

The Voice

Volume 28, Number 3

March 2011



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One member's voice

Let the results speak

A story of experience, strength, and hope

Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God, as we understood Him.

When I was asked to contribute some thoughts on Step Three to this month's issue of *The Voice*, I set out to write something that could potentially change the laws of nature or, at the very least, raise Bill W. from the grave. After agonizing over the best words, coming up with an argument for re-writing the *Big Book*, and adding seven or eight traditions, I had become so "spiritual" I'd forgot to brush my teeth.

Well, here's draft two.

My experience with Step Three is ordinary. I came into Alcoholics Anonymous with a lot of religious baggage. I was raised Church of Christ and by my early teens had realized that hell sounded hot, and I would prefer the relief of an ice-cold beer. Atheism

was the ticket. Later agnosticism would sound much more intellectual, so I converted, but that's another story.

In early-early-early sobriety (my sponsor likes to remind me I'm still in the early-early stage), I was plagued by the question, "How the hell am I supposed to turn my will and life over to the care of a Higher Power?" When I'm disturbed, my more-often-than-not misunderstanding of a power greater than myself just adds to the disturbance.

As an example, when asked early on, "Who or what is God?," the image in my head was my father wearing a wig. I still don't see how in hell that's going to help me stop drinking.

Today, I am thankful for a sponsor who pointed to the essence of Step Three (for me): the decision to work the rest of the steps. Or,

Continued page 2 —>

INTE_GRO_P What's missing? UR

Are you "in" AA
or just "around" it?
Intergroup can always
use your help.
Get involved in service.
Your sobriety depends on it!

A quote for March

*"It is when we try
to make our will
conform with God's
that we begin
to use it rightly."*

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 40

Tradition Three

You are if you say you are.

"The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking."

According to AA's *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, "You are an AA member if you say so. You can declare yourself in; nobody can keep you out. No matter who you are, no matter how low you've gone, no matter how grave your emotional complications—even your crimes—we still can't deny you AA.

"We don't want to keep you out. We aren't a bit afraid you will harm us, never mind how twisted or violent you may be. We just want to be sure that you get the same great chance for sobriety that we've had. So you're an AA member the minute you de-

clare yourself."

Of course this passage was crafted based on accumulated wisdom and long experience with groups establishing all sorts of membership rules. Think of about any rule you can, and if some AA group somewhere at some point in time hasn't adopted it, someone somewhere else will probably still think it's a good idea: You can't be green, but you can be purple. You can be gay, but you can't be a woman. You can be young, but you can't be homeless.

Exaggerated? Yes. But that's the point. Experience

taught us that in order to help people recover from alcoholism, we must be inclusive of all.

Many years ago here in Ocala, a woman came into an AA meeting and said, "I am an overeater, and I don't want to drink. Therefore, I can stay and participate in your meeting."

Turns out her father had been a member of AA, so with her knowledge of the program, she felt she had fulfilled the membership requirement by saying she didn't want to drink. People in a life-or-death struggle

Continued page 2 —>

Congratulations March Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate anniversaries that add up to a collective **487 years**. That's more than **177,895 days of sobriety**. One day at a time!

John G	36 years	Cynthia O	4 years	February 2011	
Larry S	36 years	Jennifer H	4 years	Bonnie H	30 years
Mike W	32 years	Lydia N	4 years	John D	30 years
Jaya B	31 years	Barbara S	3 years	Melanie S	13 years
Judy Q	25 years	Christa J	3 years	Big Bob	9 years
Carson F	24 years	Christina B	3 years	Tom	7 years
Monte B	20 years	John R	3 years	Maria W	6 years
Bernadette	19 years	Lonnie T	3 years	Marvin	5 years
Carol W	19 years	Mick H	3 years	Rich	4 years
Shelly O	15 years	Beth T	2 years	Ryan S	3 years
Craig M	13 years	Diane W	2 years	Theresa	3 years
Alfred F	12 years	Howard B	2 years	Julia	1 year
Bill J	10 years	Dustin L	1 year	Maeve	1 year
Linda H	10 years	Ellen H	1 year	Michelle N	1 year
Isabel H	9 years	Kathy P	1 year	Crystal L	1 year
Craig C	7 years	Matt R	1 year		
Dennis	7 years	Tiffany N	1 year		
Mary M	7 years				
Renee V	6 years				

Please share your AA birthday with all. Deadline for April birthdays is March 20.
Email: 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 join, send name, sobriety date, years of sobriety, and a donation—suggested is \$1, \$5, or \$10 for each year of sobriety to:
Intergroup 17
3666-A N.E. 25th Street
Ocala, Florida 34470

Let the Results Speak

Continued from page 1

to put it in the language of the *Big Book*, faith may be the principle, but without works it's dead.

