

The Voice

Volume 28, Number 2

February 2011



One member's voice

If I seek him

A story of experience, strength, and hope

"Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

"I now believe that a power greater than myself is restoring me to sanity." Saying Step Two this way makes it up-close and personal. It's God and me. Relief from alcoholic insanity one day at a time — if I continue to have hope and faith that he can.

I know now that my life depends on asking Him to do that. It wasn't always like this. On my first waltz through recovery in AA, my dance card was filled with exciting possibilities, and my higher power turned them into a seemingly endless procession of miracles.

After the usual hardships of early sobriety, my life seemed destined to be served up to me on a silver platter. The promises had come true. I had finished my education, furthered my career, and realized a lifelong dream of becoming a high school teacher.

I threw myself into AA service work. I studied AA history, and even revered our

founders. I talked the talk, and sometimes even walked the walk.

I thought Step Two referred to insane behavior under the influence, so I reveled in sharing war stories about my drinking days and my life as a modern-day pirate and "contrabandista." I was proud of having stared down big hombres with bigger pistols, surviving third-world jails, and living through a litany of other reckless, dangerous acts.

I was sober, but I had very little real gratitude. Of true humility, I had none at all. Now that I had quit drinking and no longer behaved in dangerous ways, I thought I had been restored to sanity. But all of the "under the influence" experiences I had were only that: reckless, dangerous drunken antics from which my Higher Power had saved me. The real insanity was yet to come.

The roadblocks of indifference, fancied self-sufficiency, prejudice, and defiance were just around the next corner looming large.

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A quote for February

"The main problem of the alcoholic centers in his mind, rather than in his body."

Alcoholics Anonymous, page 23

Tradition Two: Listening for the voice of God

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in Our group conscience. Out leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

In the early days of AA, 1937 to be exact (according to Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age), Lois and Bill Wilson were severely financially impaired. Lois was working in a department store, and although Bill was attending to the drunks in the community, he was doing very little to help the family out financially.

When the head of a local hospital offered Bill a job as a lay therapist, which came with an office, an account to

draw from, and a slice of the profits, Bill felt that he was getting a message from God. He decided to tell his friends at the meeting that night of this grand opportunity.

The reaction he received was less than enthusiastic. Bill's friends reminded him that accepting the job and becoming a professional would be in conflict with a principle that would eventually become one of AA's traditions: Alcoholics Anonymous is not affiliated any

other outside enterprise.

His friends used one of Bill's own quotes to convince him to turn down the opportunity: "Sometimes the good is the enemy of the best."

Bill's friends' counsel was in reality the group conscience talking. On reflection, Bill found the group conscience to be the voice of God; not the voice he'd heard earlier.

Continued page 2—>

Congratulations February Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate anniversaries that add up to a collective **515 years**. That's more than **188,000 days of sobriety**. One day at a time!

Camden A	46 years
Mary Ann D	36 years
Pete L	39 years
Greg T	30 years
Tom I	29 years
Joe H	26 years
Diane B	23 years
Brenda P	14 years
Doug L	6 years
Nancee B	6 years
Andy K	5 years
Jeff D	5 years
Phil M	4 years
Aimee P	3 years
Cheryl D	2 years

Danny C	2 years
Sue Ann B	2 years
Sue Ellen	2 years

January 2011

Burke S	32 years
Ernie P	27 years
Pete	27 years
Marcie J	24 years
Jon D	17 years
Juan R	15 years
Charles J	14 years
Nolan	13 years
Jeff S	12 years
Benjamin O	12 years

Ron K	11 years
Kimberly	7 years
Rick O	7 years
Alex	3 years
Chase	2 years
Jackie C	2 years
Jenn A	2 years
Steve	2 years
Billy T	1 year
Julie	1 year
Mabel	1 year

Please share your AA birthday with all.
Deadline for March birthdays is February 20.
Email: thevoice@aaocalamarion.org

If I Seek Him

Continued from page 1

I was destined to crash head-on into them, and crash I did.

