

# The Voice

Volume 27, Number 1

January 2010



One member's voice

## More is revealed daily

A story of experience, strength, and hope

*"We admitted we were powerless over alcohol— that our lives had become unmanageable."*

I had my first formal introduction to the organization called Alcoholics Anonymous in 1994. I had been exposed to AA before when I dated heavy drinkers and attended open meetings to offer them emotional support. I certainly didn't have a problem myself!

After failing a breathalyzer test before starting work one morning, my employer strongly suggested I enter a rehab program. I remember it was February 1994 just before the start of the Winter Olympics, and I told my supervisor at work

that I was "going for the gold" in my recovery. She just shook her head and I was truly mystified at her response. I didn't get it. I approached my recovery as I had everything else in my life—believing that I could "master" and "understand" what I needed to do differently to live soberly. I was a model patient and successfully completed my first three steps on paper. I was already selective about how I was going to approach the steps.

I remember thinking to myself, "Well, no one is ever going to know all the bad things I've done and what a bad person I really am." After eleven days, I was discharged. Once home, I

attended 110 meetings in 90 days. Boy, was I proud of myself! An AA poster child

I'm not sure how, but I managed to maintain a sober existence for four years, never moving forward in the program. As I look back, I can see that I stayed in my mind and was never able to fully embrace Step One.

Fortunately, I was given another chance. I continued to be successful in my career, got a second master's degree and appeared to be at the top of my game. Inside, I was dying a slow and very painful death. When one looks at a hillside or a river bank, where the soil has been eroded because

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Happy New Year  
from Intergroup 17

### A quote for January

*If we are planning to stop drinking, there must be no reservation of any kind, nor any lurking notion that someday we will be immune from alcohol.*

*Alcoholics Anonymous, page 33*

## Where Money and Spirituality Mix

*"Self-support begins with me, because I am part of us — the group. We pay our rent and utility bills, buy coffee, snacks and A.A. literature. We support our central office, our area committee, and our General Service Office. If it were not for those entities, many new people would never discover the miracles of A.A."*<sup>1</sup>

While no A.A. group requires contributions from those who attend its meetings, the return of self-respect, an awakening sense of responsibility, and gratitude for sobriety spur even the newest A.A. mem-

bers to contribute whatever they can. Some also send contributions to local or national A.A. offices to celebrate their sobriety date each year. Contributions are as important to the giver as to the recipient, for they allow the giver to participate in carrying the A.A. message around the world.

Yet speaking of money and A.A. in the same breath makes some members nervous—A.A. is a spiritual program, they feel, and should not concern itself with money at all. More pragmatic alcoholics contend that without enough money, it would be impossible to provide the services essential to

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## Congratulations January Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate anniversaries of our local AA family members that add up to a collective 446 years. That's more than 162,790 days of sobriety. One day at a time!

Barbara T	34 years	Bill T	11 years
Bud S	30 years	Diane M	10 years
Barbara W	29 years	Heidi L	9 years
Judy L	28 years	Karen H	9 years
Bill H	26 years	Emily J	6 years
Willie R	24 years	Richie M	6 years
Wes H	20 years	Candy	5 years
Allen O	19 years	Ebbo K	4 years
Jim G	19 years	Erin S	4 years
Charlie T	18 years	Michael D	3 years
Jim S	16 years	Ron C	3 years
John D	16 years	Alex	2 years
Hank N	15 years	Cindy C	1 year
Juan R	14 years	Patti B	1 year
Charles J	13 years	Ray D	1 year
Katie H	13 years	Ron W	1 year
Larry B	13 years	Russell R	1 year

### December Birthdays

Wayne C	17 years
Eugene S	11 years
Ron W	1 year



Please share your AA birthday with all. Deadline for February birthdays is January 20.  
E-mail to: [thevoice@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:thevoice@aaocalamarion.org)  
Telephone: 352 867-0660.