I like to divide Step Three into two parts: Part one, "Made a decision to turn my will and life over to the care of . . ." and part two, ". . . a Higher Power as I understand it."

I have found it helpful to think of part one as making a decision to become a scientist committed to conducting the "experiments" within each of the steps, in all areas of life. Doing this, I have no need to take anything on blind faith. By making the decision to carry out the rest of AA's twelve experiments, I have a faith that works—if I work it. Today, experience shows that my decision to work the steps on the seemingly positive and negative situations in my life gives me the best possible outcome.

The second part of this step—Higher Power as I understand it—is, I feel, the true genius behind our program. The reason is the implied personal choice of who, what, how, or why I want to understand or not understand a power greater than myself.

My HP doesn't require anything from me. Its very nature is unconditional love for me, *regardless* of how I show up. However, freedom from active alcoholism *requires* that I commit to a life

where stillness and peace are of supreme importance.

Thinking about the mysteries of the universe, God, or the Divine is fun. That's the land of philosophers, and playing there has brought me a little comfort, but the value has been *limited*.

The true worth of Step Three is the insistence on applying the "spiritual angle" consistently. Our Big Book is crystal clear on this point: "The Spiritual Life is not a theory. We have to live it."

The understanding that's essential for me today is a working knowledge of the steps. The catch is that understanding is only helpful when I get off my couch [read: ass] and apply it in my life.

The bottom line: my incomplete understanding or, for that matter, total lack of understanding of a Higher Power does not prevent me from working the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

All I have to do is take action on the rest of the steps, and check out the results. Before I know it, the most amazing things begin to happen: I start living with a purpose, co-creating a life so extraordinary that I'm no longer willing to trade it for a drink.

Alex W.
Ocala, Florida
March 2011

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

TRADITION THREE

Continued from page 1

with alcohol, barely hanging on to sobriety and desperate not to take a drink today would find it hard to identify with this individual who was powerless over Dunkin' Donuts.

Thankfully, there are 12-step programs for her and multitudes of others with different forms of addiction. Still, long after Tradition Three was written "special interest" groups did appear within AA and still flourish. "Women's meetings," "men's meetings," "gay meetings," "young peoples meetings," and so forth, but they all adhere to the guiding membership principle of remaining **inclusive** and **having a desire to stop drinking**.

Bearing in mind that "the thoughts expression, and opinions" of this writer "are not the thoughts, expressions, and opinions of AA as a whole," and that AA groups are autonomous for the most part, I remain in a quandary over those groups that impose membership requirements more stringent than what's clearly stated in our third tradition. The Traditions, Steps, and Concepts that have kept AA together for the three-quarters of a century have also kept me sober for 39 years. I'm going to continue to stand by them.

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

March by the Books

STEP THREE

"Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to a care of God as we understood Him."

How shall we let God into our lives? Willingness is the key. Dependence as a means to independence. Dangers of self-sufficiency. Turning our will over to Higher Power. Misuse of will power. Sustained and personal exertion necessary to conform to God's will.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 5

We were now at Step Three. Many of us said to our Maker, as we understood Him: "God, I offer myself to Thee to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy will always! We thought well before taking this step making sure we were ready; that we could at last abandon ourselves utterly to Him.

Alcoholics Anonymous, page 63

Practicing Step Three is like the opening of a door which to all appearances is still closed and locked. All we need is the key, and it is called willingness. One unlocked by willingness, the door opens almost of itself, and looking through it, we shall see a pathway beside which is an inscription. It reads: "This is the way to a faith that works."

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 34

TRADITION THREE

"The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking."

You are an AA member if you say so. You can declare yourself in; nobody can keep you out. No matter who you are, no matter how low you've gone, no matter how grave your emotional complications—even your crimes—we still can't deny you. A. A. We don't want to keep you out. We aren't a bit afraid you'll harm us, never mind how twisted or violent you may be. We just want to be sure that you get the same great chance for sobriety that we've had. So you're an AA member the minute you declare yourself."

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions page. 139

Tradition Three Checklist

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I over impressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to AA before? What his other problems are?

Tradition Checklist. page 2

CONCEPT THREE

As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the AA General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision."

