

The Voice

Volume 27, Number 7

July 2010



One member's voice

Continued awareness is the answer

A story of experience, strength, and hope

Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

I had finally finished that dreaded Step Five, nearly boring my poor sponsor to death in the process. (How could he fall asleep while I was agonizing over my entire life story?)

It was nearly 3:00 a.m. when I woke him up and told him I believed I was finished. He yawned, spit out a piece of the soggy cigar butt he'd clenched onto, Churchill-like, right through his nap, and told me to go home and do Steps Six and Seven.

I managed to get home safely and entered the house without awakening my long-suffering wife. Turning on a living room lamp, I sat down with my Big Book and faithfully followed the instructions for those next two steps—all three paragraphs of them. I estimate it took perhaps five minutes. Then, not seeing any apparitions or having any "hot flash," I went to bed, ex-

hausted.

Next morning I felt a bit odd and the feeling lasted all day. It took me until the 5:30 meeting that evening to realize that what I was feeling was a non-feeling. Specifically, it was the lack of my constant companion—fear.

That was my introduction to the mystery contained in our Sixth and Seventh Steps. Since that fateful night I have come to appreciate the essence of Higher Power in our program.

Some of my character defects, whatever those are, seemed to have been either removed or severely reduced after that Fifth-Sixth-Seventh Step night. But the next time someone cut me off in traffic or didn't show the proper respect to me, the customer, or otherwise damaged my pride or my ego, I soon discovered that not all my defects had been removed. Thus began my on-going, never-ending striving for "character building" aka "spiritual growth."

Continued page 6

In this issue

One Member's Voice.....	1
Tradition Seven. Privilege and Honor..	1
July Birthdays.....	2
Archives Reflections.....	2
By the Books.....	3
How to support Intergroup.....	4
Group Contributions.....	5
District 17 Corner.....	6
Service. The Power of the Pen	7
Meetings/Announcements.....	8
Special Events and more	9
Service Opportunities.....	10
Contact Intergroup.....	10



Tradition Seven

The privilege and honor of self support.

Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

When I came into AA and attended my first "traditions meeting," a few of the old-timers were talking about a large sum of money that relatives of a deceased group member were trying to leave to our group. Being new I saw nothing wrong with this idea. But soon I was to learn that "we can't afford to accept large sums of money from anyone.

The General Service Conference within the past two years admitted into policy that each member may contribute up to \$3,000 annually to Alcoholics Anonymous, but that is the limit.

If anyone doubts the wisdom of this, just put a large sum of money into the collection basket at your next meeting and watch the confusion that it causes

within your home group.

After that first instance, I began to research Tradition Seven and found that our founding fathers were struggling with no money in the beginning and had already had *The Big Book* published, but still were in an impoverished state. In 1940, John D. Rockefeller expressed a desire to help our

Continued page 7

A quote for July

Freedom from alcohol is the great "must" that has to be achieved, else we go mad or die.

As Bill Sees It, page 134

Congratulations July Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate anniversaries that add up to a collective 447 years. That's more than 163,155 days of sobriety. One day at a time!

Gary F	34 years
Jim Z	33 years
Mary Jo H	32 years
Bob C	31 years
Bosch R	29 years
Kate S	27 years
Joe S	25 years
Pat C	22 years
Dennis R	19 years
Michele M	18 years
Randy M	18 years
Marlene G	15 years
Paul O	13 years
Don M	12 years
Bruce P	9 years
Peggy B	6 years
Ashley C	3 years
Bob B	3 years
Jason B	3 years
Kelly W	3 years

Fred D	2 years
Caroline M	1 year
Ganetta	1 year
Mary T	1 year

JUNE

Pat M	28 years
Rick D	25 years
Rosanna F	17 years
Joan	10 years
Marty C	3 years
George	2 years
Greg B	1 year
Cindy	1 year

Please share your AA birthday with all.
 Deadline for August birthdays is July 20.
 E-mail to: thevoice@aaocalamarion.org

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
 P.O. Box 1192
 Ocala, Florida 34478

Archives Reflections

Welcome to The Winners Circle.

Where over the course of three decades untold numbers of AAs got their lives back on

The Winner's Circle, a longstanding group in Marion County got its start in the early 1980's. John P recalls that counting him there were ten people who started the group.

