



# LAMBDA LINES

*Lambda South—Serving the LGBT Recovering Community for over 30 years  
The Magic is Still Here!!*

*June 2013*

## Lambda South , Inc.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello and greetings to all in the Lambda South Community!

Welcome to summer! June is my anniversary month and as I reflect on the past 7 years, as with any anniversary, I'm left thinking about how I got here. Service was definitely a big part of it. Being in the middle and not on the outside also helped tremendously.

However, the most important thing that was passed on to me was being involved with the unity of fellowship. Having a new group of people who love and care about me is something I never experienced until I came into these rooms. You loved me until I started to learn how to love myself. Fellowship taught me how to be a better person among my peers. It helped me with my need to gossip and taking other peoples inventories. It helped me to be a kinder member of the group instead of the troublemaker looking down on my peers. It helped me become a peacemaker and gentler with people who rubbed me the wrong way. It has given me confidence and the ability to speak my own mind and opinions without worrying about what people think about me. Fellowship has taught me how to be of service to others and definitely helped to keep me in the middle of my recovery. And with all of that my 7th year has been one which has taught me self acceptance, something that was so foreign to me in early recovery. So try to get involved with the unity of the fellowship and remember to include all of your recovery friends, your sponsor, sponsees, and other members in your support group. You'll find it quite rewarding!!

That being said, summer is here and with it comes many opportunities for fellowship. There are fireworks, picnics and the beaches. Having some of the most beautiful beaches in the country, the Florida Roundup has proudly announced that it is moving back to the Beach in 2014. Stay tuned for exciting details.

To celebrate moving back to the beach, on July 14th, from 12-4pm, FRU is going to host the "Summer Splash" picnic at John Lloyd State Park in the Leatherback Pavilion. It will feature food, games, fellowship and fun!! Also, our fundraising chair, Jason Liechty is planning a Lambda Barbeque in July and a unique fundraising activity in August. As we approach our hottest month of the summer, on September 29th we will be hosting our Annual Anniversary Dinner to celebrate Lambda's 30 year Anniversary. This year it will be held at Tropical Acres Restaurant and our Vice President Jim Miller is planning a great celebration of fellowship for all. Stay tuned for further details on all three events. So our summer holds a lot of fun for all of our recovery community. And finally, In the midst of all the fun, I hope that everyone will join in supporting all the recovery meetings that 30 years of Lambda South has to offer.

I wish you all a fantastic summer!!

Robert Accetura  
President, Lambda South, Inc



# Meeting News



**Welcome new meetings!!!**

**Adult Children of Alcoholics  
Simple, But Not Easy, ACA  
Saturdays at 7:00pm - Room 3**

**Overeaters' Anonymous  
Living in the Solution, OA  
Tuesdays at 5:45pm - Room 2**

## **Monthly Anniversary Meeting:**

The Anniversary Meeting is held for all fellowships on the last Saturday of the month at 8:30 P.M. To celebrate with us, put your name and number of years on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. You do not need to be a Lambda South member to celebrate at the meeting.

# Messages to 60 Day Me — by Anonymous

## Step 12 (2nd of 3 parts)

These are messages for 60 day me, the things he needs to hear that no one shared at that meeting back then. I don't write this for you, though I hope you find value here. As crazy as it sounds, I'm only trying to save my past self because I love him, I know how scared he is, and I want him to know it's OK. It's all going to be OK.

So, to 60 day me, I have this to say today:

Time for the second little bit of Step 12 my friend: "we tried to carry this message to alcoholics." I know it sounds simple but we're going to break it down even more.

Let's start with "tried to carry." You won't really learn this until you start sponsoring others buddy but all we can ever do is try to carry the message. If someone gets it, that's a damned beautiful thing. But we can't force it on them, or make them get it, or really "give" it to them—as much as we want to sometimes, as much as we might love that person. And well I hate to break this to you but the truth is you're going to learn this lesson before sponsorship. You're going to learn it when your friends relapse. It sucks, period. I wish I could soften that for you but I can't. I wish I could say it doesn't happen but it does. When it does, my friend, keep trying to carry the message. It's all we can do.