## January by the Books

### STEP ONE

Admitted we were powerless over alcohol--That our lives had become unmanageable

When first challenged to admit defeat, most of us revolted. We had approached A. A. expecting to be taught self-confidence. Then we had been told that as far as alcohol was concerned, self-confidence was no good whatever: in fact, it was a total liability. There was no such thing as personal conquest of the alcoholic compulsion the unaided will.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions,*  
page 22

It is when we try to make our will conform with God's that we begin to use it rightly. To all of us this was a most wonderful revelation. Our whole trouble has been the misuse of will power. We had tried to bombard our problems with it instead of attempting to bring it into agreement with God's intention for us. To make this increasingly possible is the purpose of A.A.'s Twelve Steps

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions,*  
page 40

### TRADITION ONE

"Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity."

"The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it. We stay whole, or A.A. dies. Without unity, the heart of A.A. would cease to beat; our world arteries would no longer carry the life-giving grace of God; His gift to us would be spent aimlessly."

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions,*  
page 129

### CONCEPT ONE

"The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship"

*Twelve Concepts for World Service,*  
page 6

Remember the inverted triangle. The strength of Alcoholics Anonymous begins with the individual member and grows upward through AA groups, areas, and regions all the way to AA World Services and the General Services Office.

## 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.

Make checks payable to and send with celebrant's information to:  
Intergroup 17  
3666-A N.E. 25th Street  
Ocala, Florida 34470

## First Contact

"Is this AA? Well, um . . .  
I might have a drinking problem . . .  
Can you help me?"

**Can YOU?**  
**Yes YOU can!**  
**Will YOU?**

Just say "Yes" to  
answering 12th Step calls,  
We'll show you the rest.  
Call Intergroup to learn more.  
352 867-0660

# Recovery. Unity. Service.

These are the Three Legacies given to the whole membership of AA by its founders and their fellow old-timers. Here's your chance to complete the triangle. Service opportunities abound with Intergroup 17 and District 17. If nothing here appeals to your sense of service, just call Intergroup at 352 867-0660. There's plenty more to do!

## Put yourself out front! As an Intergroup 17 Office Volunteer

Get some more life into your life. Volunteer to staff the Intergroup office. Help needed especially on Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm, but other times are available. One year of sobriety required. To learn more, call 352 867-0660.

## Hotline and 12th Step calls.

Intergroup has a critical need for volunteers to answer our 24-Hour Hotline "after business hours" from their own home or cell phones. Others needed to help respond to 12th Step calls. One year of sobriety required. Call Intergroup 17 to volunteer: 352-867-0660.

## District 17 . Committee chairs and other service positions. Volunteers needed.

We need several volunteers to serve in Committee Chair and other service positions. To learn more attend the next district meeting, 6 pm, Thursday, January 28, 2010, St. Marks UMC, 1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

## Take the message to local correctional institutions.

### Women's Meetings

There is a critical need to carry the message to women in prison (women only). To learn more, call 352 867-0660.

## Through The Grapevine!

Many of our brothers and sisters in area corrections facilities enjoy reading *The AA Grapevine*. Drop off your old copies at the Intergroup Office, or coordinate a group effort through your GSR.

Publicize your group's service opportunities in *The Voice*. Call 352 867-0660 or email to [thevoice@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:thevoice@aaocalamarion.org)

## Living the AA Principles on the Job

*Continued from back page*

awareness also allows our co-workers to be wrong and not suffer dire consequences. So many times while drinking, a wrong opinion from a co-worker could set me off on a tirade, even if the person was right. *Love and tolerance* is our code in invaluable at when dealing with my fellowman.

### Perseverance

*Perseverance* to the concept of "One Day at a Time," is what keeps me grounded. Many days, problems and concerns arise that in my drinking days would have driven me out the door, but because of **awareness** of responsibilities I can survive these difficulties by taking it, "One Day at a Time."

Some of these problems can and have been a result of the way I still insist at times on doing it my way. In studying the Traditions I ran across the experience of the group that said always remember **RULE #62-Don't take yourself so darn seriously**. At times I have taken myself so seriously that I believe I am the only one working on the job that day and many others suffer as a result of this attitude.

