

The Voice

Volume 28, Number 7

July 2011



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One member's voice

A paragraph for a lifetime A story of experience, strength, and hope

"Step Seven: Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings."

When I was first coming around, I remember seeing the Twelve Steps on the wall and thinking I would skip Step Seven. It was one of those God steps with a prayer in it, and I figured there was probably a way around it for us nonbelievers. My sponsor thought otherwise.

I remember as we were working through the "first five proposals," and often in between, he would remind me that selfishness and self-centeredness were at the root of my problem. He would also remind me, again often and as I see now very truthfully, that we alcoholics must be rid of self or it kills us.

That is primarily why I worked a fifth step in the first place: to see if there was any of this "selfishness." In so doing, I found there

was (hmmmm?). Also in so doing, he and I came up with this list of some of my grosser handicaps, shortcomings.

I won't go into them here as I am only allowed to write so many words, but let's just say, "Yeah, I had a few." There were some things I might be willing to let go of; some of the worst of the worst if you will, and I could see how if I clung to them, they could actually cause me to retreat into drinking again. I never knew or understood the saying that alcohol was but a symptom until I actually started listing the things about me that were the causes and conditions.

At this point, I was beginning to rely on a God of my understanding, which, not surprisingly, the previous steps had allowed me to develop, and my sponsor had me reciting the seventh-step prayer every day. Today

Continued page 6—>



55th Florida State Convention

July 20-24, Orlando

See page 9 or visit:

www.55flstateconvention.com

A quote for July

*We cannot skimp when
our group passes the
hat . . . When we are
generous . . . we give a
token that we are grate-
ful for our blessings.*

Bill W

Language of the Heart, page 221

Tradition Seven

Truly amazing for a bunch of drunks.

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

To appreciate Tradition Seven, we have to travel back to the late 1930s and early 1940s. The AA fellowship had no resources and many, if not most, of the members were low-bottom, very broke alcoholics.

Even as the members began to prosper, the fellowship stayed broke. To raise vast sums of money to save the world, the members came up with all sorts of schemes, which, had they come to fruition, would surely have spelled doom for the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

In the beginning, grateful benefactors endowed club-

houses, and then tried to direct them. One area was given an entire hospital, and the donor's son became the first patient and subsequently its manager.

One AA group was given \$5000 — a very large sum at the time — and were told to use it as they wished, which caused a tremendous amount of dissension. Soon, because of all the resulting strife and discord, most groups decided not to let any monies to accumulate, even for prudent reserves.

Eventually, the members of the fellowship acknowledge that groups and AA would require at least some

modest funds to function effectively. Groups had to pay rent for meeting places, and intergroup and central offices had to lease space and pay for telephone service and sometimes secretarial expenses.

The undeniable fact was that they needed money, prudently managed, to make sure they would be there for the next alcoholic who showed up at the doorstep.

In response, many grateful members made large bequests to AA. At one time as much as \$500,000 was available to the fellowship from members leaving money to

Continued page 2—>

Congratulations July Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate anniversaries that add up to a collective **448 years**. That's more than **163,530 days of sobriety**. One day at a time!

July

Gary F	35 years	Ashley C
Mary Jo H	33 years	Dan B
Bob C	32 years	Jason B
Bosch R	30 years	Kelly W
Kate S	28 years	Marvin P
Pat C	23 years	Ganetta D
Lori M	21 years	Mary T
Dennis R	20 years	Yvonne M
Bob B	19 years	Alan R
Michelle M	19 years	Audra C
Randy M	19 years	Craig K
Marlene G	16 years	Don T
Paul B	14 years	Matt D
Paul O	14 years	Matt V
Don M	13 years	
Donald C	7 years	
Peggy B	6 years	

June

4 years	Rick	19 years
4 years	Joan	11 years
4 years	George B	3 years
4 years	Stephen	1 year
2 years	Jill	1 year

May

2 years	Merrie Lou B	32 years
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Please share your AA birthday with all. Deadline for August birthdays is July 20.
Email:

thevoice@aaocalamarion.org

Or phone: 352-867-0660

Join the Birthday Club



Celebrate an AA anniversary—yours or another member's—with a contribution to help Intergroup 17 carry the message.

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

My father's garden

One of the things I remember best about my father was that he spent most of his free time making good use of his green thumb. He had a beautiful garden filled with almost any kind of vegetable you can think of — corn, tomatoes, watermelon, green beans, carrots, you name it.