In early July 2007, after more than 12 years of sobriety, I walked into a store in Ft. Pierce, Florida, and intentionally bought a 16-ounce Budweiser. Just one. Now that is *insanity!*

Everything I knew and had learned about my disease came true with incredible and horrifying speed. My disease had progressed and grown exponentially more powerful during the years I had remained sober. Within two weeks I was hopelessly in the abyss, on the fast track to alcoholic destruction.

I drank until I was destitute and unemployable. DTs and seizures were not uncommon. I was beyond human aid and could not bring myself to ask for yet another Act of Providence. I was blotting out reality, waiting for the bitter end.

There was yet another form of insanity in store for me: Clinical insanity. For 10 days I was restrained in the neurosurgical ICU wing at Monroe Regional Medical Center while doctors did their best to bring me back to reality. I was talking nonsense to visitors and staff. I remember none of this. The lights, as they say, were on, but nobody was home. On the eleventh day, I came to in a nursing home.

That was October 21, 2009. Soon after, I became a grateful resident of the Salvation Army. I went to as many as seven meetings a day, walking to

many of them. I have worked AA's 12 Steps to the best of my ability with my sponsor.

In that time, I have sat with newcomers in Step Two meetings and watched that sad look that comes over so many faces when we read about a Higher Power. Like them, I once believed that admitting there is a power greater than myself meant losing something important. Our literature compares it to "the hole in the donut."

I don't feel that way today, and no one else has to either. I have taken an honest and sincere Step One and have not picked up a drink *today*. That is proof positive of a power greater than me. *It has to be, because I have admitted that I am powerless over alcohol!*

I am grateful for every day I am given to seek and do God's will. I have been blessed with many miracles. I live the life I dreamed of, but never knew existed. I am thoroughly convinced in my innermost soul that God not only *can*, but *does* restore me to sanity on a daily basis. I know He will continue to do so *if I seek Him!*

*Randy A
Ocala, Florida
February 2011*

*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.*

Listening for the voice of God

Continued from page 1

Bill's experience reminds us of:

- Step Two. "We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves would restore us to sanity."
- Tradition Two. "We have but one ultimate authority, a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience."
- Concept Two. We confirm the Conference as the actual voice and effective voice of our society as a whole.

In other words, we came to believe we trust in God to speak through our group conscience.

How do you answer?

The Grapevine Tradition Two checklist asks these questions:

- Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?
- Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?

*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 Inter-
group 17.*

February by the Books

STEP TWO

"Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

Our friend was a minister's son. He attended church school, where he became rebellious at what he thought an overdose of religious education. For years thereafter he was dogged by trouble and frustration. Business failure, insanity, fatal illness, suicide—these calamities in his immediate family embittered and depressed him. Post-war disillusionment, ever more serious alcoholism, impending mental and physical collapse, brought him to the point of self-destruction.

One night, when confined in a hospital, he was approached by an alcoholic who had known a spiritual experience. Our friend's gorge rose as he bitterly cried out: "If there is a God, He certainly hasn't done anything for me!"

But later, alone in his room, he asked himself this question: "Is it possible that all the religious people I have known are wrong?" While pondering the answer he felt as though he lived in hell. Then, like a thunderbolt, a great thought came. It crowded out all else: "Who are you to say there is no God?"

This man recounts that he tumbled out of bed to his knees. In a few seconds he was overwhelmed by a conviction of the Presence of God. It poured over and through him with the certainty and majesty of a great tide at flood. The barriers he had built through the years were swept away. He stood in the presence of infinite power and love. He had stepped from bridge to shore. For the first time, he lived in conscious companionship with his Creator.

Thus was our friend's cornerstone fixed in place. No later vicissitude has shaken it. His alcoholic problem was taken away. That very night, years ago, it disappeared.

Alcoholics Anonymous, page 56

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

TRADITION TWO

"For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority---a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."