But this right also means the Fellowship must have trust in its "trusted servants." If the groups instruct their GSRs rather than giving them a "Right of Decision," then the area conference is hamstrung. If the GSRs instruct the area delegates rather than giving them a "Right of Decision," then the General Service Conference is hamstrung. As Bill points out, "Our Conference delegates are primarily the servants of AA as they should ... cast their votes according to the best dictates of their own judgment and conscience at that time.

Our entire AA program rests squarely upon the principles of mutual trust. We trust God, we trust AA and we trust each other.

The Twelve Concepts for World Service illustrated, page 8



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

Find a complete selection of AA conference approved literature available now at Inter-group 17 office, including *Alcoholics Anonymous (The Big Book)*, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, service manuals, *As Bill Sees It*, and many more. Check out the new additions and add to your own AA library collection.

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

District 17 Corner

Is your home Group linked to AA as a whole?

What's the point? Each group linked to the General Service structure is automatically a part of the "group conscience" of AA through their GSR's participation in district meetings and area assembly. Each GSR communicates his or her group's "conscience" on important matters of policy considered by the district and area assembly. During the Annual General Service Conference, the area's groups are represented by their elected delegate.

Groups are notified through the GSR or group contact bimonthly with a newsletter called *Box 459*, which keeps them informed on policies being considered by the conference, changes to AA literature, and other matters.

How? To participate in services provided by the GSO to AA groups, it is vital to furnish basic information about the group (e.g., name of GSR or group contact, contact information, group meeting locations, days, and times) to GSO and to notify GSO when such information changes. To do this, please use the Alcoholics Anonymous Group Information Change Form. All group changes *should* be given to the District Committee Member (DCM). Email: district17@aaocalamarion.org.

Your district: Regardless of how group information is received, the DCM will make contact and welcome the group to "general service."

Whether a group is "new" or has

existed for years, the DCM provides the primary contact with the GSR or group contact. Group representatives attend district as well as area meetings to stay up-to-date on AA activities and topics of interest. Attending district meetings is an excellent way for GSRs to address group problems and concerns. In matters affecting AA as a whole, a group's "conscience" is communicated to the Area Assembly by the GSR.

GSO staff members are always happy to hear from AA members and groups. GSO has two primary purposes: 1) to serve as a resource to better enable groups to carry the AA message of experience, strength and hope to the still-suffering alcoholic; and, 2) to provide services to AA as a whole that individual groups cannot usually manage, such as the publication of A.A literature. The AA group is the fundamental unit supporting AA recovery.

Groups Primary Purpose: Is your group serving its AA members? Is it serving the still-suffering alcoholic? Is it serving the district, area, and GSO financially and through service? Do you know how to contact your DCM, area registrar, and delegate? Does your group have a GSR? Does she or he show up at district and area meetings? This helps serve your primary purpose.

Rick D.
District 17 DCM
From AA service material

District 17 Officers & Service Chairs

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

Group GSRs

164 Group: John B
All You Need: Bob S (alt)
Anthony: Lisa E
Breakfast Club: Barbara K
Came to Believe: John D
Conscious Contact: Jim B
Forest Group: Petra H
Free to Be: Brian L
Happy, Joyous & Free: Rick F
Head Start: Patti B
Keep It Simple: Tina T
Last Call: Seth R
Living Sober: Diane I
Mano Abierto: Benjamin O
Men's Group: Bob L
New Attitudes: Coral M
No Name Group: Lisa E
Ocala Group: Ricky B
Sober Yankees: Ginger H
We Give Up: Carol W
Weir Crazy: Jennifer M
Young People's Group: Billy C

If your group's GSR is not listed, please send name and contact info to:
district17@aaocalamarion.org

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

Monthly Meeting Highlights January 27, 2010

DCM: Rick D presided.

Secretary's report: Approved.

Treasurer's report: Approved.. Available for review upon request.

Accessibilities: Workshop committee being formed. Lending Library under development. Braille literature being offered to orgs for the blind.

Corrections. Importance of Pink Can stressed. Workshop under development.

Women: Literature purchased. **Men:** Four new applications received.

Intergroup: Volunteer sought for spring picnic planning.

Grapevine: GSO exploring ways to sustain Grapevine. Groups encouraged

to subscribe and promote subscriptions. Literature: New table-top display demonstrated. Seeking writers for new World Service literature projects. Investigating ways to address literacy issues related to AA literature.

Workshops: Funshop on 12th Stepping the Wet Drunk tentative for May 7; Meditation workshop tentative for May.