He grew many beautiful flowers, too. He had them planted all around our home in upstate New York.

He even had his own greenhouse where he'd begin the plants for his garden early in the spring. He loved his garden and was very proud of it.

When friends and family came to our house, my Dad would always give the best of what he'd grown away. People always left our home with some kind of vegetable or some beautiful flowers.

I thought my Dad was a little nuts for giving away what he'd worked so hard to cultivate. Still, he always did it with a smile. I never understood that! It made no sense to me until now, many years after his death.

Today, I find myself living in the same sort of spirit as my Dad did, except mine is a different kind of garden. It may be small and still just starting to grow, but AA and God have unstuck me from the dark and shed new light on my past. In fact, my darkest secrets seem to make

for my best fertilizer.

I also know that what I plant now will become part of my past tomorrow. I want that to be something that others will appreciate having too.

I've been told to give this thing of ours away, or I will lose it. It's a great lesson I've finally learned from AA — and from my father.

Billy K
Ocala, Florida
July 2011

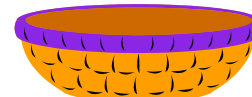


Tradition Seven

Truly Amazing for a Bunch of Drunks

From page 1

AA in their wills. The trustees of AA fought back and forth over these and many other money issues. In its wisdom, the leadership made a decision to reject all of those monies even though the fellowship could certainly have used them. They decided, instead, that AA should remain poor.



When the basket is passed at a meeting, it is passed hand-to-hand in the very spiritual essence of Tradition Seven. Think of what the one or two dollars that are dropped into baskets all over the world are doing — supplying coffee, paying rents, subsidizing literature and then filtering up to support the work of intergroups and central offices, districts, areas, and the General Service Office.

Miraculously, a fellowship composed of some of the most irresponsible types in society thrives because of their responsible behavior. Truly amazing for a bunch of drunks.

Prepared by Bob C. The views, expressions, and opinions presented here are those of the author and not necessarily those of Alcoholics Anonymous or Intergroup 17 Inc.

July by the Books

STEP SEVEN

"Humbly asked him to remove our shortcomings."

What is humility? What can 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 out 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 Seven is on humility.

It is really 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

Check out these resources at Intergroup 17

Spiritual Awakenings: Journeys of the Spirit

Stories from the pages of the AA Grapevine

Emotional Sobriety: The Next Frontier

From the AA Grapevine, 43 stories.
Soft cover and CDs.

Plus our expanded collection of recovery-related items.

Also check out our special-use publications and resources including DVDs for youth audiences (for loan), brochures in Braille, as well as other resources that can help make the message more accessible to all regardless of physical abilities.

TRADITION SEVEN

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

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* sell 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," The AA Grapevine

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 & Twelve Traditions, page 160

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 force with an immovable object. On the one hand we see a Board of Trustees which is invested with complete legal power over AA'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*

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



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

Find a complete selection of AA conference approved literature available now at Intergroup 17 office,

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

District 17 Corner

Bridging the gap between treatment and AA through temporary contact programs.

Interested in a service position that offers the opportunity to work with new or returning members to the fellowship?

You might consider volunteering to serve as District 17 service coordinator or a committee volunteer for the Bridging the Gap program, which assists individuals in making the transition from treatment and/or incarceration into the AA community.

Here's some information about one important aspect of Bridging the Gap between a treatment program and AA: the Temporary Contact Program.

One of the more "slippery" places in the journey to sobriety is between the door of the facility and the nearest AA group or meeting. Some say that, even though they had heard of AA in treatment, they were too fearful to go.

AA Experience suggests that attending meetings regularly is critical. In order to bridge the gap, AA members have volunteered to be temporary contacts and introduce newcomers to Alcoholics Anonymous.

The video "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous," shown to patients in treatment, emphasizes the importance of having a temporary contact as the essential link between treatment and recovery.

It is suggested that the temporary contact take the newcomer to a variety of AA meetings; introduce him or her to other AAs; ensure that he or she has the phone numbers of several AA members, and share the experience of sponsorship and a home group.