They dubiously ask an experienced AA member if this really works. The member, sane to all appearances, immediately answers, "Yes! It definitely does." The friends mutter that this looks vague, nebulous, pretty naïve to them. Then they commence to watch us with speculative eyes, pick up a fragment of AA history, and soon have the solid facts.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions Page 132

With respect to its own affairs, the collective conscience of the group will, given time, almost surely demonstrate its perfect dependability. The group conscience will, in the end, prove a far more infallible guide for group affairs than the decision of any individual member, however good or wise he may be. This is a striking and almost unbelievable fact about Alcoholics Anonymous. Hence we can safely dispense with those exhortations and punishments seemingly so necessary to other societies. And we need not depend overmuch on inspired leaders.

Because our active leadership of service can be truly rotating, we enjoy a kind of democracy rarely possible elsewhere. In this respect, we may be, to a large degree, unique.

Therefore we of Alcoholics Anonymous are certain that there is but one ultimate authority, "a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience."

Bill W, *The AA Grapevine*, January, 1948

CONCEPT TWO

The General Service Conference of AA has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.

Alcoholics Anonymous, page 574

They formed a trusteeship and delegated to it the responsibility for finances, the Big Book and other literature, public information, the service office and the AA Grapevine.

Checklist for Concept Two

- Do we have an understanding of the history of the General Service Conference (the "Conference")?
- What is a Conference Advisory Action? Does our home group's GSR, DCM, area delegate report back to the group on the highlights of the Conference and Conference Advisory Actions?
- Is our group meeting its wider Seventh Tradition responsibilities?

Twelve Concepts for World Services, illustrated, page 4



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

Find a complete selection of AA conference approved literature available now at Inter-group 17 office, including *Alcoholics Anonymous (The Big Book)*, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, service manuals, *As Bill Sees It*, and many more.

Check out the new additions and add to your own AA library collection.

Visit us at: 3666-A, NE 25th Street, Ocala, FL 34470. Phone: 352.867.0660. Cash or check sales only.

District 17 Corner

Service. Service. Service. Find a “job” at District 17

The following service positions are open. Find out more at the next district meeting. See date/location below.

Service Committee Chairs

- Cooperation with the Professional Community/Public Information
- Archives
- Bridging the Gap
- Gratitude Dinner 2011

Other opportunities

- Individual proficient in American Sign Language for men’s corrections meetings. Contact Bob L
- Volunteers to take meetings into local nursing homes and long-term care facilities. Contact Ricky B

District 17 Officers & Service Chairs

DCM: Rick D
 Alternate DCM: Melissa B
 Secretary: Alison C
 Treasurer: Ashley C
 Accessibilities: Ricky B
 Archives: Vacant
 Bridging the Gap: Vacant
 CPC/PI: Vacant
 Corrections, Women: Sherry R
 Corrections, Men: Bob L
 Grapevine: Lydia N
 Intergroup: John P
 Literature: Max R
 Treatment: William J

Group GSRs

164 Group: John B
 All You Need: Bob S (alt)
 Anthony: Lisa E
 Breakfast Club: Barbara K
 Came to Believe: John D
 Conscious Contact: Jim B
 Forest Group: Petra H
 Free to Be: Brian L
 Happy, Joyous & Free: Rick F
 Head Start: Patti B
 Keep It Simple: Tina T
 Last Call: Seth R
 Living Sober: Diane I
 Mano Abierto: Benjamin O
 Men’s Group: Bob L
 New Attitudes: Coral M
 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: Billy C

If your group’s GSR is not listed, please send name and contact info to: thevoice@aaocalamarion.org

From your DCM Does your group have a group service representative? Or is your group in the dark?

Question: What is a GSR? What services do they perform?

Answer: The GSRs—general service representatives—serve as the link between their individual groups and Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole locally, regionally, and worldwide.

The GSR represents the voice of the group conscience, reporting the group’s thoughts to the district committee member and to the delegate, who passes them on to the General Service Conference, a key part of AA World Services.

This communication is a two-way street, making the GSR responsible for bringing back to the group those actions taken by the Conference that affect AA unity, health, and growth. Only when a GSR keeps the group informed and communicates the group conscience, can the Conference truly act for AA as a whole.