New business: Service fair tentative for early June. Need chair persons for archives, CPC/PI. Bridging the Gap. Motion passed to purchase 3 young people's videos for lending library. Men's corrections chair seeking person fluent in American Sign Language. Passed: Budget remains same as last year except reimbursement for travel to Area

Assembly. GSRs to poll groups for opinions on full reimbursement of travel vs. set amount per trip. Passed: to cover expenses for DCM and Alt. DCM.

District 17 is self-supporting through group contributions.
P.O. Box 3081, Ocala, FL 34478

**Service & Sobriety
An Ideal Combination
Get Involved.
Next Meeting. All Welcome.**

Thursday, March 24, 6:00 pm
St. Mark's United Methodist
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala, FL

Group Contributions to Intergroup 17 January 2011

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

GROUP NAME	\$ Jan '11 Contri- butions	Contri- butions 6/1/10- 01/31/11	GROUP NAME	\$ Jan '11 Contri- butions	Contri- butions 6/1/10- 01/31/11
164 Pages Group	\$ 63.00	\$240.10	Living Sober Group	20.00	87.00
Acceptance		50.00	Lunch Bunch Group		159.05
Alive and Well		40.00	Marion Oaks		
All You Need Group	45.00	120.00	McIntosh Group		
As Bill Sees It	99.21	424.51	Men's Group Ocala		81.00
Bellevue Eye Opener	27.86	27.86	New Attitudes Group		63.58
Bellevue God's Way	3.07	19.51	New Beginnings Group		
Bellevue Group		150.20	New Life Group		
Bonfire Group			No Name Group		85.50
Breakfast Club	322.50	1,720.22	Ocala Group	81.16	1,123.43
Cabin in the Woods		50.00	One Page at a Time		
Came To Believe		25.25	Primary Purpose Group		58.00
Citra Group		2.51	Resentment Too Group		
Come As You Are			Second Step Group		
Conscious Contact	49.37	99.37	Shores of Sobriety		30.00
Day by Day			Sisters of Serenity		
Eleventh Step			Sober Yankees	.05	165.05
First Impressions			Start A New Life		125.15
Forest Group		61.79	Steps and Promises		
Forest Men's Group		70.00	Stop Whining & Sober Up		
Fountain of Gratitude	71.10	262.10	Strength In Numbers		19.00
Free To Be		71.08	Summerfield Group	5.68	6.36
Ft. McCoy Group			Summerfield New Green		
Grace Group		10.44	Sm'field Living in Today		
Grateful Gals			Sundae Social Group		1.00
Green Group			TLC Group, The Centers		.35
Grupo Mano Abierta		25.00	Thursday Night Step Gp.		
Grupo Nueva Vida			We Give Thanks		
Happy Hour Group		90.00	We Give Up	80.37	127.40
Happy, Joyous & Free	351.88	2,977.28	Weir Crazy		143.00
Headstart Group		221.77	Westside Recovery		
Healing Group	50.00	80.00	Williston Winners		
In the Woods		25.00	Won Rebos Group		
It's In The Book		60.00	Young People's Group	25.00	69.83
Keep It Simple		161.03	Zion-Blichton Group		51.64
Last Call Group		1.86	Archives		
Last House on the Block			District 17	100.00	343.85
Life is Good Sober Group			Birthday Club (personal)	23.00	145.00
Lifesaver Group	100.00	500.00	Double Nickel (personal)		
			Faithful 5-ers (personal)	10.00	55.00
			Individuals (other)	11.45	513.47
			Total	\$1,549.70	\$11,040.54

How Groups and Individuals Support the Work of AA

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

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

Group contributions

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

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

Note change of address

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

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

Intergroup 17 Financial Statements

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

Intergroup 17 Call Center January 2011

Meeting info requests	86
Twelfth Step Calls	8
Office transactions	59
Visitors	44
Al-Anon*	15
Miscellaneous	36

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

Group Meetings News, and More

Looking for a local meeting?

Choose from more than 140 meetings a week.

When and Where online!
www.aocalamarion.org

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

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

Beginners Meetings

Tuesdays

Living Sober Group

Your support requested!

Living Sober beginners meeting
7:30 pm every Tuesday
Congregational Church
7171 SW State Rd 200, Ocala

Meditation

Wednesdays

Conscious Contact

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

Spanish Speaking

Wednesdays

Grupo Nueva Vida

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

Fridays and Saturdays

Grupo Mano Abierta

7:00pm every Friday
2082 Walnut Street, Dunnellon

Eat 'n Speak

Keep It Simple Group

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

Ocala Group

Last Saturday of the month
Eat: 7:00pm Speaker: 8:00pm
Small fee for meal. All welcome.
St. Mark's United Methodist
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

New & Newer Meetings

Back again! More experienced, stronger, more hopeful.

