

The Voice

Volume 27, Number 12

December 2010



One member's voice

As THE result of these steps A story of experience, strength, and hope

"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."

When I recite or read Step Twelve, I add emphasis to the "THE" because I learned to do so from the old timers who went before me.

My first sponsor did it. My current sponsor does it. Perhaps you've heard me do it at a meeting. It is important to me – it is why the Twelve Steps have worked as well as they have in my life. The seemingly elusive spiritual awakening with which we struggle so is the point and the purpose of the steps.

Coming into my first AA meeting as an unemployable scientist who ridiculed anyone who spoke of faith and then hearing the prayers and mention of God left me feeling as if I was screwed. I took the advice given me; "Don't drink and go to meetings," quite

literally, and it worked for a little while. I experimented with the idea of a sponsor but never called one – toyed with the steps but was so afraid that there might actually be a God that I never got far with them.

Eventually, "Don't drink and go to meetings" failed, and I fell into a pit of depression the likes of which I had never imagined. I quite literally stood at the jumping off point!

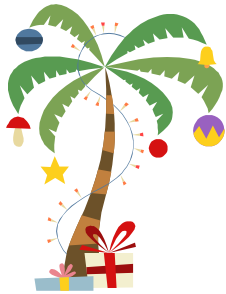
I had reached that state described in Chapter 11 of the *Big Book* – no longer able to imagine life with or without booze – afraid to live and afraid to die. Almost five years after my last drink, I had found another bottom that finally pushed me towards getting serious with the steps.

It was about this time that I met my first real sponsor, a man of faith, very active in the program, who had something I wanted. From him I learned that no single step is more important than another, that I

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Happy Holidays from
Intergroup 17

A quote for December

"Humility, expressed through anonymity, is the greatest safeguard that Alcoholics Anonymous can ever have."

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 187

Tradition Twelve: Principles before personalities

"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."

I know that for most people who come into AA, the big dilemma is, "how anonymous should an AA member be?"

Many good discussion meetings come out of this topic. Opinions vary, and yet the most important part of Tradition Twelve is our charge to gain real humility and some spiritual rewards.

Early AA newcomers who got sober wanted to shout their successes from the rooftops. They began to reveal themselves as AA members by talking on radio and appearing on television. Unfortunately, when some of

them drank again, the general public did not see recovery, they saw only a drunk.

Tradition 12 tells us to put our egos aside, work to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic, and take no credit for doing these good works. "This is quite and order!" You bet it is, for our average ego-driven alcoholic.

Bill W said, "Anonymity is humility at work." Anonymity tells us we must make a personal sacrifice at each level of service to the still suffering alcoholic. It is human to seek recognition for all the people we help,

but the overriding principle we are seeking should be *personal sacrifice*.

The principle of self-sacrifice must replace the all-consuming, ego-driven alcoholic personality. Everyone talks about "principles above personalities," but we sometimes fail to realize it is *our own individual personalities* that must be overcome through the practice of the 12 Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous?

Prepared by Kathy and John P. The views, expressions, and opinions presented here are those of the authors and not necessarily those of AA or Intergroup 17.

Congratulations December Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate anniversaries that add up to a collective **309 years**. That's more than **112,785 days of sobriety**. One day at a time!

Don C	45 years	Marjorie T	2 years
Dawn C	27 years	Theresa C	2 years
Lorne S	27 years	Wayne Mc	2 years
Joe S	25 years	Marlene R	1 year
Chick W	21 years	Michael C	1 year
Ralph H	15 years	Peter G	1 year
Eddie R	13 years		
Al C	11 years		
Lisa S	10 years		
Mary H	8 years		
Beth S	7 years		
Diane I	6 years		
Rob G	6 years		
Bob H	5 years		
Kelli S	4 years		
Max R	4 years		
Mike B	4 years		
Ron F	4 years		
Ron R	4 years		
Bob R	3 years		
Kelly O	2 years		

November

Donald T	17 years
Rose R	11 years
Don D	5 years
Michael G	3 years
Ken W	2 years

Please share your AA birthday with all.
Deadline for January birthdays is December 20.
Email: thevoice@aaocalamarion.org
Phone: 352-867-0660

Plug into Intergroup 17 online

Explore our new website features: www.aaocalamarion.org
Subscribe to The Voice by email: thevoice@aaocalamarion.org



From the archives of Alcoholics Anonymous, December 1944

Greetings from Bill W

Greetings on Our 10th Christmas, 1944

Yes, it's in the air! The spirit of Christmas once more warms this poor distraught world. Over the whole globe millions are looking forward to that one day when strife can be forgotten, when it will be remembered that all human beings -- even the least -- are loved by God, when men will hope for the coming of the Prince of Peace as they never hoped before.