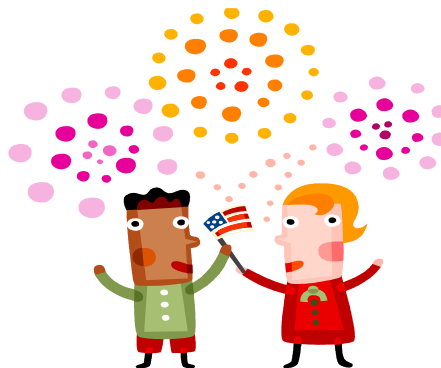
The other nine included Homer B. (Boots), Vane B., Gerry B., Jack W., Chip H., Tommy H., and one other whose name refuses to pop back into John's head at the moment.

John also remembers that Harold R. and Bill (Telephone Bill) were among the next to join the group.

The Winner's Circle grew into a great meeting here in Marion County at that time. The meeting site was located in Anthony, Florida, right next to Anthony Elementary. Today. The site is occupied by a thrift shop there.

Among the stand-out memories about The Winner's Circle was its Sunday morning breakfast meeting.

It was usually a speaker meeting, but Vane B. always cooked, and usually anywhere from 40 to 50 members attended each Sunday.



A legendary 4th of July Celebration

The group's 4th of July Bar-B-Q was also always well attended. Ruth T. re-

members how the attendees used to form a queue outside to secure a place in the buffet line every Independence Day.

After Homer "Boots" passed away, the group moved a few streets away. The Winners' Circle never did go "non-smoking." To the sadness of many who have fond memories, the Winners' Circle is no longer an active AA group.

Each month, as Archives chairperson for District 17, Kathy P, shares a reflection from the written and oral history of Ocala-Marion County. The District Archives are housed at Intergroup 17 offices. If you have a story, memory, documents, photos, or other memorabilia that relate to our local history, please let Kathy know. Leave a message at Intergroup with phone number or email address, and Kathy will contact you. Call 352 867 0660.

July by the Books

STEP SEVEN

"Humbly asked him to remove our shortcomings."

What is humility? What an it mean to us? The avenue to true freedom of the human spirit.. Necessary aid to survival. Value of ego-puncturing. Failure and misery transformed by humility. Strength from weakness. Pain is the admission price to new life. Self-centered fear chief activator of defects. Step Seven is change in attitude which permits us to move our of ourselves toward God.

Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions, page 7

The Seventh Step is where we make the change in our attitude, which permits us, with humility as our guide, to move out from ourselves toward others and toward God. The whole emphasis of Step Seem is on humility.

It is really saying to us that we now ought to be willing to try humility saying to us that we now ought to be willing to try humility in seeking the removal of our other shortcomings just as we did when we admitted that we were powerless over alcohol, and came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

If that degree of humility could enable us to find the grace by which such a deadly obsession could be banished, then there must be hope of the same result respecting any other problem we could possibly have.

Twelve Steps Twelve Traditions, page 76

TRADITION SEVEN

"Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

Probably no AA Tradition had the labor pains this one did. In early times, we were all broke. When you add to this the habitual supposition that people ought to give money to alcoholics trying to stay sober, it can be understood why we thought we deserved a pile of folding money. What great things AA would be able to do with it ! But oddly enough, people who had money thought otherwise. They figured that it was high times we now-sober-paid our own way. So our Fellowship stayed poor because it had to.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 1160

Tradition Seven Checklist

1. Honestly, now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a barroom?
2. Should the Grapevine self advertising space to book publishers and drug companies, so it could make a big profit and become a bigger magazine, in full color, at a cheaper price per copy?
3. If GSO runs short of funds some year, wouldn't it be okay to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?
4. Is it more important to get a big AA collection from a few people, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?
5. Is a group treasurer's report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?
6. How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect rather than the feeling of being always under obligation for charity received?

Traditions Checklist, AA Grapevine

CONCEPT SEVEN

The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the conference Charter itself is not a legal document; that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the AA purse for its final effectiveness.