Temporary Contact Guidelines

- Keep in mind that this is basic Twelfth Step work.
- Experience suggests that it is best to be accompanied by another AA member when meeting our newcomer. One of the two temporary contacts should have at least a year of sobriety.
- Experience also suggests that men work with men and women work with women.
- The intent is to provide the newcomer with your help for a limited time. You need not have experience with treatment facilities. Your qualifications are experience as an alcoholic and recovery in AA.
- It may be helpful for you as a tempo-

rary contact to attend workshops on bridging the gap and attend meetings of your area's hospital and/ or treatment facilities committees.

- Remember, the goal of both AA and the treatment facility is the same - the recovery of the alcoholic.
- Be familiar with the paper "Information on Alcoholics Anonymous," particularly the section on what AA does and does not do.
- In all contacts or activities with treatment facilities, it is extremely important to be punctual and to look your best.

Try to do the following

- Make contact with the newcomer while he or she is still in treatment. To avoid any misunderstandings, explain clearly that this is a temporary arrangement.
- Review the many different meeting formats — cover the difference between open and closed AA meetings and accompany the newcomer to a variety of meetings. Give the newcomer an AA meeting schedule.
- Introduce the newcomer to AA Conference approved books (particularly the *Big Book*), pamphlets and the AA *Grapevine*.
- Explain group membership and the value of having a home group.
- Explain sponsorship to the newcomer, referring to the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship," and perhaps help the newcomer find a sponsor.

If you would like to help in this very important Twelfth Step work and have a least one year of continuous sobriety in the AA program, please attend the next District 17 monthly meeting or send an email indicating your interest to: district17@aaocalamarion.org

Rick D.
DCM District 17

Information in this article was taken from AA General Service Literature and is published here with permission for AA World Services, New York, NY.

District 17 Officers & Service Coordinators

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

Group GSRs

164 Pages Group: Barbara B
All You Need: Ken W
Anthony: Lisa E
Breakfast Club: Barbara K
Cabin in the Woods: Shelly O
Came to Believe: John D
Conscious Contact: Jim B
Forest Group: Petra H
Free to Be: Jenn A
Happy, Joyous & Free: Rick F
Headstart: 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: Hunter B
Shores of Sobriety: Rafael Q
Sober Yankees: Ginger H
Sobriety in Marion Oaks: John S
Summerfield Group: Peter P
Together We Can: Kathy B
We Give Up: Carol W
Weir Crazy: Jennifer M
Young People's Group: Billy C

To contact a District 17 officer, service chair, or GSR, call 352.867.0660 or email: district17@aaocalamarion.org

Service & Sobriety District 17. Get Involved. Service Opportunities

Archives Service Coordinator
Bridging the Gap
Gratitude Dinner committee

Learn more

Next Meeting. All Welcome.

Thursday, July 28, 6:00 pm

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

GSRs. Mark your calendars!
North Florida Area Assembly
July 9-10, St. Augustine

Group Contributions to Intergroup 17 May 2011

Intergroup 17's fiscal year runs June 2010-May 2011.
Contributions below are from June 1, 2010 through May 31, 2011.
Please report any errors or discrepancies to Intergroup 17.

GROUP NAME	\$ May'11 Contri- butions	Contri- butions 6/1/10- 5/31/11	GROUP NAME	\$ May'11 Contri- butions	Contri- butions 6/1/10- 5/31/11
164 Pages Group	\$ 36.50	\$390.55	Living Sober Group		87.00
Acceptance		50.00	Lunch Bunch Group		159.05
Alive and Well		75.00	Men's Group Ocala		81.00
All You Need Group		165.00	New Attitudes Group		76.83
As Bill Sees It		634.51	No Name Group		162.00
Bellevue Eye Opener		27.86	Ocala Group		1,498.32
Bellevue God's Way		28.26	One Day at a Time	100.00	102.58
Bellevue Group		150.20	Primary Purpose Group		127.00
Breakfast Club		2,120.84	Shores of Sobriety		30.00
Cabin in the Woods	105.00	255.00	Serenity Group		1.01
Came To Believe		25.42	Sober Yankees	100.00	365.05
Citra Group		6.15	Start A New Life		175.15
Come As You Are		30.00	Strength In Numbers		19.00
Conscious Contact		99.37	Summerfield Group		6.36
Forest Group		121.79	Sundae Social Group		1.00
Forest Men's Group		100.00	TLC Group, The Centers		.35
Fountain of Gratitude	60.00	362.10	Together We Can	3.40	3.40
Free To Be	40.00	111.08	We Give Up	34.00	177.40
Grace Group		10.44	We Give Thanks	100.00	100.00
Grateful Gals		21.00	Weir Crazy		143.00
Grupo Mano Abierta		25.00	Westside Recovery	23.00	38.00
Happy Hour Group		90.00	Young People's Group		169.83
Happy, Joyous & Free		3,966.25	Zion-Blichton Group	20.00	117.64
Headstart Group		309.91	Archives		
Healing Group		80.00	District 17	100.00	543.85
In the Woods		25.00	Birthday Club (personal)		223.00
It's In The Book		60.00	Double Nickel (personal)		
Keep It Green		10.00	Faithful 5-ers (personal)	5.00	75.00
Keep It Simple		161.03	Individuals (other)	4.93	533.04
Last Call Group		5.75	Total	\$728.43	\$15,183.37
Lifesaver Group		650.00			