But there is another world which is not poor. Neither is it distraught. It is the world of Alcoholics Anonymous, where thousands dwell happily and secure. Secure because each of us, in his own way, knows a greater power who is love, who is just, and who can be trusted.

Nor can men and women of AA ever forget that only through suffering did they find enough humility to enter the portals of that New World. How

privileged we are to understand so well the divine paradox that strength rises from weakness, that humiliation goes before resurrection; that pain is not only the price but the very touchstone of spiritual rebirth.

Knowing it's full worth and purpose, we can no longer fear adversity, we have found prosperity where there was poverty, peace and joy have sprung out of the very midst of chaos. Great indeed, our blessings!

And so, --

Merry Christmas to you all -- from the Trustees, from Bobbie and from Lois and me.

Bill Wilson

District 17 Archives house the written and oral history of AA in Ocala-Marion County. If you have a story, memory, documents, photos, or other memorabilia that relate to our local history, please relay it through the Intergroup office to District 17 Archives Committee Chair. 352-867-0660. Email: ocalaintergroup@msn.com

Keeping Your Holiday Season Sober and Joyous

Holiday parties without liquid spirits may still seem a dreary prospect to new A.A.s. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober—an idea we would never have dreamed of, wanted, or believed possible when drinking. Here are some tips for having an all-round ball without a drop of alcohol.

- Line up extra A.A. activities** for the holiday season. Arrange to take newcomers to meetings, answer the phones at a clubhouse or central office, speak, help with dishes, or visit the alcoholic ward at a hospital.
- Be host to A.A. friends**, especially newcomers. If you don't have a place where you can throw a formal party, take one person to a diner and spring for the coffee.
- Keep your A.A. telephone list with you** all the time. If a drinking urge or panic comes—postpone everything else until you've called an A.A.
- Find out about the special holiday parties**, meetings, or other celebrations given by groups in your area, and go. If you're timid, take someone newer than you are.
- Skip any drinking occasion you are nervous about**. Remember how clever you were at excuses when drinking? Now put the talent to good use. No office party is as important as saving your life.
- If you have to go to a drinking party** and can't take an A.A. with you, keep some candy handy.
- Don't think you have to stay late**. Plan in advance an "important date" you have to keep.
- Worship in your own way**.
- Don't sit around brooding**. Catch up on those books, museums, walks, and letters.
- Don't start now getting worked up** about all those holiday temptations. Remember—"one day at a time."
- Enjoy the true beauty of holiday love and joy**. Maybe you cannot give material gifts—but this year, you can give love.
- "Having had a . . ."** No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.

Reprinted from *Box 4-5-9*, Holiday 2008 by permission of AA World Service, Inc.

December by the Books

STEP TWELVE

Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to other alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs

Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail. This is our twelfth suggestion: Carry this message to other alcoholics! You can help when no one else can. You can secure their confidence when other fail. Remember they are very ill.

Life will take on new meaning. To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends - this is an experience you must not miss. We know you will not want to miss it. Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives.

Alcoholics Anonymous, page 89

The joy of living is the theme of AA's Twelfth Step, and action is its key word. Here we turn outward toward our fellow alcoholics who are still in distress. Here we experience the kind of giving that asks no rewards. Here we begin to practice all Twelve Steps of the program in our daily lives so that we and those about us may find emotional sobriety. When the Twelfth Step is seen in all its full implication, it is really talking about the kind of love that has no price tag on it.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 106



**Want to live by the books?
Then buy the books!**

Find a complete selection of AA conference approved literature available now at Intergroup 17 office. Ideal for holiday gift giving. 3666-A, NE 25th Street, Ocala, FL 34470. Phone: 352.867.0660. Cash sales only.

