		
Bonita Springs Step Group			Grupo Recuperacion de Immokalee			North Fort Myers Group		
Bonita Springs Womens Step Group			Grupo Sendero de Vida			Not A Glum Parking Lot Group		
Bonita Unity Group			Happy, Joyous & Free			Nuevo Despertar		
Book Worms Group	65.00	65.00	H.O.W. Group			Nuevo Horizonte		
Bottom of the Barrel Group	50.00	50.00	Highsteppers Group			ODAAT	180.00	180.00
Brown Baggers Group			Hotrod Ranch Group			Old Timer's		
Buckingham AA Group	131.00	131.00	How It Works			Open Door Group		
Calamity Janes Group			Interesting Topic Group	160.00	160.00	Our Primary Purpose Big Book Study	100.00	100.00
Calusa Harbor Bunch			It's 5 O'clock Somewhere	27.00	77.00	Parking Lot Meeting		
Cape Connected			Joe & Charlie Big Book			PI Groupers	150.00	150.00
Cape Coral Bookies Group			Just for Today Group			PI Sisters in Sobriety Group		
						Pit meeting		

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

Name	Feb	YTD
Plan of Recovery Group	272.00	272.00
Port LaBelle Group	562.00	562.00
Precisely How We Have Recovered Group	148.00	148.00
Primary Purpose Group	200.00	200.00
Primary Purpose with Joe & Charlie		
Principles in All our Affairs		
Private		
Progress Group		
Promises of Cape Coral Group		
Recovery Group	230.00	230.00
Recovery Rocks Group	200.00	200.00
Recovery Too Group		
Refuge for Recovery		
River (Rats) Reflections Group	30.00	30.00
San Carlos Park Group	500.00	500.00
Sanibel Approved AA Literature		
Sanibel Beginners		
Sanibel Friday Nite Spkr Group		
Sanibel Noon		
Sanibel Speaker Meeting		
Sanibel Step Meeting		
Sanibel Survivors Beach Meeting		
Sanibelles		
Sat Night Open Discussion Group		
Saturday Night Beginners Group		
Saturday Night Women's Group		
Serenity Group		
Sermon on the Mount		
Serving Our Brothers		
Singleness of Purpose Group	209.00	209.00
Sisters in Sobriety Group	240.00	240.00
Sisters Step Study Group		
Sober AF		
Sober in East L.A.		
Sober on the Shores Group		
Sobriety at Six		
Soul Sisters Group	212.50	212.50
Southern Women Group		
Spiritual Search Group		
Step & Grow Group		
Step Sisters Group	90.00	90.00
Step Sisters in Sobriety Group		
Stepping with the Big Book Group		
Stepping with the Girls Group		
Steps to Awakening Group	100.00	100.00
Steps to Live By		
Steps to Sobriety		

Name	Feb	YTD
Steps to Sobriety from the 12&12 Group		
Sugarsweet Group		
Sunday Breakfast meeting		
Sunday Morning Serenity Group		
Sunday Night Group (ABSI Lehigh)		
Sunday Speakeasy Group		
Sunlight of the Spirit Group		
Sunshine Sisters Group		
Support System Group		
Survivors Group		
SWFL Women's Speaker mtg		
T.G.I.F.		
The Brady Bunch Group	300.00	300.00
The Islanders		
The Lunch Break Big Book Meeting	62.00	62.00
The Nooners Group		300.00
The Serenity Group		
The Shared Gift		
The Way Out		
Toes in the Sand	430.00	430.00
Tough Love Group		50.00
Tuesday Night Step		
Tuesday Night Young People's Group		
Upon Awakening		
Veterans meeting		150.00
Walk with Purpose Group		
Way of Life Group (aka Way of Living)	500.00	500.00
We Agnostics		
We Care Group		
Welcome Home		
What It's Like		
W.I.S.E. Group ^		
Women of Willingness Group		
Women of Worth Group		25.00
Women's Big Book Group		
Women's Daily Reflection meeting		
Women's Evening Meditations Group		
Young at Heart Group		
Zoom Sisters Group		

CONTRIBUTIONS	FEB	YTD
Groups	5,773.50	10,814.25
Individuals	284.62	513.68
Monthly Business Meeting	n/a	53.00
Miscellaneous Income	28.13	34.20
TOTAL	6,086.25	11,415.13

Did you know?