How Groups and Individuals Support the Work of AA

Group contributions fund the work of Intergroup 17 and other areas of AA General Services. Many groups choose to 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 Conference
- 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

NEAC
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: 352-867-0660.

Area 14
North Florida Area Assembly
July 8-10, 2011
Renaissance Resort
St. Augustine

Friday July 8, 2011

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Registration
8:00 pm - 9:00 pm Discussion Meeting

Saturday July 9, 2011

8:00 am - 5:30 pm Registration
9:00 am - 6:00 pm Workshops
8:00 pm - 9:30 pm Speaker meeting
9:30 pm Ice Cream Social

Sunday July 10, 2011

8:00 am - 9:00 am Registration
9:00 am - 12:00 pm Business Meeting

Full Agenda Online

www.aanorthflorida.org/assembly_agenda

Hotel Location and Reservations

The Renaissance Resort
500 South Legacy Trail,
St. Augustine, Florida 320921
Tel: 904-940-8000

Link to online hotel booking at:
www.aanorthflorida.org/assembly_agenda

Get Your Group On! Stay Connected and Current. Meetings. Dates. Times. More.

Ensure that AA, District 17, and Intergroup 17 have current, accurate information about your group. Please submit all new and changed information in writing at the next District 17 meeting, or by email to: district17@aaocalamarion.org

Download the group information/change form at: www.aaocalamarion.org Click on Meetings.

Stay Linked.

Book of the month **Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers**

A biography, with recollections of early AA in the Midwest

Alcoholics Anonymous, by its very nature, could not have been founded by one person. Its essence is sharing. Therefore, Bill W. and Dr. Bob are always referred to within the Fellowship as *co-founders*.

So far, among the majority of AA members, the Ohio surgeon has been less well known than his partner. He died in 1950, when AA was only 15 years old. But his influence on the whole AA program is permanent and profound.

This book attempts to give a portrait of Dr. Bob as full-scale and balanced as possible—for the most part, in the words of those who knew him personally. The youngster who grew up in Vermont of the late 19th century became a

hard-drinking college boy, then a medical student fighting the onset of his own alcoholism, a respected physician, a loving but increasingly unreliable family man, and at last a desperately ill drunk, without hope until he met a stockbroker from New York — Bill W., who urgently needed a fellow alcoholic to help him maintain his own sobriety.

Beginning with Dr. Bob's last drink and the start of the Fellowship, his story becomes involved — through interdependence—with those of other early members and of pioneer groups in the Midwest. This development was both exhilarating and tumultuous: Only the trial-and-error method taught AA the best approaches for newcomers; connections with the Oxford Group

grew uneasy; dissension arose over the writing of the Big Book, finances, participation by members' wives, and minorities in AA. Through it all, Dr. Bob was a steadying central figure.

The end of the story returns to the intensely personal view. But even in his last years, Dr. Bob was drawn into hard-fought discussions and eventually decisions that would reach far into the future of A.A. Worldwide.

Get it today at Intergroup 17

Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers

Hardcover, 373 pages

Price: \$12.35

Copyright 1980, Alcoholics Anonymous World Ser-

One members Voice A Paragraph for a Lifetime

From page 1

although not verbatim, I bring the essence of that prayer into my morning routine as a reminder that although I am nothing like I used to be, there are still some of those defects I cling to or find not too bad.

My primary reason for the seventh step prayer today, however, is not because I am fearful of returning to the drink, although that is always a possibility if I refuse to work Step Seven. My primary reason today is the connection I get with my God and my fellow man. When I am free of self, when I ask God to remove those things that stand in the way of my being useful to Him, and I see my character defects for what they are, I become a better father, son, friend, co-worker, and so on.