### Service

*Service* of course is a principle that I have practiced in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous in gratitude for all I have received. When I say the Third Step Prayer, I

include my life on the job. No matter how big or small my job maybe I am in a position to serve my fellowman directly or indirectly and try to do the best job I can. Service on the job, in our communities and AA is a basic fact of our existence.

Of course Bill W. said it best on page 124 of the *Twelve and Twelve*: "*Service* gladly rendered, obligations squarely met, troubles well accepted or solved with God's help, the knowledge that at home or in the world outside we are partners in a common effort, the well understood fact that in God's sight all human beings are important, the proof that love freely given surely brings a full return, the certainty that we are no longer isolated and alone in self-constructed prisons, the surety that we can fit and belong in God's scheme of things-these are the permanent and legitimate satisfactions of right living for which no amount of pomp and circumstance, no heap of material possessions, could possibly be substitutes.

True ambition is not what we thought it was. True ambition is a deep desire to live usefully and walk humbly under the grace of God."

*Kathy P.  
Ocala, Florida*

The thoughts, expressions, and opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and not necessarily those of Alcoholics Anonymous or Intergroup 17, Ocala-Marion County, Florida.

## Anonymity and Social Networking Sites

Excerpted from *Box 459, News and Notes from the General Service Office*, AA World Services

A.A. members are accessing the Internet in ever-growing numbers and in ways that couldn't have been imagined even ten years ago. With the breadth and scope of the Internet have come challenges, and protecting A.A.'s Traditions online is an important subject to many in the Fellowship.

As with many topics of concern throughout A.A., G.S.O. has developed a set of A.A. Guidelines on the

Internet (MG-18) based on the shared experience of A.A. members, groups and committees, covering many of the questions this new technology gives rise to.

*To read the complete article:*  
[http://aa.org/lang/en/en\\_pdfs/en\\_box459\\_holiday09.pdf](http://aa.org/lang/en/en_pdfs/en_box459_holiday09.pdf)

*To download the guidelines:*  
[http://aa.org/lang/en/en\\_pdfs/mg-18\\_internet.pdf](http://aa.org/lang/en/en_pdfs/mg-18_internet.pdf)

## How Groups and Individuals Support the Work of AA

Group contributions are the major funding source for 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 Worldwide General Services Office
- 10 percent to North Florida Area Assembly
- 10 percent to District 17

### Group contributions

Intergroup 17  
P.O. Box 1192  
Ocala, FL 34478

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

### Member contributions

Individual members can provide financial support to Intergroup 17 in various ways.

- *Faithful Fivers*: \$5 each month
- *Double Nickel*: \$10 each month
- *Birthday Club Members*: \$1 or more per year of sobriety, on their AA "birthday"

### All contributions count

In the spirit of participation, no contribution toward carrying the message can be too small. Bill W spoke of our "collective obligation" to support AA services. If everyone waited until they had a "sizeable" amount, it's more than likely that AA's bills would go unpaid.

Please contribute what you can when you can. Thanks.

## Group Contributions to Intergroup 17. Fiscal Year June 2009-May 2010.

Figures below reflect total contributions for FY2009-10. June 1 through November 30, 2009 only.