TRADITION TWELVE

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

- Why is it good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare?
- What would happen to me if AA as a whole disappeared?
- When I do not trust AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
- In my opinions of and remarks about other AAs, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?
- Do I ever try to get a certain AA group to conform to my standards, not its own?
- Have I a personal responsibility in helping an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is my part?
- Does my personal behavior reflect the Sixth Tradition-or belie it?
- Do I do all I can do to support AA financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a Grapevine subscription?
- Do I complain about certain AAs' behavior-especially if they are paid to work for AA? Who made me so smart?
- Do I fulfill all AA responsibilities in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really?
- Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give AA critics real ammunition?
- Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)?
- Is my brand of AA so attractive that other drunks want it?
- What is the real importance of me among more than a million AAs?

Step 12 Checklist, AA Grapevine

CONCEPT TWELVE

General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the AA Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others: that all important decisions be reached by discussion vote and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

*The AA Service Manual
Twelve Concepts for World Service*

Concept XII Checklist

- How do we guard against becoming a "seat of perilous wealth or power?"
- How do we practice prudent use of our Seventh Tradition contributions and literature revenue?
- Do we insure the spiritual liberties of all AA members by not placing any member in the position of absolute authority over others?
- Do we try to reach important decisions by thorough discussion, vote and, where possible, substantial unanimity?
- As guardians of AA's traditions, are we ever justified in being personally punitive?
- Are we careful to avoid public controversy?
- Do we always try to treat each other with mutual respect and love?

*The AA Service Manual,
Twelve Concepts for World Service*

Excerpts from *The Big Book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and other AA publications are reprinted with permission of AA World Services.

District 17 Corner

As THE result of these steps

Continued from page 1

could not get everything I wanted from life without working all twelve with equal fervor, and not to limit their power with my preconceived ideas.

Steps Two and Three continued to strike terror in my heart, but encouraged by my sponsor and my friends, I finally began the journey. I learned to set aside my prejudice and my penchant for perfectionism and simply to begin.

I continue to come across folks who think that they have to complete one step perfectly before they move on to the next. This just isn't so! Do what you can and move on to the next. The goal here is to get to Step Twelve so you can go back to Step One. Remember the "THE." We have the spiritual experience as "THE result of . . ."

I'm not sure just when this began to take shape in my mind – that the spiritual experience that was "THE" result of the steps didn't necessarily happen because of all of my hard work. You "gotta" keep the whole step in context. "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."

Other people tried (successfully) to carry this message to me! And they practiced the principles in their affairs. I knew they were doing that because they were nice and helpful and kind to me, often when I didn't deserve it.

Step Twelve came full cycle for me when I saw that the spiritual experience was the result of working the previous steps with the encouragement of others who were doing so because they had already worked the steps and were becoming principled, as well as nice. I should have warned you at the beginning that I have a broke brain.

When you realize that you have achieved some level of comfort with being in the presence of God and that His presence is frequently brought on by being nice to others, you're developing some skill at this step.

Dan J
Ocala, Florida
December 2010

The thoughts, expressions, and opinions expressed by the author are not necessarily the thoughts, expressions, and opinions of AA as a whole or Inter-group 17 Inc.

District 17 Monthly Meeting Highlights October 28, 2010

DCM: Nancy D presided. 18 officers, committee chairs, GSRs, and visitors in attendance.

DCM Report: District 17 had 9 votes at Area Assembly for elections of new officers and delegate. Minutes of the meeting are on NFAA website. Literature committee is seeking stories from atheists, agnostics, veterans, and those who suffered a disability after becoming sober.

Secretary's Report: September minutes read and accepted.

Treasurer's Report Accepted. Financials available to view on request.

Accessibilities: Obtained American sign language DVD speaker set from the 54th FL State Convention; will make copies for the lending library.

Corrections: Coordinating with Nancy I who takes meetings to local jail. Placed more books into the women's Annex at Lowell Prison.

Grapevine: Will start work on purchasing Grapevine subscriptions.

Intergroup: Picnic netted a profit of approximately \$700.

Literature: Donate copies of anniversary edition AA Comes of Age to Intergroup picnic auction and Gratitude Dinner raffle.

Treatment: Meeting with representative of local facilities including NPI and The Vines to explore meetings.

Gratitude Dinner: All planning complete for November 13 event at Our Lady of the Springs Church.

New business: Nominations accepted for new DCM and Alternate DCM.