This concept may appear to be contradictory; it may look like the collection of an irresistible fore with an immovable object. On the one hand we see a Board of Trustees which is invested with complete legal power over A,A, 's funds and services, while on the other hand we find that AA's General Service Conference is clothed with such great traditional influence and financial power that, if necessary, it could overcome the legal rights of the Board of Trustees. It can therefore give the Trustees directive and secure compliance with them--practically speaking.

*The AA Service Manual combined with
Twelve Concepts for World Service,
2009-2010 Edition*

**Looking for these books?
Need a pamphlet or brochure?
Want more AA information?**

Intergroup 17 carries a complete stock of AA conference approved literature for sale, including *Big Books*, *Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions*, *As Bill Sees It*, *Daily Reflections*, and much more.

We also have available copies of AA pamphlets and brochures, service manuals, and other group supplies.

**3666-A N.E. 25th Street
Ocala, Florida 34470
Phone: 352-867-0660
Cash purchases only.**

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

AA Responsibility Statement

Intergroup is self-supporting through the contributions of the groups and individuals we serve. We accept no outside contributions and generate a minimal additional income from the sale of literature. Intergroup is absolutely reliant upon group contributions to continue to provide our services.

Today, Intergroup 17 faces critical financial challenges. The average monthly operating expenses run between \$2500 and \$2800. Unfortunately, group contributions have dropped sharply in the past year putting Intergroup 17 in serious financial difficulty. Only about 20 percent of area

groups make financial contributions, regularly. Support is much needed and gratefully acknowledged. If your group does not contribute regularly, please consider doing so. If you as an individual can make a direct personal contribution, your gift will be gratefully welcomed.

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
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 3447

Individual 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"
- Once-a-year contribution

Please note: According to the AA publication, "Self Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix," individual contributions are accepted from AA members only and are limited to \$3000 per year per person. (http://aa.org/pdf/products/f-3_selfsupport.pdf)

Make your contribution today.

"When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat, we give a token that we are grateful for our blessing and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer."

Bill W, Language of the Heart

There are many ways to contribute to Intergroup 17 as an individual. Please indicate your preferred method below, complete the form, enclose your contribution made payable to Intergroup 17 Inc., and mail to Intergroup 17, P.O Box 1192, Ocala, Fl. 344708

Faithful Fiver. \$5 contribution each month

Double Nickel. \$10 each month.

Birthday Club: \$ _____

One-a-year contribution: \$ _____

Providing any or all of the following information is optional:

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contributions may be tax deductible. Please consult your tax preparer for more information and guidance.

Group Contributions to Intergroup 17 MAY 2010

**Figures below reflect total contributions for fiscal year 2009-10.
Report below is from July 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010 only.
If there is an error, please contact Intergroup 17.**

GROUP NAME	\$ May '10 Con- tributions	Contri- butions 6/1/09- 5/3110	GROUP NAME	\$ May '10 Con- tributions	Contri- butions 6/1/09- 5/31/10
164 Pages Group	\$37.00	\$173.09	Living Sober Group		611.43
17th Street Group			Lunch Bunch Group		249.96
Acceptance		300.00	Marion Oaks		0.23
Alive and Well		110.00	McIntosh Group		
All You Need Group		64.17	Men's Group Ocala		502.00
As Bill Sees It		598.40	New Attitudes Group		92.09
Belleview Eye Opener			New Beginnings Group		
Belleview God's Way		15.77	New Life Group		
Belleview Group		288.99	No Name Group	30.00	154.50
Bonfire Group			Ocala Group	105.51	2,381.76
Breakfast Club	545.93	3,336.72	Ocklawaha AM Group		
Came To Believe		20.00	One Page At A Time		
Citra Group		56.69	Primary Purpose Group		98.00
Come As You Are		25.00	Resentment Too Group		
Conscious Contact		84.41	Second Step Group		
Day by Day			Shores of Sobriety		135.00
Eleventh Step Group			Sisters of Serenity		
Experience, Strength & Hope	124.48	124.48	Start A New Life	75.00	475.00
First Impressions			Steps and Promises		
Forest Group	40.00	330.46	Stop Whining & Sober Up		150.00
Forest Men's Group	20.00	20.00	Strength In Numbers		0.70
Fountain of Gratitude		184.00	Summerfield Group		32.00
Free To Be		130.00	Summerfield New Green		
Ft. McCoy Group		40.00	Sm'field Living in Today		
God's Way Group		6.00	Sundae Social Group		
Grace Group			TLC Group, The Centers		8.72
Grateful Gals		60.00	Thursday Night Step Gp.		
Green Group			We Give Thanks		110.00
Grupo Mano Abierta		75.00	We Give Up		143.16
Grupo Nueva Vida			Weir Crazy		440.00
Happy Hour Group	30.00	150.00	Williston Winners		
Happy, Joyous & Free	503.14	2,972.92	Won Rebos Group		
Headstart Group	71.56	488.67	Young People's Group		100.00
It's In The Book	60.00	60.00			
Keep It Simple	154.50	620.25	District 17	25.00	630.00
Last Call Group		225.00	Birthday Club (personal)	23.00	263.00
Last House on the Block			Double Nickel (personal)		10.00
Life is Good Sober Group			Faithful 5-ers (personal)	15.00	125.00
Life Saver Group		100.15	Individuals (other)	13.03	477.41
			Spaghetti Dinner	1,467.00	1,467.00
			Total	\$3,340.15	\$19,317.13