11th Step Group		Lunch Bunch	149.11
17th Street Group		Mano Abierta	50.00
164 Pages Group	\$ 68.95	Marion Oaks Group	
ACOA		McIntosh Group	
ALANON		New Attitudes	92.09
Acceptance	100.00	New Beginnings, Dunellon	
Alive and Well	50.00	No Name Group	45.00
All You Need	30.00	Nueva Vida	
Anonymity Group		Ocala AM Men's Group	302.00
As Bill Sees It, The Villages	275.05	Ocala Group	1423.34
Belleview Eye Opener		Ocklawaha AM Group	
Belleview Group	100.14	One Page At A Time	
Belleview God's Way	15.77	Primary Purpose	45.00
Bonfire Group, The Refuge		Resentment Too Group	
Breakfast Club	1027.79	Shores of Sobriety	60.00
Came To Believe		Sisters of Serenity	
Citra Group		Start A New Life	200.00
Come As You Are		Steps and Promises	
Conscious Contact	37.98	Stop Whining and Sober Up	
Day by Day		Strength In Numbers	00.70
Dunellon Group		Summerfield Group	32.00
Dunellon Rainbow Group		Sundae Social Group	
Experience, Strength & Hope		TLC Group - the Centers	8.70
First Impressions Group		We Give Thanks	
Forest Group	120.00	We Give Up	42.50
Ft. McCoy Group		Weir Crazy, Summerfield	340.00
Fountain of Gratitude	117.00	Williston Winners	
Free To Be	90.00	Won Rebos Group	
Grace Group		Young People's Group (YPG)	
Grateful Gals		Birthday Club	
Happy Highlanders		Double Nickels	10.00
Happy Hour Group	50.00	Faithful Fivers	32.00
Happy, Joyous & Free	872.25	Individuals	112.01
Headstart Group	203.76		
It's In The Book		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,991.20</b>
Keep It Simple	308.00		
Last Call Group	50.00		
Last House On The Block			
Life Is Good Sober			
Lifesaver Group	100.15		
Living Sober	429.91		

*I am responsible.  
Whenever anyone  
anywhere  
reaches out for help,  
I want the hand of  
AA to be there.  
For that I am responsible.*

### Intergroup 17 Call Center Report November 2009

Meeting info requests	73
Twelfth Step Calls	1
Office transactions	32
Visitors	36
Al-Anon	7
Miscellaneous	34

Does not include all after hours hot-line calls.  
\*Calls requesting information on or needing assistance from Al-Anon are respectfully referred to the appropriate local resources.

**Where money and spirituality mix**

*Continued from front page*

carrying the message. Bill W. saw the resolution of this dilemma in "the hat" (the group's collection basket), where money and spirituality mix, and the familiar announcement "We have no dues or fees, but we do have expenses" is an integral part of virtually every A.A. meeting.

By paying its own expenses — rent for the meeting room, the cost of A.A. literature and local meeting lists, coffee and refreshments, support of local and national service entities — the group ensures that meetings will be there for the suffering alcoholic, literature and information will be available, and the message will be carried around the world. Each group treasury keeps on hand a "prudent reserve" (amounts vary, but generally enough to cover one or two months' expenses), and distributes any cash beyond that amount among local, area, and national A.A. service entities.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>"Self-Support: Where money and spirituality mix." Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., NY, NY; 1995 (pamphlet)

<sup>2</sup>"Self-Supporting through Our Own Contributions," About AA, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. NY, NY <http://www.aa-intergroup.org/cpc/articles.html> (newsletter article)

# IN MEMORIAM

**JOHN M**

John M. died on December 12 in Ocala with over 19 years of continuous sobriety. To say John was an active member of the Living Sober group, to say he cared a lot, or that he spent many long hours working on Living Sober group business, is to miss the point. Whatever John did in gratitude for the amazing miracle he found through the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous was beyond what most of us would consider sufficient. What made John unusual was his steady, loyal, dedication to his home group. He would do anything to keep the place he called home strong and available for the still suffering alcoholic, and never balked from requests for help. He was an inspiration, and we will miss him greatly.

**JEFFREY K**

The local AA community extends it's heartfelt sympathy to the family of Jeffrey K who died on Monday, December 14, in Ocala.