District 17 Officers & Service Chairs

DCM: Nancy D
Secretary: Alison C
Treasurer: Ashley C
Accessibilities: Ricky B
Archives: Kathy P
Bridging the Gap: Billy C
CPC/PI: Vacant
Corrections: Sherry R
Grapevine: Lydia N
Intergroup: John P
Literature: Max R
Treatment: William J
Bridging the Gap: Bill C

Group GSRs

164 Group: John B
Anthony: Lisa E
Came to Believe: John D
Conscious Contact: Jim B
Forest Group: Petra H
Free to Be: Brian L
Happy, Joyous & Free: Rick D
Head Start: Patti B
Keep It Simple: Tina T
Last Call: Chris P
Living Sober: Diane I
Men's Group: Bob L
No Name Group: Lisa E
Ocala Group: Ricky B
Sober Yankees: Ginger H
We Give Up: Carol W
Weir Crazy: Jennifer M
Young People's Group: Melissa B

The list above includes names of GSRs who have been active in recent District 17 activities. If your group's GSR is not listed, please send name and contact info to: thevoice@aaocalamarion.org

To contact a District 17 officer, service chair, or GSR, call 352.867.0660.

Next Meeting. All Welcome.

Thursday, January 27, 2011, 6:00 pm
St. Mark's UMC
3452 NE Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala

Accessibilities needs you to carry the message — literally!

The Accessibilities Committee of District 17 is charged with carrying the message to alcoholics with special needs.

While there are no "special" alcoholics, there are members of our fellowship who find accessing meetings or our literature difficult because of impairments such as blindness, deafness, or inability to walk. Others are hospital-

ized or residents of long-term care or assisted living facilities.

The Accessibilities Committee is looking for volunteers to help take meetings and provide literature to such members. A little service can go a long way. To learn more about how you can help, see Ricky B at the next District 17 meeting, January 27.

Group Contributions to Intergroup 17 October 2010

**This table presents contributions for fiscal year June 2010-May 2011.
Report below is from June 1, 2010 through October 31, 2010 only.
If there is an error, please contact Intergroup 17.**

GROUP NAME	\$ Oct '10 Contri- butions	Contri- butions 6/1/10- 10/31/10	GROUP NAME	\$ Oct '10 Contri- butions	Contri- butions 6/1/10- 19/31/10
164 Pages Group	\$ 6.46	\$106.24	Living Sober Group		66.00
Acceptance	50.00	50.00	Lunch Bunch Group		159.05
Alive and Well			Marion Oaks		
All You Need Group		30.00	McIntosh Group		
As Bill Sees It		169.00	Men's Group Ocala		81.00
Bellevue Eye Opener			New Attitudes Group		
Bellevue God's Way	5.70	5.70	New Beginnings Group		
Bellevue Group		150.00	New Life Group		
Bonfire Group			No Name Group	175.57	218.32
Breakfast Club		788.88	Ocala Group		502.63
Cabin in the Woods		25.00	One Page at a Time	34.00	34.00
Came To Believe		24.00	Primary Purpose Group		24.00
Citra Group			Resentment Too Group		
Come As You Are			Second Step Group		
Conscious Contact		50.00	Shores of Sobriety		
Day by Day			Sisters of Serenity		
Eleventh Step			Sober Yankees		100.00
Experience, Strength & Hope			Start A New Life		75.00
First Impressions			Steps and Promises		
Forest Group	0.58	40.58	Stop Whining & Sober Up		
Fountain of Gratitude		50.00	Strength In Numbers		
Free To Be		45.00	Summerfield Group		
Ft. McCoy Group			Summerfield New Green		
God's Way Group	10.44	19.20	Sm'field Living in Today		
Grace Group			Sundae Social Group		
Grateful Gals			TLC Group, The Centers		.35
Green Group			Thursday Night Step Gp.		
Grupo Mano Abierta		25.00	We Give Thanks		
Grupo Nueva Vida			We Give Up		47.03
Happy Hour Group		130.00	Weir Crazy		143.00
Happy, Joyous & Free		1,758.81	Williston Winners		
Headstart Group	29.18	153.30	Won Rebos Group	44.83	44.83
Healing Group		30.00	Young People's Group	15.64	15.64
It's In The Book	0.69	60.69	Zion-Blichton Group		20.00
Keep It Simple		136.51	Archives	16.00	16.00
Last Call Group			District 17		100.00
Last House on the Block			Birthday Club (personal)		
Life is Good Sober Group			Double Nickel (personal)	10.00	10.00
Life Saver Group		200.00	Faithful 5-ers (personal)		
			Individuals (other)	15.17	54.71
			Total	\$514.26	\$5,830.29