Throughout my sobriety, there have been times that have been characterized by one outstanding shortcoming or another. These have brought me closer to my God and closer to understanding the true meaning of Step Seven.

I often fall for the shortsighted objective, which is mine, and miss the larger, truer objective, which is that of my Higher Power. The young, lustful second, third, and fourth years of sobriety

drove me to my knees again when I realized that even though there was progress in my relationships with women I still could act selfishly to get what I wanted and sometimes hurt others in the process.

Recent events in my life have caused me to see that anger, or rather reacting to anger, is just as detrimental to my serenity and therefore my sobriety, justified or not. I ask God to help me find a better way and today enjoy the benefits of a closer relationship and understanding of God.

I have come to embrace the paragraph on page 76 in *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, that says, "The chief activator of our defects has been self-centered fear — primarily fear that we would lose something we already possessed or fail to get something we demanded." The reason behind my sponsor's insistence on the removal of self and its resultant activation of these defects becomes clear. Without the removal of self-centeredness, I don't stand a chance of allowing God in to help with their removal.

I see too how the third-step prayer, in which I ask God to remove me from the bondage of self, leads into the seventh-step prayer of helping me live better by taking away those things that block me from God's light and ultimately leads to the eleventh-step prayer, which amounts to a way to live a life of service

to God and others.

When I first started writing, I imagined that I would say a lot about humility, the underlying principle of Step Seven, but I think the *12 & 12* does a much better job of this. I will state that the definition of humility back in Step Five of the *12 & 12* really says what humility is all about for me: "A clear recognition of who and what we really are, followed by a sincere attempt to become what we could be." Steps Five and Ten give me the "recognition," Step Seven is my "attempt."

The *Big Book* of Alcoholics Anonymous devotes only one small paragraph to Step Seven, but it says so much in its simplicity with one of the most powerful prayers for getting and keeping me in tune with my Higher Power. Although the paragraph ends with, "We have then completed Step Seven," as with all twelve, it is never really completed. Forever honing, seeking, and progressing, this is a small paragraph to live for a lifetime.

Charlie T
Ocala, Florida
July 2011

Unity. Recovery. Service.

Why Intergroup 17 exists — and why we all should care.

Unity: Intergroup serves as a critical link among all groups in Ocala and Marion County.

Recovery: Intergroup 17's primary mission is to carry the message to help the alcoholic achieve sobriety.

Service: Intergroup 17 also exists to serve the needs of groups and members in achieving their purposes.

Very often the first place where still-suffering alcoholics in our area call or show up for the kind of help only Alcoholics Anonymous can provide is at **Intergroup 17**. There a network of Intergroup volunteers stand ready 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year to respond to those in need.

During regular office hours (10 am to 5 pm weekdays and 10 am to 2 pm Saturdays), these volunteers staff the Intergroup office front desk, answering the telephones and responding in person to visitors. During all other hours, dedicated volunteers take calls routed to their personal phones from the "hotline," all in the true spirit of the fellowship—one alcoholic working with another.

An information clearinghouse

While responding to 12th Step calls is arguably the most critical role that Intergroup 17 plays, it does much more. Intergroup 17 also serves as a clearinghouse for AA-related and group information for the more than 75 groups in the District 17 area, which includes Ocala and Marion County.

Volunteers respond promptly to a wide range of telephone inquiries (over 150 calls per month) directing callers to appropriate resources or referring them to the appropriate District 17 committees.

Volunteers, the heartbeat

Intergroup functions with only one paid worker and therefore relies heavily on AA member volunteers to provide its services. Many have found that serving at Intergroup, answering calls from alcoholics and doing what else needs to be done, greatly enriches their sobriety and broadens their circle of friends.

One year of continuous sobriety is required for volunteers who work the desk and answer hot-line calls. If you're interested, please call the Intergroup Office Manager at 352-867-0660.

The after-hours committee

This is the system Intergroup 17 uses to answer calls from alcoholics in need of help when the office is closed. Intergroup maintains a current, confidential 12th Step call list of AA members willing to serve after regular office hours. Now over six years old, this committee enables your Intergroup to provide around the clock telephone coverage every day of the year.

Communications central

If you had to describe in one sentence what Intergroup 17 does, it's communication about recovery with all who have a sincere need for help or interest in information about alcoholism.