Intergroup 17 Call Center May 2010

Meeting info requests	63
Twelfth Step Calls	1
Office transactions	24
Visitors	34
Al-Anon	8
Miscellaneous	49

*Calls requesting information on or needing assistance from Al-Anon are respectfully referred to the appropriate local resources.

Intergroup 17 Financial Statements

Monthly financial statements for Intergroup 17 are available for review at the Intergroup 17 office during regular office hours.

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

Intergroup 17 Monthly Meetings Everyone invited!

Open to all. Learn more about AA, Intergroup 17, and the great opportunities for service work .

**Sunday, July 11, 5:15 pm
St. Mark's United Methodist
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala**

District 17 Corner

Highlights of the minutes of the May 27, 2010, meeting of District 17 at St. Mark's UMC, Ocala.

DCM Nancy D presided. 21 officers, committee chairs, GSRs, and visitors in attendance.

DCM Report: DCM reported that AA's General Service Office receives thousands of emails regarding anonymity breaks on social networking sites, such as Facebook. GSRs were asked to remind their groups about anonymity in general and about online activities that can compromise anonymity, such as taking and posting photos from AA events

Secretary's Report: Read and accepted.

Treasurer's Report Presented and accepted.

Accessibilities: Chair reported on recent service work by the committee .

Archives: Chair distributed new bookmarks to GSRs to encourage AA book donations to Archives.

CPC/PI: No report.

Corrections: Sherry R reported on pressing need for volunteers for both men's and women's facilities meetings; Meetings: Men's – Mon & Wed (state prison) and Tue & Thu (county jail); Women's – Mon, Tue & Thu (state prison) and Tue & Thu (county jail). Pink Can Money: Purchased 20 Big Books for Women's facilities.

Grapevine: No report.

Intergroup: Steering Committee Chair and Office Manager reported on Spaghetti Dinner, finances, lower rent and other cost savings efforts, and the need for office volunteers.

Literature: Chair reported on initial efforts to coordinate with area and GSO.

Treatment: Position vacant

Workshop subcommittee: Possible upcoming activities include ice cream social and service fair.

Gratitude Dinner: Committee seeking new location. Volunteers needed for planning and more.

Want to get involved?

Attend the next District 17 meeting.

Thursday, July 29, 6 pm

St. Mark's UMC, Ocala

All Welcome

Continued Awareness is the Answer

Continued from page 1

It's like this: You spend most of your life acting or reacting to any given stimulus in a certain way. Like an amoeba, it was stimulus-response, stimulus-response, again and again.

Through the process of the first five steps and the fellowship of AA, you begin to get it—that some of your behaviors, especially the reactions, might not be conducive to the maintenance of your spiritual condition or your sobriety or your emotional balance. Steps Six and Seven are right there all in a line to answer the question, "What to do?"

Why all my defects were not removed the first time that I asked, I later discovered in the *Twelve & Twelve*. And there were subtle hints, too, as to how I could continue to grow. I dwelt on these questions for years, trusting to Twelfth Step work and meetings, meetings, meetings to keep me sane and sober. I believe that I have at last found the magic words and actions to do what I cannot do for myself.