How Groups and Individuals Support the Work of AA

Group contributions funding the work of Intergroup 17 and other areas of AA. Many groups follow the 50-30-10-10 plan of support after they meet their own financial needs:

- 50 percent to Intergroup 17
- 30 percent to AA General Service Office
- 10 percent to North Florida Area Assembly
- 10 percent to District 17

Group contributions

Intergroup 17
3666A NE 25th Street
Ocala, FL 34470

The General Service Office
P.O. Box 459
6035 E. Tudor St.
New York, NY 10164

NFACAA
P.O. Box 567
Melbourne, FL 32902

District 17
P.O. Box 3081
Ocala, FL 34478

Intergroup 17 Financial Statements

Monthly financial statements for Intergroup 17 are available for review at the Intergroup 17 office during regular office hours. Please telephone in advance to make an appointment. 352-867-0660.

Intergroup 17 Call Center October 2010

Meeting info requests	93
Twelfth Step Calls	3
Office transactions	44
Visitors	54
Al-Anon*	2
Miscellaneous	26

*Calls requesting information relating to Al-Anon Family Groups are promptly and respectfully referred to the appropriate local resources.

Upcoming Events and Meetings of Interest

Looking for a local meeting?

Choose from more than 160 meetings a week.

When and Where online!
www.aocalamarion.org

Print copies available through home groups or at Intergroup 17 office.

Here's just a sampling.
Find scores more online.

Beginners Meetings

Mondays

17th Street Group

6:00pm every Monday

Church of Christ

2730 SE Maricamp Rd., Ocala

Tuesdays

Living Sober Group

Your support requested!

Living Sober text meeting

7:30 pm every Tuesday

Congregational Church

7171 SW State Rd 200, Ocala

Meditation

Wednesdays

Conscious Contact

7:00pm every Wednesday

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

3452 NE Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala

Spanish Speaking

Wednesdays

Grupo Nueva Vida

7:00pm every Wednesday

150-A SW 23rd Ave. (1/2 block South of Ft. King), Ocala

Fridays and Saturdays

Grupo Mano Abierta

7:00pm every Friday

2082 Walnut Street, Dunnellon

Eat 'n Speak

Keep It Simple Group

Last Thursday of the month

Eat: 7:00pm Speaker: 8:00pm

Small fee for meal

Ascension Lutheran Church

5730 SE 28th Street, Ocala

Ocala Group

Last Saturday of the month

Eat: 7:00pm Speaker: 8:00pm

Small fee for meal. All welcome.

St. Mark's United Methodist

1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

District 17 Monthly Meeting

No meeting in December

All GSRs. Everyone welcome.

6:00 pm last Thursday of the month

St. Mark's United Methodist

1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Intergroup 17 Monthly

Intergroup reps. All welcome.

5:15 pm second Sunday of month

St. Mark's United Methodist

1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

New Meetings

Loose Horse Group

Fridays, 7 pm

Open Discussion

Friendship Baptist Church

15115 Gainesville Road

Reddick, FL

West Side Recovery Group

Starting December 8

Wednesdays & Thursdays, 7 pm

Open Discussion

215 NW Martin Luther King Jr. Ave

Ocala, FL

164 Pages Group

Two New Meetings

Women's Meeting

Mondays 6 pm WC/HC

Ocklawaha United Methodist

Church, 13333 East Hwy 25

Men's Meeting

Mondays 6 pm WC/HC

Ocklawaha United Methodist

Church, 13333 East Hwy 25

A Vision For You

Mondays, 7 pm

Open Discussion

Florida Highlands Baptist Church

10891 SW 155th St, Dunnellon, FL

Meeting News

New Meeting Location

Lifesaver Group

Monday-Friday, noon, effective Decem-

ber 1. New location : 7365 SW 85th St,

Suite 206, Ocala, FL

Experience, Strength & Hope Group

Fridays, 8 PM, Church of Christ, 2730

SE Maricamp Road, Ocala, Florida

Correction

Last House on the Block Group

Sunday, 3 pm meeting is a Women's

Meeting, **not** a Men's Meeting as pub-

lished in the When & Where.