So now that second little bit: "this message." Yeah you're probably wondering what the hell is this message you're supposed to be carrying anyway, right? Here's the simple answer: There is a solution. No matter how else we put it or how we carry it or whatever other work we do in the course of Step 12, that's the core message. There is a solution. Hang onto that buddy, for you as much as for others.

And with the final little chunk, "to alcoholics," we can put it all together. With Step 12, we do what we can to let others suffering from this disease know that there is a solution. How? Well, every time you share my friend, don't just share the shit in your life but share the solution to the shit too—even if that solution is just asking for help (Step 2 is just asking for help, after all). When the problem is solved (and it always is), share that too (bammo! Step 3!). When you talk about staying sober with others in the rooms, you lob that message back and forth, keeping you all sober over dinner after a meeting. When you start chairing (that will be in about a month for you), you make that meeting happen. When you start sponsoring (and you will), you guide others through the steps. We carry this message in all kinds of ways. Heck, just being at a meeting is a way of carrying the message.

But my friend here's the big secret... the greatest way we carry the message... to everyone, everywhere, at every moment: staying sober one day at a time. Just being sober is proof that there is a solution and as some of the old timers will say you may be the only Big Book someone ever reads. Stay sober today and you live the message, prove there is a solution. You don't do it just for you my friend; you do it for the alcoholic who still suffers too.

And that totally rocks.

I love you 60 day me. Hope you get this message. I'll be waiting for you, 6 (almost 7!) years from where you are. And I have a big bear hug ready for you.



## **This I Remember: The Beginning**

By: David S.

Sobriety Date: 3/8/79

*Editor's Note: David S. is one of the founding members of Lambda South. He recently passed through town and was kind enough to write this in commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of Lambda South.*

*We are deeply grateful to him and to all of the courageous men and women who started the place we call home.*

The first GLBT AA meeting in Florida, was started in 1977 or 1978 by Jim B., David O., Pete P., and Chuck H. This group of men went to the Fort Lauderdale Intergroup and asked them to list a meeting as G&L, as we referred to our community at the time. The meeting was held on a Wednesday evening at the "old" MCC Church off Broward Blvd. behind the police station. Miami followed shortly afterwards with two meetings, Monday and Friday evenings. West Palm Beach started a meeting on Thursday evening. These meetings were on different evenings in order that each county could take road trips between the different G&L AA meetings. It was great fun getting to meet people in recovery from the three counties.

There were so few GLBT meetings in Fort Lauderdale in the early '80 (Tuesday Living Sober, Wednesday Discussion, Saturday evening Big Book). When a new meeting was started, the group had trouble finding places that would accept them. Remember, this was 1978-1982 time period.

Where did the idea for Lambda South come from? My husband, Greg G., and I went to Dallas, Texas, for the Advocated Experience weekends, loosely based on the then-popular EST (Erhardt Seminars Training). The Advocated Experience was created by David Goodstein, owner of The Advocate Magazine, and Dr. Rob Eichberg. While in Dallas, we attended a G&L AA meeting held in the back room of a florist shop.

Part of the two-weekend all-day series of extensive self-realization workshops was to come up with and implement a plan that we would take back to our local GLBT communities in order to make a difference. Greg G. came up with the idea of starting a G&L Clubhouse in Fort Lauderdale where AA meetings could be held. This would solve the problem of where to hold AA meetings.

When we returned from Dallas, Greg G. approached my sponsor, Norma J. with the idea of a clubhouse for the GLBT community. Norma, along with Greg, took the idea and ran with it. Norma J. and Greg G. became the co-chairs of the steering committee to begin the process of forming Lambda South. Norma and Greg, along with countless others, worked tirelessly during this entire process.

The first steering committee meeting was held in our living room in Oakland Park, FL, on a Saturday morning in July, 1982. Some of the people I remember being there were: Norma J., Judy O., Greg G., David S., Herb G., David B., Norm, Pete P. and Joe D. There were at least 20 -25 people there, and I am sorry I don't remember all their names.