There are a total of **220** meetings in our area (149 registered as AA groups)

Several meet more than once a week, so there are a total of **363** meetings held every week across Lee, Hendry and Glades Counties and Immokalee (329 in-person and 34 online)

In February, **25** groups and **2** meetings contributed to Intergroup (the monthly Intergroup Business meetings were cancelled due to illness).

In 2025, contributions were received from 55% of the total groups and meetings.

CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION

"There are no dues or fees for membership in A.A., but we do have expenses such as rent, refreshments, A.A. Conference-approved literature, meeting lists, and contributions to services provided by the local intergroup (central office), district and area, and the General Service Office of A.A." (P16 "The A.A. Group ... where it all begins".) Reprinted with permission of A.A.W.S., Inc.

Lee County Area, District 7, suggested contributions:

- 50% to Lee County Intergroup**
- 30% to District 7**
- 10% to Area 15**
- 10% to General Service (NY)**

Lee County Area Intergroup
7050 Winkler Rd, Suite 119, Fort Myers, FL 33919
 via PayPal at: leecountyaa.org

General Service District 7
 P.O. Box 61732, Fort Myers, FL



Area 15 Treasurer
 2950 W Cypress Creek Rd, Ste 101 #1097, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
 OR via PayPal at: area15aa.org
 OR via Zelle to: Treasurer@area15aa.org

General Service Board
 PO Box 2407, James A Farley Station, New York, NY 10116-2407
 OR https://contribution.aa.org





April Anniversaries

ABC Beginners

4/11/23 Steve M
4/27/20 Marianne

Dragonfly

4/28/24 Amanda D

Nooners

4/7/13 Annie S
4/12/82 Francis M
4/13/22 Jeff P
4/20/24 Bryan G
4/20/14 Dave O
4/26/25 Christo M

Stepping with the Girls

4/15/13 Mardi B
4/17/21 Renee R
4/21/16 Christine M

ABSI by the River

4/20/05 Steve J
4/14/24 Diane
4/1/19 Dave D

Fri Nt Beginners

4/8/24 Doug

H.O.W.

4/8/13 Bob P

Plan of Recovery

4/4/84 Ed M
4/19/21 Michael A

Steps to Awakening

4/11/90 Bobbi D
4/28/06 Joanne G

Cape Connected

4/13/24 Andrew D

LaBelle

4/10/87 Deanna F

Sisters in Sobriety

4/8/13 Mo P
4/20/25 Julie H
4/28/82 Margo C

Walk with Purpose

4/17/02 Shawn M
4/21/88 Henry D

Chiquita Bananas

4/15/87 John S
4/1/90 Steve W

Living Sober ABSI

4/26/82 John T
4/17/21 Steve C
4/9/22 Jim D

Sober in East LA

4/19/23 Jeremy

W.I.S.E.

4/4/23 Jodi Ann
4/20/12 Michelle C
4/30/12 Pam A

And Things We Cannot Change

Ellen H

8/7/1965—2/28/2026

24 years sober

Celebration of Life

Saturday, March 28th

2:00-4:30 pm

Y.A.N.A.

Introducing the Birthday Plan!

“One Year at a Time”

In grateful celebration of their sobriety birthdays, many A.A. members contribute **one dollar or more** for each year of sobriety to the local Intergroup.

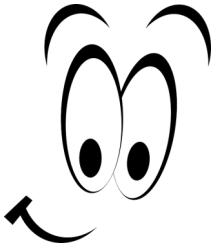
Your birthday contribution will go toward helping the Lee County Area Intergroup provide the following “Vital Services” to all Lee, Hendry, and Glades County A.A. Groups and their members:

Answering **phones** 24 hours a day, providing one-stop **shopping**, **publishing** the meeting list and monthly newsletter, keeping an up-to-date listing of meetings on the **website** and through the Meeting Guide **App**, and **supporting** all Lee County Area A.A. Groups and Meetings.