First, and most important, is that I remain aware of myself as much as I am able. That means it is essential that I not run on autopilot as I did for so much of my life. Running on autopilot presupposes that I know what is the best course of action in all situations in my day.

Sounds rather arrogant, doesn't it? That's how I discovered that arrogance is one of my chief character traits. Like getting tar on your heel at the beach. It's really hard to get rid of. You can ignore it most of the time until you put your shoes on or step barefoot onto your

clean white carpet.

And arrogance tends to irritate other people, which brings me to that part of the Seventh Step prayer where I asked God to take away all the defects of character, which stand in the way of my usefulness to Him and my fellows. Maybe He needs me to piss people off for reasons unknown to me! Maybe. But that is awfully hard on me, don't you think, to be used just to irritate others? Sounds downright unfair.

My job, I have discovered, is to be aware when one of my character defects, known or new, rears its putrid head. Immediately I am to begin working on the willingness to be rid of it, while asking the Big Guy to remove it.

"And just how do I become entirely ready? I do it just like we got sober: by acting as if the defect has already been removed. That is, I practice imagining myself as free of it; I talk about myself as if I am free of it; and most important, I practice acting as if I am free of it. And all the while I ask for the removal.

Like I said, Steps Six and Seven are parts of the same whole. But even if I really, really am willing to be rid of it, He may not grant the favor, for reasons known only to Him."

Bummer. Continued awareness is the only answer. "Constant vigilance" is the term Bill W. used in our literature. And get this. Practicing the opposite of any defect is always the same—practicing humility! I can only conclude that humility is the most wonderful character asset of them all, which is probably why it is so hard to practice.

Anonymous
Ocala, Florida
July 2010



**Ocala Group June Eat 'n Speak
Great Chili Cook-Off Contest**
Congratulations and bragging rights.

First Place: Sam
Second Place: Seth R
Third Place: Judy J

**Looking for a
local meeting?**

Choose from more than 160
meetings a week.

When and Where online!
www.aaocalamarion.org

**Print copies available through home
groups or for purchase at Intergroup
17 office for ten cents each.**

Tradition Seven: The honor and privilege of self support.

Continued from page 1

struggling fellowship by hosting a dinner to introduce our society to the public at large. He sent 400 invitations out but only 75 people showed up at the dinner.

The dinner was held at the Union Club in New York City and most of the participants were very wealthy. Bill and Bob and assorted members were so excited because they felt that Rockefeller could give them the boost they needed to help AA expand.

To their surprise when Nelson Rockefeller stood up to give his speech, he said, "Gentlemen you can all see that this is a work of goodwill. Its power lies in the fact that one member carries the good message to the next, without any thought of financial income or reward. Therefore, it is our belief that Alcoholics Anonymous should be self-supporting so far as money is concerned, it only needs our good will."

The "opportunity" of self-support

At the group level, we are given the opportunity to be self-supporting. We decline offers of "free" meeting space. For example, if a church doesn't accept rent, a group would make a monthly donation to the church. We pay for our coffee, and we pay for any expense the group may incur.

We also elect a General Service Representative (GSR) and make sure that our individual has enough money to attend the Area Assembly. This can mean reimbursement for gas, lodging, and food if needed. Whatever is necessary to continue our Twelfth Step work, we do for the good of the fellowship.

We never accept contributions from outside the fellowship or favors. Why? Because we do not affiliate with any other cause, and when we allow a favor, the other entity can use us (AA) for their own purposes. Churches do good works, but AA should not be a church's "good work." It is our good work, and we need to pay our own way.

In most circumstances today, the guy who has the money is in control of the world. But not so in AA. We elect our GSR, our DCM, our assembly per-

sons, and our delegate and we need to fully fund our trusted servants to do the AA work we require of them. No one can just come into to AA and buy votes. We elect our representatives and we are all equal.

Our personal sobriety

It is imperative to our personal sobriety that we pay our own way. How many of us lived depending on the goodwill of others rather than working for it ourselves. We have the privilege and the honor as sober members of Alcoholics Anonymous of paying our own way.