The Intergroup office provides free and for-sale in-stock literature and supplies, such as chips, medallions, pamphlets, books, greeting cards, and other recovery related materials. Intergroup also places special orders on behalf of groups and individuals for recovery related publications and resources not regularly stocked.

When and Where meeting schedule

One of the most useful publications is the Intergroup 17 *When and Where*, a comprehensive list of all AA group meetings in the area including times, locations, meeting type, and geographic area.

The Voice newsletter

Published primarily for the membership, *The Voice* is a free publication, available in print from the Intergroup office, online at the website, and by email. You can request a free email subscription by emailing your request to thevoice@aaocalamarion.org

The Website Committee

These volunteers develop and maintain the Intergroup 17 website (www.aaocalamarion.org). Linked directly from AA World Services global website, the Intergroup 17 website serves as a 24/7/365 source of information, guidance, and hope to alcoholics in need, members, families, visitors to the

area, and the general public. Whether they go to the site seeking immediate help, information on local meetings, details about local events, or just a better understanding of alcoholism and the pathway to recovery, visitors to the website will easy access to information they can use immediately.

Intergroup Representatives

Intergroup is "governed" by the group conscience of the Intergroup Representatives elected by AA groups. At monthly meetings, issues affecting the groups and AA are considered, discussed, and voted on by the representatives. Groups that send a representative to Intergroup have a voice and a hand in the future.

Self supporting and supporting all

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 and supplies. Intergroup is absolutely reliant upon group contributions to continue to provide our services.

It is important to note that even if a group sends no representative or does not contribute to Intergroup, it is still served by the Intergroup office in every way possible.

Members and others from the area, as well as those visiting from out of town, are encouraged to drop in to experience the "heartbeat of AA in action."

Intergroup 17 Inc.
3666A N.E. 25th Street
Ocala, Florida 34470
Phone: 352-867-0660
Email: aaocalaintergroup@gmail.com
Website: www.aaocalamarion.org

Group Meetings News, and More

Looking for a local meeting?

Choose from more than
140 meetings a week.

When and Where online!
www.aaocalamarion.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

7:00 pm every Wednesday
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
3452 NE Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala

Spanish Speaking

Wednesdays

Grupo Nueva Vida

7:00 pm Wed, Thurs, Sat, Sun
150-A SW 23rd Ave. (1/2 block South
of Ft. King), Ocala

Fridays and Saturdays

Grupo Mano Abierta

7:00 pm Monday & Friday
St. John's Methodist Church
12390 West SR328

Eat 'n Speak

Keep It Simple Group

Last Thursday of the month
Eat: 7:00 pm Speaker: 8:00 pm
Small fee for meal
Ascension Lutheran Church
5730 SE 28th Street, Ocala

164 Pages Women's Meeting

Last Monday of the month
6:00 pm
Ocklawaha United Methodist
13333 East Hwy 25, Ocklawaha, FL

New & Newer Meetings

New Group

Together We Can

Open Discussion
Fridays, 7:00 pm
220 Marion Oaks Drive
Ocala, FL

New Group

Sobriety in Marion Oaks

Open discussion, Mondays, 7:00 pm
Community Congregational
15056 SW 29th Terrace Road
Ocala, FL

Grapevine meeting.

Sober Yankees

Second Tuesday, 7:00 pm
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
5200 SW SR200, Ocala. FL

Speaker meeting.

Ocala Group

Fridays, 8:00 pm
St. Mark's United Methodist
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala, FL
Desserts welcome!

New 12&12 meeting

Headstart Group

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

One Day at a Time

Monday through Friday, noon
5884 SW 60th Avenue, 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 6:00 pm
Eat 'n Speak, last Monday of month
Ocklawaha United Methodist
13333 East Hwy 25, Ocklawaha, FL

A Vision For You

Mondays, 7:00 pm, Open Discussion
Florida Highlands Baptist Church
10891 SW 155th St, Dunnellon, FL

Needs Your Support

Keep It Green, Summerfield

Fridays 8:00 pm
Sunset Harbor Baptist Church
9200 SE Sunset Harbor Rd.
Summerfield, FL

Group News and Meeting Changes

Expanded Schedule. 7 days a week.

Last call Group

Sunday-Thursday at 10pm; Friday &
Saturday at 11pm. CATS, 730 SE Os-
ceola, Ocala, FL

Time change. Format change.