**"IN MEMORY OF . . .**

A member of the Living Sober group has made an anonymous donation of \$50 to Intergroup 17 in memory of:

**KEITH L.  
HANS F.  
JIM K.  
BILL J.  
TED W. AND  
JOHN M.**

**Questions? Concerns? Need Information? Visit [aocalamarion.org](http://aocalamarion.org).**

- **Where & When online**
- **The Voice, current and past issues**
- **Service opportunities**
- **How to get help**
- **Upcoming local and regional events**
- **Links to the Big Book, 12&12, and more**

**More is revealed daily**

*Continued from front page*

there are no roots to hold the soil in place, that is exactly what I felt like inside. My soul and heart were eroded, and spiritually I was beyond bankruptcy.

I had gone to the Intergroup office to get some literature for a friend who confided in me that she felt she had a problem with alcohol. The least I could do was try to help her out! About a week later, I woke up early one morning and remember saying out loud, "I can't do this any more. I can't live like this."

I had picked up a meeting schedule the week before. I opened it, found an early morning meeting, got dressed, and got in the car. There was no *thinking* involved—it was a raw emotional and spiritual cry for help.

At the meeting, I was astounded. Had AA changed that much? It seemed that every person who shared made some meaningful statement that touched my heart. I remembered from

my previous exposure to AA that it was recommended that you get phone numbers and a sponsor early on. I did both that day and picked up a white chip.

Having never used any phone numbers in the past, I tentatively called someone each day, letting them know I was just "checking in." New to this way of life, I felt supported and accepted. It was a strange feeling not to be in charge, to imagine that I was, or to attempt to be! I finally admitted to the feelings of personal powerlessness and allowed the process of healing to begin. It had taken me ten years to come to the awareness that, indeed, I was powerless over alcohol.

Almost immediately, I began to realize the very beginning of the promises—knowing a new freedom and a new happiness. I willingly did the assignments my sponsor gave me—not so I could "master" the steps, but that I could understand and embrace the program. I looked forward to learning more about each step without picking and choosing how and when I was going

to do them. I have not been on any type of timetable. More is revealed to me on a daily basis.

Even in writing about Step One, my understanding of myself, my true powerlessness, and the unmanageability of my life while I was drinking take on new meaning. I am grateful that my Higher Power opened my heart and spirit to a new way of living.

Patricia B  
Ocala, Florida  
January 2010



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## Upcoming Events and Meetings of Interest

**These are just a few of the more than 140 AA meetings per week in Ocala/Marion county . Check out the Where & When online at [www.aocalamarion.org](http://www.aocalamarion.org) for a complete listing.**

### Monday

#### Beginners Meeting

##### 17th Street Group

6:00pm every Monday

Church of Christ

2730 SE Maricamp Rd., Ocala

### Wednesday

#### Meditation

##### Conscious Contact

7:00pm every Wednesday

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

3452 NE Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala

#### Spanish Speaking

##### Grupo Nueva Vida

7:00pm every Wednesday

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

### Thursday

#### Eat 'n Speak

##### Keep It Simple Group

Last Thursday of the month

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

Small fee for meal

ALL INVITED!

Ascension Lutheran Church

5730 SE 28th Street, Ocala

#### District 17 Monthly Meeting

6:00 pm last Thursday of the month

All GSRs. Everyone welcome.

St. Mark's United Methodist

1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

### Friday

#### Speaker Meeting

##### Experience, Strength and Hope

8:00pm every Friday

Druid Hills Methodist Church

1712 SE Lake Weir Blvd., Ocala

#### Spanish Speaking

##### Grupo Mano Abierta

7:00pm every Friday

2082 Walnut Street, Dunnellon

### Saturday

#### Eat 'n Speak

##### 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

#### Spanish Speaking

##### Grupo Mano Abierta

7:00pm every Saturday

2082 Walnut Street, Dunnellon

### Sunday

#### Intergroup 17 Monthly

5:15 pm second Sunday of month

Intergroup Reps. All welcome.