We put our dollar in the basket and it helps pay for rent, coffee, medallions, our GSR, and our literature. We also support our local Intergroup and our General Service Office in New York. We have the privilege of supporting all areas of service even at a time when we may only be making coffee at our home group. This is all Twelfth Step work.

In *The Language of the Heart*, Bill Wilson writes, "Our spiritual way of life is safe for future generations if, as a Society, we resist the temptation to receive money from the outside world.

But this leaves us with a responsibility—one that every member ought to understand. We cannot skimp when the treasurer of our group passes the hat. Our groups, our areas, and AA as a whole will not function unless our services are sufficient and their bills are paid.

"When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts, we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat, we give a token that we are grateful for our blessings and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer."

This article on Tradition Seven was prepared by Kathy and John P drawing on the history of AA as seen through our founders' eyes as well as John and Kathy's own experience. Excerpts from AA publications are reprinted with permission of AA World Services.

The Power of the Pen

A very special service opportunity for women

If you can write and are willing to be a sponsor, there may be a very special service opportunity in your future.

Sponsorship through the written word

Volunteers from District 17 are creating a way for women in our local fellowship to serve as "corresponding" sponsors to other women alcoholics currently serving time in Lowell Correctional Institution.

How it works

- Women inmates will send a written request for a sponsor to the Intergroup 17 office.
- Program volunteers will match forward requests to local volunteers willing to correspond.
- If it's a good match, all future correspondence will be sent through Intergroup, rather than directly.
- Sponsorship can be done with complete sponsor anonymity.
- No personal information about sponsors will ever be provided to sponsees by District 17 or Intergroup 17 volunteers.

Is it right for you? Learn more.

This is a great way to help women "on the inside" see how those "on the outside" deal with the kinds of situations and issues they will confront when they get out of prison.

Ready to volunteer? Not sure, but want to learn more? Call Intergroup 17 for more info: 352-867-0660.

Upcoming Events and Meetings of Interest

Ocala/Marion County

There are more than 160 AA meetings per week in Ocala/Marion county. Check out the When & Where online: www.aocalamarion.org

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 Group Needs your support!

Open Discussion, 7PM Monday
Zion United Methodist Church
1605 Blichton Road
(Corner ML King Blvd & Blichton)

Last Call Group

New meetings. New times.

New! Tuesday 10 pm
OD Candle Light
New! Thursday 10 pm
Step & Traditions Candle Light
Continuing: Friday and Saturday, 11 pm; Sunday, 10 pm.
All meetings at CATS
730 SE Osceola Avenue, Ocala

Carry This Message Group Big Book Study Meeting

Mondays, 6:00 to 7:30 pm
Lion's Club
5850 Lillian Circle
Bellevue, Florida
(across from Lake Lillian)

Sober Yankees Group. New group. Tuesdays, 7 pm

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
5200 SW SR 200, Ocala, 34474
No smoking on premises
Parking in back.

Ocala Group.

New added meeting.
Saturdays, 1 pm
St. Mark's United Methodist
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Special Notice

The Anthony Group is no longer serving as an AA group. Those seeking meetings are invited to visit the Intergroup website for a complete list of local groups: www.aocalamarion.org

Experience, Strength & Hope

New Meeting Location Effective August 6

**Fridays, 8 PM
Speaker Meeting**

**Church of Christ
2730 SE Maricamp Road
Ocala, Florida**

Special Events, Celebrations, Notices

Ocala Group Eat 'n Speak, Saturday, July 31

Dinner 7 pm
Smoked/BBQ chicken
Speaker 8 pm
Eddy M, from St. Augustine
51 years of sobriety

\$2 if you bring a dish to share
\$4 without a dish to share

St. Mark's United Methodist Church
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

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 for purchase at Intergroup
17 office for ten cents each.**

Groups. It's July 2010. Do you know who/where your Intergroup Rep is?

Intergroup 17 now distributes advance notice of meetings along with minutes, meeting agenda, financial information, and other handouts by email for each Intergroup meeting.

This is a great way to get information about what's happening at Intergroup that may be of interest to your group. All we need is your Intergroup Rep's name and email address. Please send to ocalaintergroup@msn.com

Are you being represented?