Discontinued

Keep It Simple, Monday 8 pm meet-

ings discontinued. Will continue to

meet on Thursdays at 8 pm.

Steps & Promises Tuesday 7:30 pm

meeting discontinued.

How to publicize new and changed meetings

To help ensure the accuracy of information about meeting dates, times, and locations, please submit all new and changed information in writing or by email

(ocalaintergroup@msn.com) and authorized by the Home Group chairperson, secretary, or Intergroup representative. Thanks.

DISCLAIMER

The Voice newsletter is published by Intergroup 17 Ocala-Marion County, Florida, and is created by alcoholics for alcoholics. Articles in the newsletter written by individual members of Alcoholics Anonymous are expressions of their own experiences and opinions and not necessarily those of Intergroup 17 or AA as a whole. *The Voice* editorial committee reserves the right to edit anything submitted prior to its publication.

Special Events, Celebrations, Notices

Join us in celebrating our Eight-Year Anniversary Grupo Mano Abierta

Saturday, January 22, 2011
Meeting 7:00 pm
Dinner 8:30 pm

All welcome.
Please bring desserts to share.

12390 NW Hwy 328
Ocala, Florida

**Ocala Group
Eat 'n Speak
Saturday, December 4
Dinner 7 pm Potluck
Speaker 8 pm Mike G**
\$2 if you bring a dish
\$4 without a dish

**Living Sober Group
Speaker Meeting**
Sunday, December 12
7:30 pm
Speaker: Ruth T
Congregational Church
7171 SW State Rd 200
Ocala, Florida

Join the Birthday Club!



Celebrate an AA anniversary—yours or another member's—with a contribution to help Intergroup 17 carry the message to other alcoholics in Ocala and Marion County.

To join, send name, sobriety date, years of sobriety, and a donation—suggested is \$1, \$5, or \$10 for each year of sobriety to:

Intergroup 17
3666-A N.E. 25th Street
Ocala, Florida 34470

An Invitation from Unity Place Christmas Dinner



1:00 pm, Saturday, December 25
Unity Place, 525 NE Sanchez, Ocala
All invited.. No charge. Desserts welcomed.

AA World Services seeks personal stories for two new literature projects.

AA World Services trustees' Committee on Literature is seeking stories from AA members that reflect the wide range of spiritual experiences and how members with any belief or non-belief have found a solution to the concept of spirituality and sobriety in AA for the literature under development.

Also, the trustees' Committee on Literature is charged with updating the pamphlet *AA and the Armed Services* to include recent experiences from AA members in active duty and a section which focuses on veterans of the armed services..."

Manuscripts should be 500-800 words, double spaced. On a separate sheet of paper, please include your name, address, telephone number, and email address, as well as the project you are submitting your story for.

The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether or not their story is selected for publication. Please send your sharing, by February 15, 2011 to: Literature Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163 or email literature@aa.org.

AA/Al-Anon Retreat Day of Reflection on the Steps in Our Lives with Fr. Patrick O'D

Wednesday, January 19, 2011
9:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Queen of Peace Parish Hall
\$7 for pizza lunch, coffee & soda's

Please call Joe S through Intergroup 17 at 352.-867- 0660 for more information and to reserve a space.

Great Gifts for the AA Member on Your List



Intergroup 17 carries a nice selection of AA conference approved literature and other recovery related items at affordable prices. Stop buy and pick up a holiday gift for someone special.

Intergroup 17
3666-A N.E. 25th Street
Ocala, Florida 34470
Phone: 352-867-0660

Office Hours
Monday-Friday 10 am to 5 pm
Saturday 10 am to 2 pm

IN MEMORIAM

A memorial service for
Art Kitterman
will be held
11 am, Saturday, December 11
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Mark Your Calendar

See details elsewhere in this issue or call or log-on for more information.

12/12 Intergroup 17 monthly meeting, St. Mark's UMC. See back page.

12/25 Christmas Dinner, 1:00 pm, Unity Place, 525 NE Sanchez. Free. See this page.

1/15-16, 2011 North Florida Area Assembly, St. Augustine, FL, www.aanorthflorida.org

1/19, 2011 AA/Al-Anon Retreat, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm, Queen of Peace Parish Hall. See details this page.