Experience, Strength, and Hope

Fridays, 7:00 pm, *Big Book* study
Church of Christ, 2750 SE Maricamp
Road, Ocala, FL

Discontinued.

Lifesaver Group

All meetings discontinued.
Check the *When & Where* for other groups and
meeting options.

New Meeting Location

Bellevue Eye Opener.

Thursday, 8:00 am. St Paul's Parish
PNCC, corner of Rte. 441 & SE 53
Court, Bellevue 34420 as of March 30.
Behind the Kangaroo gas station on
441.

Summerfield Group

Monday (Beginners) & Thursday
(Step), 7:30 pm, Mulberry Grove Rec-
reational Center, 8445 SE 165th Mul-
berry Lane, The Villages, FL

Special Events, Celebrations, Notices

Eat 'n Speak Meetings

Keep It Simple

Thursday, July 28

Dinner 7:00 pm Speaker 8:00 pm

Ascension Lutheran Church
5730 SE 28th Street, Ocala

164 Pages Group, Women's Meeting

**Last Monday of the Month
6:00 pm**

Ocklawaha United Methodist
13333 East Hwy 25, Ocklawaha, FL

Speaker Meetings

Living Sober Group

Sunday, July 10, 7:30 pm

Congregational Church, 7171 SW State Rd 200
Ocala, Florida

Ocala Group

Every Friday, 8:00 pm

Desserts welcome

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

Breathe Easy

**29 non-smoking meetings weekly
day and night***

**Lost & Found Groups say
Come home again or
for the very first time.**

Acceptance Group Seven days a week, 5:30 pm

Anonymity Group Sundays, 11:00 am

Headstart Group Monday-Sat 7:30 am; Sunday 9:00 am

Live, Laugh & Love Sun 1:00 pm women/closed

Lunch Bunch Group Monday-Saturday, noon

New Attitudes Mon-Thurs, 8:00 pm, Fri-Sun, 7:30 pm

Lost & Found Club

**339 NE Sanchez Avenue
Ocala, FL**

*All meetings non-smoking and handicap accessible. All meetings are open except as noted.

AA and the Armed Services Call for Stories

Share your experience. Deadline July 15.
Contact The Voice to learn more:
thevoice@aaocalamarion.org

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 submitted by members or

Inside Intergroup

Annual contribution tally reflects tough economic times

May 31, 2011, marked the end of fiscal year for Intergroup 17. It's the time when we close our financial books for the previous twelve months and take an accounting of our fiscal health. We can report that 54 groups in District 17 made a financial contribution of some sort during the year. For each donation we are extremely grateful, especially given the tough financial times everyone faces. The office could not have served its purpose without your generosity.

For the fiscal year ending May 31, 2011, annual donations totaled \$15,183.37. That is \$4,133.76 less this year than last, a decline of more than 20 percent. That's a great big shortfall, as we depend on group contributions as our primary source of funding. As many groups focus on Tradition Seven during July, we encourage all to give special consideration to supporting Intergroup 17 to the best of your ability. Every donation counts.

Lower prices on AA literature

To help make basic AA literature more accessible to groups and individuals, the Steering Committee decided unanimously to lower prices for the *Big Book*, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and *Daily Reflections*, including all Spanish versions.

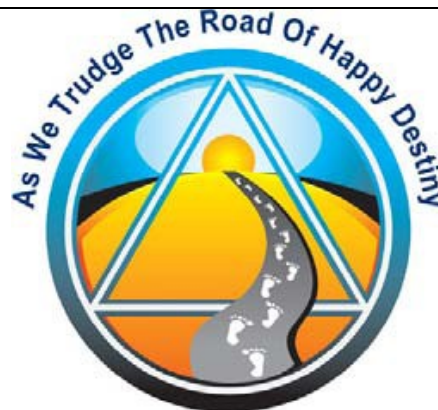
New recovery related materials, chips, medallions and more

Intergroup 17 has stocked our shelves with many new recovery related items — cards, key chains with medallion holders, bumper stickers, unity symbol stickers, and protective book covers. For your group needs we not only stock chips, medallions, and all types of literature, we also have the Steps and Traditions window shades, table-top displays, sets of six slogans pack, AA meeting signs, *Grapevine* magazines, a guide for leading beginners meetings, The Group Handbook, recovery pamphlets, and much more. We also stock a variety of free AA pamphlets, including many in Spanish.

Open House at Intergroup 17 Saturday, August 6. All invited.