Another great way to stay informed is to make sure your Intergroup Rep is willing to serve and attend meetings.

Next Intergroup 17 Meeting

Sunday, July 11

5:15 pm

**St. Mark's United Methodist
Ocala**

Everyone is invited .

54th Annual Florida State Convention

**August 11-15, 2010
Doral Golf Resort & Spa
Miami, Florida**



Step into the Sunshine

Inspiring Speakers

Sandy B. Tampa, FL
Bob D. Las Vegas, NV
Wayne B. Santa Monica, CA
Ralph W. Los Angeles, CA
Theresa F. Hollywood, CA
Steve A. Sherman Oaks, CA
Bob Z. Newbury Park, CA
Betty Ann Z. Newbury Park, CA

A Program Full of Fellowship and Fun

Meetings, Meetings, Meetings...

Workshops
Spanish Speaking
Marathon
Meditation
Old Timers
Young People
G.L.B.T
Al-Anon & Alateen

Friday Banquet & Ice Cream Social
Saturday Banquet & Ice Cream Social
Dances and Entertainment
Golf Tournament
Horseshoe Tournament
Run / Walk

**Full information and registration at
www.54.flstateconvention.com**

Or call: 305 606-6300

Mark Your Calendar

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

7/1-4, 2010 International Convention, A Vision for You. San Antonio, TX.

www.aa.org

7/23-25, 2010 North Florida Area Assembly. www.aanorthflorida.org

8/11-15, 2010 54th Florida State Convention, Miami.

www.54.flstateconvention.com

9/24-26, 2010 Escape Disaster Together!, Florida Conference of Young People in AA, Lake Buena Vista, Florida. www.fcypaa2010.org

July at the Lost and Found Club

339 NE Sanchez Avenue
(NE 4th St. & Tuscawilla Park)
352-351-4688

- Saturday, July 3: Dance, 9 pm. Members \$2, Non-members \$3. Hot dogs, chips, soda, all 50 cents each!
- Sunday, July 4: 4th of July Bar-B-Q. 2 to 5 pm. Chicken, macaroni salad, baked beans. \$5 per person
- Saturday, July 24: : 50/50/50/50 Night. 9 pm. Every item just 50 cents a piece. Hot dogs, chips, soda, movie. Plus a 50/50 raffle.

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. Inquire at the club about availability

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 .

Next Meeting
Sunday, July 11, 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 N.E. 25th Street
Ocala, Florida 34470
Phone: 352-867-0660
Email: info@aaocalamarion.org
Website: aaocalamarion.org

Hours of operation

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

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

Service. The Third Legacy.

"Corresponding" sponsors needed! Women only.

If you can write and would like to sponsor another alcoholic woman, you may have a perfect opportunity. See page 7 for details.

District 17 . Committee chairs and other 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, July 29, 2010, St. Marks UMC, 1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Hotline & 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 are needed to help respond to 12th Step calls. One year of sobriety required. Call Intergroup 17 to volunteer: 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.

Take the message to local correctional institutions.

Participation requires prior approval. Applications available at Intergroup 17 office.

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.

Men's Meetings

To learn more, call 352 867-0660.

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 all the groups and individuals that contributed \$1 or more to Intergroup 17 in June, including:

- 164 Pages
- Breakfast Club
- Experience, Strength, & Hope
- Forest Group
- Forest Men's Group
- Happy Hour Group
- Happy, Joyous, & Free
- Headstart Group
- It's in the Book
- Keep It Simple
- New Attitudes
- Ocala Group
- Primary Purpose Group
- Start a New Life

All who have contributed this fiscal year are thanked on page 5.

Intergroup 17 is especially grateful to all who volunteer to staff the office and hotline, maintain our website, produce our publications, and maintain the office: Alison C, Bill J, Bobby J, Bosch, Connie C, Diane M, Holly M, James N, Jason B, John P, Katie, Kelly T, Max R, Mike G, Peggy N, Phil Ham, Rafael Q, Toni Marie C. If we've left anyone out, we sincerely apologize. Let us know, we'll make amends.

Priscilla P, Intergroup 17 Office Manager

Plug into
Intergroup 17 online

www.aaocalamarion.org