St. Mark's United Methodist

1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

## Newer Meetings

#### NEW LOCATION

#### Heavy Hitters of Ocala (men's group)

Closed Big Book Discussion

Saturdays, 5:00-6:30 pm

Unity Place

525 NE Sanchez, Bldg 300, Ocala

#### The Come As You Are Women's Group

Big Book, first Tuesday of month

Speaker, last Tuesday of month

1138 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

#### Thursday Night Step Group

Closed Step Meeting

Thursdays, 8 pm

South Ocala Baptist Church

2907 SE 52nd St, Ocala, FL

#### Carry the Message

Open Discussion, 7 pm

Monday and Friday

Zion United Methodist Church

1605 Blichton Road

(Corner ML King Blvd & Blichton, north of the railroad crossing)

#### 164 Pages Group

Big Book and 12&12 Study

Wednesdays, 6 pm

Ocklawaha Methodist Church

13333 East Highway 25

Ocklawaha

## District 17 Corner

### Special reminder to all GSRs and committee chairs.

Plan now to attend the North Florida Area Assembly business meeting, Sunday, January 17 and other meetings and workshops. See facing page for more info.

**Next meeting. All AA members invited.**

**Thursday, January 28, 6 pm**

St. Mark's United Methodist

1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

## January at the Lost and Found Club

339 NE Sanchez Avenue

(NE 4th St. & Tuscahill Park)

352-351-4688

Saturday, 1/2: Dance, 9 pm

Saturday, 1/9: Bake Sales, 9-11:30 am

Saturday, 1/16: Movie Night,, free, 9 pm

Saturday, 1/23: Bingo, 9 pm

Sunday, 1/24: Ice Cream Social, 2-4 pm

Saturday, 1/30: Bake Sales, 9-11:30 am

*The Lost and Found Club is not affiliated with Alcoholics Anonymous World Services or Intergroup 17. Local AA groups and others rent space from the club for meetings and events.*

## Share your special needs story with the fellowship

The General Service Office of AA World Services is soliciting stories for a recovery pamphlet for A.A. members with special needs—such as deaf or hearing impaired, blind, wheelchair bound, learning disabilities, or other special needs.

Your stories might include barriers you have overcome in order to hear the A.A. message. Also, any literature, other tools, or efforts by A.A. members that you found helpful.

Manuscripts should be 500-800 words, double spaced. 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 sharing to: Special Needs Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, General Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

# Special Events, Celebrations, Notices

## Mark Your Calendar

See details elsewhere in this issue or link to more information.

**1/15-17, 2010** North Florida Area Assembly, Gainesville.  
[www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org)

**2/4-7, 2010** Space Coast Round-up. Cocoa Beach, Info at  
[www.aaspacecoast.org](http://www.aaspacecoast.org)

**2/11-14, 2010** 46th International Women's conference, Orlando.  
[www.internationalwomensconference.org](http://www.internationalwomensconference.org)

**7/1-4, 2010** International Convention, A Vision for You. San Antonio, TX. Register now. [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

**8/11-15, 2010** 54th Florida State Convention, Miami.  
<http://54.flstateconvention.com>

**Save 30 to 45%!**  
**Recovery related literature.**  
**Great gifts to celebrate**  
**AA milestones.**



Intergroup 17 is clearing the shelves of titles we will no longer carry for sale.

We're selling them at cost—usually a 30 to 45% savings—so take a look at the list below, if you see something you want, get it today.

Supply limited to current stock. Purchase at Intergroup office. Call for more information 352-867-0660. All AA literature at regular prices.

## North Florida Area Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous Area Assembly January 15-17, 2010.

Paramount Resort & Conference Center  
 2900 SW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL

**Friday, January 15**  
 Registration, 6 to 8 pm  
 Discussion meeting, 8 to 9 pm

**Saturday, January 16**  
 Registration, 8 to 9 am  
 Workshops and meetings, 9 am to 4:30 pm

- New GSR and DCM orientations
- Committee and service workshops
- Officer meetings

Dinner meeting, 6 pm

**Sunday, January 17**  
 Registration, 8 to 9 am  
 Business meeting, 9 to noon

**Please note:**

- All members of AA are invited to attend all functions.
- Only voting DCMs & GSRs or their alternates in their absence may vote at the business meeting on Sunday.
- Participants must be seated by 9:00am Sunday in order to vote.