From the AA Service Manual, a GSR is expected to:

- Attend district meetings monthly
- Attend the area assembly quarterly meetings
- Serve as a the group’s contact for information from the General Service Office

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Rick D
 District 17 DCM

District 17 Monthly Meeting Highlights November 18, 2010

DCM: Nancy D presided.
DCM report: Outgoing DCM Nancy D distributed updated structures and guidelines from General Service. Thanked everyone for allowing her to serve as DCM. Announced she has accepted a position as Area Accessibilities Chair for North Florida.

Secretary’s report: Read and approved.

Treasurer’s report: Read and approved. Copies available for review upon request.

Accessibilities: Meetings in nursing homes planned. Need volunteers to assist in planning and encouraging participation.

Corrections, Women: New applications for the women’s prison meetings available. Members encouraged to drop off old copies of *Grapevine* at Intergroup for distribution at prisons. GSRs reminded to solicit “Pink Can” contributions.

Corrections, Men: Several new applications were approved and inactive members were purged. Noted that the men’s prison group, Faith Group, is the longest running AA-registered group in Marion County.

Intergroup: Fall picnic generated \$1,272.32. Spring picnic planned for May. Group contributions declining. GSRs asked to remind groups to donate.

Elections: Rick D was elected the new District Service Chair (DCM) to replace outgoing DCM Nancy D. Melissa B was elected Alternate DCM.

New business: Gratitude Dinner decorations and supplies will be stored at Intergroup offices and District 17 will increase donation from \$25 to \$50 a month to help offset rental costs.

District 17 is Self-Supporting. Send group donations to District 17 P.O. Box 3081, Ocala, FL 34478

See GSO guidelines for group donations, page 5.

Service & Sobriety Mix Well. Get Involved. Next Meeting. All Welcome.

Thursday, February 24, 2011, 6:00 pm
 St. Mark’s UMC
 3452 NE Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala

Group Contributions to Intergroup 17 December 2010

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

GROUP NAME	\$ Dec '10 Contri- butions	Contri- butions 6/1/10- 12/31/10	GROUP NAME	\$ Dec '10 Contri- butions	Contri- butions 6/1/10- 12/31/10
164 Pages Group	\$ 30.69	\$177.10	Living Sober Group		67.00
Acceptance		50.00	Lunch Bunch Group		159.05
Alive and Well		40.00	Marion Oaks		
All You Need Group		75.00	McIntosh Group		
As Bill Sees It		325.30	Men's Group Ocala		81.00
Belleview Eye Opener			New Attitudes Group		63.58
Belleview God's Way	.81	16.44	New Beginnings Group		
Belleview Group	.20	150.20	New Life Group		
Bonfire Group			No Name Group		85.50
Breakfast Club		1,387.72	Ocala Group	45.34	1,042.27
Cabin in the Woods		50.00	One Page at a Time		
Came To Believe		25.25	Primary Purpose Group		58.00
Citra Group		2.51	Resentment Too Group		
Come As You Are			Second Step Group		
Conscious Contact		50.00	Shores of Sobriety	30.00	30.00
Day by Day			Sisters of Serenity		
Eleventh Step			Sober Yankees		165.00
First Impressions			Start A New Life	50.15	125.15
Forest Group		61.79	Steps and Promises		
Forest Men's Group	40.00	70.00	Stop Whining & Sober Up		
Fountain of Gratitude	100.00	191.00	Strength In Numbers	19.00	19.00
Free To Be		71.08	Summerfield Group		.68
Ft. McCoy Group			Summerfield New Green		
Grace Group		10.44	Sm'field Living in Today		
Grateful Gals			Sundae Social Group		1.00
Green Group			TLC Group, The Centers		.35
Grupo Mano Abierta		25.00	Thursday Night Step Gp.		
Grupo Nueva Vida			We Give Thanks		
Happy Hour Group		90.00	We Give Up		47.03
Happy, Joyous & Free	895.77	2,625.40	Weir Crazy		143.00
Headstart Group	68.52	221.77	Westside Recovery		
Healing Group		30.00	Williston Winners		
In the Woods		25.00	Won Rebos Group		
It's In The Book		60.00	Young People's Group		44.83
Keep It Simple	24.73	161.03	Zion-Blichton Group	16.00	51.64
Last Call Group	.24	1.86	Archives		
Last House on the Block			District 17		243.85
Life is Good Sober Group			Birthday Club (personal)	93.00	122.00
Life Saver Group	100.00	400.00	Double Nickel (personal)		
			Faithful 5-ers (personal)	5.00	45.00
			Individuals (other)	256.88	502.02
			Total	\$1,776.33	\$9,490.64