We discussed all the items that we thought needed attention in order to form the clubhouse: fundraising, site search, by-laws, and legal among other things. Someone mentioned that we should contact the Lambda Clubhouse in Atlanta (hence our name, Lambda South).

One of their founding members (I wish I could remember his name) flew down to Fort Lauderdale and meet with us on two different occasions (on his own dime), bringing with him all his experience with forming their clubhouse. He was an invaluable resource. He gave us a copy of their clubhouse's by-laws which we modified and adapted for our use at Lambda South.

The site on Las Olas Blvd. was found by Greg G. He was friends with the owners of the building (Ron Sines and Mary Douglas) that Lambda South now calls home. The building had been built as a ballet studio in the 40's but was being used by Sines Antiques and Mary Douglas Antiques as a warehouse for their respective antique businesses located on Las Olas Blvd. Some years later when we had the opportunity to purchase the building, Greg G.'s father, who believed in Lambda South's honest desire to be helpful to the GLBT 12 Step recovery community, lent us the money so we could purchase the building.

We held fundraisers, worked with different contractors, and the city of Fort Lauderdale building inspectors to bringing the building up to code. Believe me it was a lot of work and there was an instance when the building site on Las Olas was almost abandoned. Also, one of our members ran off with all our hard earned money so we had to hold an emergency meeting to secure pledges for additional funds. The money was later paid back.

We wanted publicity so we discussed having The Weekly News (the So. Florida gay paper in the early 80') do an article on the clubhouse with a group of us standing proudly in front of the building entrance. In the end, a picture of just the building entrance was in the article, again the traditions at work.

We wanted to form an AA clubhouse, In the end we formed a clubhouse where recovery meetings would be held, again the traditions at work.

If I remember correctly, the first meeting held at Lambda South was a discussion meeting held by candlelight. We didn't have a CO [no electricity, one bathroom (the men's was torn up to accommodate the handicapped and was not finished,) and barely any "street find" furniture]] yet but we wanted an AA meeting. Because we had no CO, none of the local G&L AA meetings had voted to move to Lambda South at that time, although in the end, all did vote to move.

This is just a synopsis of the forming of Lambda South. There are many people who contributed to the steering committee and the formation of the clubhouse. So if I have left off anyone's name, please forgive, it is not intentional.

## 2013 Board of Directors Bio Board

This month's Bio features: Don Wright—Operations Manager

My name is Don Wright. I am the Operations Chair. My sobriety date is: Aug 22, 1982. Being involved with Lambda has been one of the high points of my journey.

I fully support the mission of Lambda to provide a safe place for GLBT alcoholics and addicts to join together to help save their lives. Getting sober in the military and spending my first 20 years in the program in the Navy, I have been involved with AA throughout the world. However coming here and being given the opportunity to do service at Lambda has raised my sobriety to a new level. It is the most important thing I do in my life today.

This service commitment, which has been entrusted to me for eight years, filled a gap which retirement opened. I thank you all for the opportunity and encourage you to take every opportunity to reach out to another suffering alcoholic or addict. Your life will be enriched by the experience.

## Upcoming Events at Lambda South

**BBQ in July!! Free to members of Lambda South!!! Become a member today!**

**30 year Anniversary Dinner celebration in September at Tropical Acres.  
Watch for details!**



# Anniversary Celebrations!!



## June Anniversaries

Bob W.	36 years
Fran G.	29 years
Flash M.	27 years
Kurt R.	25 years
Hal D.	18 years
Robert A.	7 years
Gene S.	4 years

**TOTAL**

**146 years!**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE CELEBRANTS!**



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## June 2013—What's Inside this month

- ⇒ **President's Message**
- ⇒ **Meeting News**
- ⇒ **60-Day Me**
- ⇒ **This I Remember: The Beginning**
- ⇒ **Board of Director's Monthly Bio**
- ⇒ **Upcoming Events**
- ⇒ **Anniversaries**