Find complete meeting information and full agenda at [www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org)

To make hotel reservations at the assembly's group rate call: 877-992-9229 or download a reservation card at [www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org)

## PRICELESS.

There are no dues or fees for AA membership, but there are expenses associated with meetings and providing information to those in need.

Please contribute as generously as you can when the basket is passed. Check to see if your group contributes to Intergroup 17. You can also contribute directly as an AA member. See page 4 for more information on honoring Tradition Seven.

## Intergroup 17 needs you.

### Put yourself on the front line of service work.

Intergroup 17 needs help from service members who are willing to serve a vital function in keeping the doors and phone line open for those in need of our help. like to work the front desk.

Duties include:

- Staffing the front desk for a few hours a month.
- Answering the phone
- Providing meeting information or other assistance
- Processing the sale of literature and other merchandise

### The Greatest Rewards

Most callers and visitors will just need a little information or a friendly ear. Some may need further 12th Step service. Regardless of the need, all parts of the work are vital and rewarding.

Volunteers work in four-hour shifts during regular office hours. Training is provided. One year of sobriety needed.

### Hours/Shifts

Monday thru Friday 10-2, or 2-5  
 Saturday 10-2.

### Volunteer today!

**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.



## Intergroup 17 Meetings Everyone invited!

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

**Sunday, January 10, 5:15 pm**  
St Mark's United Methodist  
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

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# Living the AA Principles on the Job

*Editor's note: Making new year's resolutions is easy. Keeping them is the hard part. In tough economic times like now, when getting and keeping a job is no small accomplishment, resolving to "live" the principles of AA in the workplace will surely serve the recovering alcoholic well. This article, written by a member of our local fellowship provides some excellent insight on how to do just that.*

My experience being a working member in our fellowship has been filled with many trial and error sessions of living the principles. I believe the very first principle that became important was honesty.

### Honesty

My first sponsor stressed honesty and the fact that we had to be honest with ourselves before we could be honest with anyone else. To be honest on the job I try to be straightforward, fair, and sincere in all my dealings. My integrity was returned to me as a result of sobriety and I gained a set of moral values and principles.

On the job being *honest* goes hand in hand in trying to stay out of the gossip line. We have learned in our meetings, in our clubs and in the fellowship that gossip is the worst kind of character assassination. So on the job I try to remember that the harm I can do an-

other with gossip is not included in our new way of life.

### Courage

My faith in my higher power has taught me to be a person who can adhere to promises I make to fellow AA's or co-workers. Attendance at many meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous has taught me to have *courage*. To quote Webster, "*Courage* implies firmness of mind and will in the face of danger and extreme difficulty." I have that courage today on the job that was absent during my drinking days. That courage was the bottle. The *principles* of Alcoholics Anonymous have taught me to meet the stress and strains of the working world with a fair amount of fortitude and resilience.

### Willingness

*Willingness* as we know in AA is essential to our success. On the job, that willingness brings added responsibilities but because of willingness and gratitude for the gifts of sobriety, we are able to take on these new responsibilities.

### Discipline

*Discipline* in the program was taught to me as making time each day

to ask for God's help and meditate. I am sure my fellow employees benefit from this principle because self-control is a direct result of this discipline. Some days at work it is necessary to say "God save me from being angry."

I also have many days resorted to the Serenity Prayer. Some days they just won't see it my way. Because of the discipline, I arrive each day at work in a timely manner, ready to be worthy of hire.

### Humility

The principle of humility is a life-saver in the work arena. I know that any success I have today is a direct result of knowing I am just a small part of the whole. I truly wish to be a worker among workers and not the leader of the band. I am fortunate and work in positions where I can just blend in. During my drinking days I always tried to ascend the ladder of success with little and no regard for my co-workers.

### Awareness

*Awareness* of ourselves, our values, our perceptions that we learn when we come into the fellowship help us on the job to understand our co-workers. This

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