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

Note change of address

NFAC
P.O. Box 8983
Jacksonville, FL 32239-8983

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 December 2010

Meeting info requests	91
Twelfth Step Calls	4
Office transactions	27
Visitors	65
Al-Anon*	8
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 140 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

Tuesdays

Living Sober Group

Your support requested!

Living Sober beginners 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

New & Newer Meetings

Starts Monday, January 31

Headstart Group

Step Meeting/12&12
Mondays, 7:30 am
Lost & Found Club
339 NE Sanchez Avenue
Ocala, FL

Starts Monday, February 7

One Day at a Time

Monday through Friday, noon
5884 SW 60th Street
Ocala, FL

Loose Horse Group

Fridays, 7:00 pm
Friendship Baptist Church
15115 Gainesville Road
Reddick, FL

Westside Recovery Group

Wednesdays & Thursdays, 5:30 pm
Open Discussion
Ocala Family Resource Center
215 NW Martin Luther King Jr. Ave
Ocala, FL

164 Pages Group

Women's Meeting
Mondays 6 pm WC/HC
Ocklawaha United Methodist Church
13333 East Hwy 25
Ocklawaha, FL

A Vision For You

Mondays, 7 pm
Open Discussion
Florida Highlands Baptist Church
10891 SW 155th St
Dunnellon, FL

Live, Laugh, & Love

Women's meeting
Sundays, 1 pm
Lost & Found Club
339 NE Sanchez Avenue
Ocala, FL

Meeting News

New Meeting Location

Summerfield Group

Monday (Beginners) & Thursday (Step), 7:30 pm,
Mulberry Grove Recreational Center,
8445 SE 165th Mulberry Lane, The Villages, FL

Directions: Traveling south on Hwy 441, go to Hwy 42. Make a right hand turn. Go 1.5 miles west. Go past Publix. Destination is on the left.

Lifesaver Group

Monday-Friday, noon, effective December 1. New location : 7365 SW 38th St, Suite 206, Ocala, FL

Discontinued

Young People's Group, Mondays, 7 pm, Big Book meeting discontinued. Saturday night meeting continues.

One Page at a Time, Sundays, 4 pm, Unity Place. Meetings discontinued.

It's In the Book Group, Sundays, 8 pm, St. Matthews Church. Meetings discontinued.

Experience, Strength, and Hope Group, Fridays, 8 pm, Church of Christ. Meetings discontinued.

Keep It Simple, Monday 8 pm meetings 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.

Special Events, Celebrations, Notices

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

Saturday, February 12, 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, February 26
Dinner 7 pm Speaker 8 pm
\$2 if you bring a dish
\$4 without a dish
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

**Living Sober Group
Speaker Meeting**
Sunday, February 13, 7:30 pm
Congregational Church
7171 SW State Rd 200
Ocala, Florida
All Welcome

District 17 Monthly Meeting
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

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 accept, edit, or decline information submit-

The Next Write Thing AA World Services Seeks Personal Stories for New Literature Projects.

Call for Stories Focused on Spirituality

AA World Services is seeking stories that reflect a wide range of spiritual experiences from A.A. members who, with any belief or non-belief, have found a solution to the concept of spirituality and sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Seventh Tradition Stories Sought

Personal stories that humanize the impact of Seventh Tradition monies are being sought for the purpose of communicating with the Fellowship about self-support. These stories would be for possible inclusion in new or existing literature.

"A.A. and the Armed Services" Call for Stories

To update the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services," the Trustee's Literature Committee is seeking to include stories that reflect recent experiences from AA members on active duty and a section which focuses on veterans of the armed services

Guidelines for submission

Manuscripts should be 500-800 words, double spaced. Please attach your name and address on a separate piece of paper. The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether or not their story is selected for publication.