Contributions are accepted by mail, at the office, and through our website.

**In February, two members celebrated
by contributing a total of \$50.00 to Intergroup.**

THANK YOU!



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**Al-Anon District 150
Spring Gratitude Dinner**

March 28, 2026 — 6:00-9:00pm
AA and Al-Anon speakers

Tickets \$20 pre-sale, \$25 at the door
Bring a side dish or dessert to share

Faith United Methodist Church
15690 McGregor Blvd, Fort Myers

**16th Annual Florida Native
American Recovery Convention**

March 27-29, 2026
John Boy Auditorium
Clewiston, FL

For more information:
seminolesinrecovery2015@gmail.com

**Sisters in Sobriety Conference
“Rooted in Recovery”**

April 10—12, 2026
Hotel Venezia
Venice, FL

For more information:
info@SISConference.com
Amanda P—954.775.6928

**Pinellas County Intergroup’s
Annual Fort Desoto Picnic**

April 26, 2026
Fort Desoto
3500 Pinellas Bayway South
Pavillion #4
Tierra Verde, FL

For more information:
aapinellas.org

**General Service Area 15
Quarterly Assembly**

April 10—12, 2026 in Boca Raton
area15aa.org

68th Florida State Convention

August 6-9, 2026
Orlando, FL

<https://68.FloridaStateConvention.com>

**36th Annual AFG Florida South Convention
with A.A. Participation**

August 21-23, 2026
Bonita Springs, FL

www.southfloridaal-anon.org

Do you have information about a sober event? Help us help others.
Please call or email the Intergroup Office with the details.

It is **critical** for Intergroup to have information about local sober events:
Sober people in the community call our office for this information.

A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature

— what it means and what it includes —

From aa.org:

The term “Conference-approved” describes written or audiovisual material approved by the General Service Conference for publication by GSO. This process assures that everything in such literature is in accord with A.A. principles. Conference-approved material always deals with the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous or with information about the A.A. Fellowship.

The term has no relevance to material not published by GSO. It does not imply Conference disapproval of other material about A.A. A great deal of literature helpful to alcoholics is published by others, and A.A. does not try to tell individual members what they may or may not read.

Additionally, from Service Material from the General Service Office:

“Conference-approved”

Conference approval assures us that a piece of literature represents solid A.A. experience. Any Conference-approved booklet or pamphlet goes through a lengthy and painstaking process, during which a variety of A.A.s from all over the United States and Canada read and express opinions at every stage of production.

Not All “A.A. Literature” is Conference-approved:

Central offices and intergroups do write and distribute pamphlets or booklets that are not Conference-approved. If such pieces meet the needs of the local membership, they may be legitimately classified as “A.A. literature.” There is no conflict between A.A. World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.—publishers of Conference-approved literature), and central offices or intergroups—rather they complement each other. The Conference does not *disapprove* of such material.

G.S.O. does develop some literature that does not have to be approved by the Conference, such as Service Material, Guidelines and bulletins.

Grapevine and Conference Approval

General Service Conference approval is a lengthy review process that can take years for longer projects, with several stages of committee evaluation along the way.

The concept of Grapevine has been endorsed by the Conference as a whole and the use of Grapevine and its publications as recovery tools has been encouraged throughout the Fellowship year after year.

Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Here at the Intergroup, you will find most of the books and pamphlets published by AAWS. We have them available in both English and Spanish and can special-order other languages if needed. We also carry a lot of the media, service material, and guidelines.

Additionally, we have Grapevine books available. Each book is filled with stories on a selected topic, such as young people, the home group, and sponsorship. All of the stories are from previous issues of the Grapevine magazine.



12th Steppers—talk to newcomers and others who need to speak with a sober member (minimum one year of sobriety)

Speakers—share your story at meetings

Office Workers—answer phone, assist customers, use computer to complete sales, fold *Where & When*'s, organize and label merchandise, learn more about A.A. literature and service structure (minimum six months of sobriety)

Call 239-275-5111 for more information.