1/21-23/2011 Big Book Workshop Weekend, multiple speakers. \$25 advance, \$30 on site. See www.leestapesandcds.com Call: 1.877.902.5975 Email: leestapes@vaifamily.com

1/22, 2011 Grupo Mano Abierta 8-Year Anniversary Celebration. Details this page.

*Activities are listed for information only. Not necessarily affiliated with AA World Services and/or Intergroup 17, Ocala/Marion, Florida unless specifically noted.



InterGroup 17 Meetings Everyone invited!

Open to all. Learn more about AA, InterGroup, and the great opportunities for service work .

Next Meeting

Sunday, December 12, 5:15 pm
St. Mark's UMC
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Free Subscription. The Voice by e-mail.



To subscribe for free,
send an e-mail
with "Free Voice" in
the subject line to:

thevoice@aaocalamarion.org

The Voice by e-mail is in PDF format. Requires Adobe Reader software. Free download available at www.adobe.com.
Printed copies available at InterGroup office.

InterGroup 17 Ocala-Marion County Florida

3666-A, NE 25th Street
Ocala, FL 34470
Phone: 352.867.0660.

Website: aaocalamarion.org

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 10 am to 5 pm
Saturday 10 am to 2 pm

24-hour Hotline
365 days a year
352-867-0660

Service. The Third Legacy.

Accessibilities Committee carries the message to AAs with special needs.

Learn more about how you can take meetings and AA literature to alcoholics with special needs—deaf, blind, homebound, hospitalized and more. A little service goes a long way. Attend the next District 17 meeting. (Page 4)

County Jail Women's Meetings Need Your Support

Help take meetings to women in Marion County Jail Saturday mornings (immediate need) and Thursday evenings. Requires one year of sobriety, no felonies or probation for past year. Quick clearance with photo ID and SSN. Learn more about how you can help fill this critical service need. Call Nancy I through InterGroup at 352-867-0660. Email: ni-hasz@hotmail.com

InterGroup 17 . Desperate need for office volunteers.

Treasurer position open. InterGroup needs immediate help in staffing the office during business hours. Please volunteer. Also seeking candidates for the position of InterGroup Treasurer. Call for more information. 352 867-0660. Ask for Priscilla

or leave name and number.

Help take meetings to treatment centers.

District 17 Treatment Committee seeks volunteers to help take meetings to local treatment centers. Attend next District 17 meeting to learn more. See page 4 for meeting details.

"Corresponding" sponsors needed! Women only.

Learn how you can serve as a "corresponding" sponsors to other women alcoholics currently serving time. Sponsorship can be done with complete anonymity. Contact Debbie L or Sherry R through InterGroup 17. 352-867-0660.

Take the message to local correctional institutions.

Meet a critical need. Applications for men's and women's prison meetings available at InterGroup 17 office. Call 352-867-0660. Or attend the next District 17 meeting. See page 4.

Publicize your group's service opportunities in The Voice. Call 352 867-0660 or email to thevoice@aaocalamarion.org

Attitude of GrAAitude

A tremendous thank you to the eight groups and other individuals who contributed \$1 or more to InterGroup 17 in October, including:

- 164 Pages
- Acceptance Group
- Belleview God's Way Group
- God's Way Group
- Headstart Group
- No Name Group
- One Page at a Time Group
- Won Rebos Group
- Young People's Group

InterGroup 17 serves more than 70 groups in the Ocala and Marion County area with a 24-hour hotline, volunteer staffed call desk during office hours, up-to-date website and newsletter, and much more. All who have helped support these efforts with financial contributions this year are gratefully acknowledged on page 5.

InterGroup 17 thanks all who volunteer to make our service possible: **Alison C, Bill J, Bobby J, Mike G, Daniel R, Ricky B, Jack, Lew, Diane M, Connie C, Toni Marie C, Rick F, Phil H, Peggy N, James N, Rafael Q, Bosch R, Ed G, John P, Max R, Jim J, Sandy A, Rebecca S.**

If we've left anyone out, we sincerely apologize. Let us know, we'll make amends. Every contribution whether in time, energy, or money is greatly valued and sincerely appreciated.

Priscilla P, InterGroup 17 Office Manager