You're invited to an Open House at the Intergroup office on Saturday, August 6, during our "Happy Hours" 10 am to 2 pm. Come by for fun, fellowship, and to learn more about service opportunities, to browse through the history and archives of AA in Marion County, and to explore our new publications and recovery related materials. Refreshments will be served.

Connie C,
Office Manager
Intergroup 17



55th Florida State Convention

**July 20-24, 2011
Orlando, Florida**

Inspiring . Informative . Invigorating .
Information & registration
www.55.flstateconvention.com

Plan Ahead. Upcoming Area Events

Intergroup 17 Monthly Meetings

Steering Committee, Tuesday, July 5, 4:30 pm,
Intergroup Office, 3666A NE 25th Street, Ocala
Monthly Intergroup reps meeting, Sunday,
July 10, 5:15 pm, St. Marks UMC, 1839 NE 8th
Avenue, Ocala,

Everyone welcome at all meetings

North Florida Area Assembly

July 9-10, 2011, St. Augustine.
For more information and hotel reservations:
www.aanorthflorida.org

55th Florida State Convention

July 20-24, 2011, Orlando, Florida
www.55.flstateconvention.com

District 17 Monthly Meeting

Thursday, July 28, 6 pm
See page 4 for more details.

16th Annual SE Region

Woman to Woman Seminar

August 26-28, 2011, Naples, FL., Register at: PO Box
11351, Tallahassee, FL 32302

Florida Conference of Young People in AA

September 23-25, 2011, Cocoa, Florida
<http://fcypaa.net>



Intergroup 17 Meetings Everyone invited!

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

Sunday, July 10, 5:15 pm

St. Mark's UMC

1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Steering Committee meets Tuesday, July 5.

4:30 pm. Intergroup office, All invited.

For more information: 352-867-0660

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

3666A NE 25th Street

Ocala, FL 34470

Phone: 352-867-0660.

www.aaocalamarion.org

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 10 am to 5 pm

Saturday 10 am to 2 pm

Office closed Independence Day

Monday, July 4, 2011

24-Hour Hotline

365 days a year

352-867-0660

Service. The Third Legacy.

Intergroup 17. Geek needed for website! Desk volunteers too.

Intergroup is looking for a computer savvy volunteer to help construct an online meeting finder for our website.

Also needed: help in staffing the office. Please volunteer. Call for more information. 352 867-0660. Ask for Connie or leave name and number.

Women are waiting now for "Corresponding" sponsors.

There's a waiting list for women to correspond with other women alcoholics currently serving time. Can be done with complete anonymity. Contact Deb L or Sherry R through Intergroup 17 at 352-867-0660.

District 17 seeks service committee chairs and more.

Positions open for Archives, Bridging the Gap, Gratitude Dinner, and more. (See page 4)

Treatment Committee seeks volunteers.

Great opportunities for service on the frontlines of recovery. Help take meetings to treatment centers in our area. Even if you don't chair, your presence is a message in itself. Attend the next District 17 meeting. (Page 4)

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. (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. Contact Nancy I through Intergroup or by email: nihasz@hotmail.com

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

Intergroup 17 Call Center May 2011

Meeting info requests	105
Office	71
Twelfth Step Calls	6
Office Visits	43
Al-Anon*	14
Miscellaneous	47

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

Attitude of GrAAitude

Intergroup 17 is fully self-supporting. The majority of our financial support comes from the generosity of our local AA groups. A tremendous thank you to the 10 groups that contributed \$1 or more to Intergroup 17 in May, including:

- 164 Pages Group
- Cabin in the Woods
- Fountain of Gratitude Group
- Free to Be Group
- One Day at a Time Group
- Sober Yankees Group
- We Give Up Group
- We Give Thanks Group
- Westside Recovery Group
- Zion-Blichton Group

All who have helped support Intergroup 17 with financial contributions this year are gratefully acknowledged on page 5. If your group has yet to contribute, please consider doing so. It is greatly needed.

Intergroup 17 thanks all who volunteer to make our service possible: Alison C, Arlene H, Bill J, Diane M, Helen, Jack F, James N (1), James N (2), Jeff D, Kathy B, Kathy K, Kathy P, Lew G, Mike G, Peggy N, Phil H, Rafael Q, Bosch R, Max R, Sandy A, Toni Marie C.

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

Connie C, Intergroup 17 Office Manager