Please send your manuscript by February 15, 2011, to:

Literature Coordinator
General Service Office
Box 459, Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
Or e-mail to: literature@aa.org.

Need Help?

If you'd like help preparing your submission, please contact Max R, District 17 Literature Service Chair by email at thevoice@aaocalamarion.org or through Intergroup 17 at 352-867-0660.

Plan Ahead. Upcoming Area Events

District 17 Workshops Twelfth Stepping the Wet Drunk Meditation

Dates to be announced. Watch The Voice and www.aaocalamarion.org for more details.

Country Round-UP

April 29th, 30th & May 1st 2011
Chipley, FL
For more information and registration form call 334-372-7979; 850-326-1465; 334-792-9590

55th Florida State Convention

July 20-24, 2011
Orlando, Florida

- Great Speakers/Workshops/meetings
- Longtimers Panel/Meditation Meetings
- Intergroup / Grapevine
- Friday / Saturday Dinner/Ice Cream Socials
- AA's Got Talent/Golf Tournament
- 5K Walk / Run

Info/register:

www.55.flstateconvention.com

16th Annual SE Region Woman to Woman Seminar

August 26-28, 2011; Naples, FL.
A workshop weekend special event by and for AA and Al-Anon women.

Mark Your Calendar

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

2/12, 2011 Grupo Mano Abierto 9-Year Anniversary Celebration. Details this page.

2/13, 2011, Intergroup 17 Monthly Meeting, see back cover for details.

2/24 2011, District 17 Monthly Meeting, see page 4 for details.

4/9-10, 2011 North Florida Area Assembly, St Augustine, FL, www.aanorthflorida.org

4/29-5/1, 2011 Country Roundup, Chipley, FL. Details this page.

7/20-24, 2011 Florida State Convention, Orlando. www.55.flstateconvention.com

8/26-28, 2011 16th Annual SE Region Woman to Woman Seminar, Naples. Details this page.

*Activities are listed for information only. Not necessarily affiliated with AA World Services and/or Intergroup



Intergroup 17 Meetings Everyone invited!

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

Next Meeting

Sunday, February 13, 5:15 pm
St. Mark's UMC
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Free Subscription. The Voice by e-mail.



Subscribe for free.

Send an e-mail
with "Free Voice" in
the subject line to:
thevoice@aaocalamarion.org

The Voice by e-mail is sent anonymously in PDF format. No one else can see your email address. 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.

District 17 seeks service committee chairs and more.

Positions open for Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC), Public Information, Archives, Gratitude Dinner, and more. (Page 4)

Special need for proficiency in American Sign Language.

If you are proficient in ASL and male, contact Bob L immediately through Intergroup 17 for a special service opportunity.

Intergroup 17. Volunteers needed now!

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 treat- ment centers and special needs community.

District 17 Treatment Committee and Accessibility Committee seeks volunteers for meeting support. Attend District 17 February meeting. (Page 4)

Life is a picnic. You can be the chairperson.

The only place in AA where you're encouraged to run the show! Chair the committee for the next Intergroup 17 picnic in May. Contact Priscilla at Intergroup for details. 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.

County Jail Women's Meet- ings Need Your Support

Help take meetings to women in Marion County Jail. Learn more about how you can help fill this critical service need. Contact Nancy I through Intergroup 17 at 352-867-0660.

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

Attitude of GrAAttitude

A tremendous thank you to the 12 groups and other individuals who contributed \$1 or more to Intergroup 17 in December, including:

- 164 Pages
- Forest Men's Group
- Fountain of Gratitude Group
- Happy, Joyous & Free
- Headstart Group
- Keep It Simple
- Lifesaver Group
- Ocala Group
- Shores of Sobriety Group
- Start a New Life Group
- Strength in Numbers Group
- Zion-Blichton Group

All who have helped support Intergroup 17 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, Phil H, Peggy N, James N, Rafael Q, Bosch R, Patrick, John P, Max R, Sandy A, Rebecca S.**

If we've left anyone out, we sincerely apologize. Let us know, we'll make amends. All are appreciated greatly.

Priscilla P, Intergroup 17 Office Manager