Experience, Strength, and Hope Group

Fridays, 8 pm, Big Book study; last Friday of month, speaker.
Church of Christ
2750 SE Maricamp Road
Ocala, FL

New speaker meeting.

Ocala Group

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

New Step Meeting/12&12

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 pm
Ocklawaha United Methodist
13333 East Hwy 25
Ocklawaha, FL

A Vision For You

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

Live, Laugh, & Love

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

The Serenity Group

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday at noon
The Episcopal Church of the Advent
11251 SW Hwy 484, Ocala 34432

Group News and Meeting Changes

New Meeting Location

Bellevue Eye Opener. Effective March 30, 2011

St Paul's Parish PMCC, 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 Recreational Center, 8445 SE 165th Mulberry Lane, The Villages, FL
Directions: Traveling south on Hwy 441, go to Hwy 42. Make a right hand turn. Go 1.5 miles west. Go past Publix. Destination is on the left.

Lifesaver Group

Monday-Friday, noon, 7365 SW 38th St, Suite 206, Ocala, FL

Needs Your Support

Keep It Green, Summerfield
Fridays 8 pm
Sunset Harbor Baptist Church
9200 SE Sunset Harbor Rd.
Summerfield, FL

Special Events, Celebrations, Notices

New for You at Intergroup



Emotional Sobriety: The Next Frontier

From the AA Grapevine, 43 stories. Soft cover. \$12.35 Also on 2 audio CDs. \$12.35 each. Check out our full line of AA and recovery literature. 3666-A, NE 25th Street, Ocala.

Eat 'n Speak Meetings

Keep It Simple

Thursday, March 24
Dinner 7 pm Speaker 8 pm
Ascension Lutheran Church
5730 SE 28th Street, Ocala

Ocala Group

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

SAVE THE DATE 12th Stepping the Wet Drunk



A District 17 "Funshop"
Saturday, May 7, Noon to 2 pm. Unity Place.
Watch The Voice for more details.

Sober Yankees One Year Anniversary Movie Night

My Name is Bill W
with James Woods, James Garner, and JoBeth Williams

Tuesday, March 8, 2011
6:30 Fellowship 7:30 Movie
Pizza & Chicken Wings
Please bring finger food.
Sobriety countdown
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
5200 SW SR 200, Ocala

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

Ensure that AA and District 17 has 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.aanorthflorida.org Click on documents.

Stay Linked to AA. See page 4 for more.

What's a Pink Can?



Where can you get one?

Groups collect "Pink Can" donations for the Correction Committee to purchase AA literature for alcoholics in the prison and County jail. If your group needs a Pink Can, get one free at Intergroup 17 office. 3666-A, NE 25th Street, Ocala. This is the Committee's only means of support.

Mark Your Calendar

See details elsewhere in this issue or call or log-on for more information.
3/8, 2011, Sober Yankees Anniversary, Details this page.
3/13, 2011, Intergroup 17 Monthly Meeting, see back cover for details.
3/24 2011, District 17 Monthly Meeting, see page 4 for details.
4/9-10, 2011 North Florida Area Assembly, St Augustine, FL, www.aanorthflorida.org
4/29-5/1, 2011 Country Roundup, Chipley, FL. Details this page.
5/5-8, 2011 Woodstock of AA, Cocoa Beach. Details this page.
5/7, 2011 12th Stepping the Wet Drunk, District 17 Funshop. Details this page.
7/20-24, 2011 Florida State Convention, Orlando. www.55.flstateconvention.com

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

Speaker Meetings

Living Sober Group Sunday, March 13, 7:30 pm Speaker: Raphael Q

Congregational Church, 7171 SW State Rd 200
Ocala, Florida

Experience, Strength, & Hope Friday, March 25, 8 pm

Church of Christ, 2750 SE Maricamp Road
Ocala, Florida

Ocala Group Fridays, 8 pm

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

Plan Ahead.

Upcoming Area Events

District 17 Workshops
Twelfth Stepping the Wet Drunk, May 7
Meditation, date to be announced

Intergroup 17 Picnic
May date to be announced
Watch The Voice and www.aaocalamarion.org for more details.

North Florida Area Assembly
April 9-10, 2011, St. Augustine.
For more information and hotel reservations:
www.aanorthflorida.org/activities.

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

**Woodstock of AA
21st Spring Conference**
May 5-8, 2011, Cocoa Beach, Florida
Registration fee. For more information, call 877-902-5975 or email: leescds@gmail.com. Website:
www.leestapesandcds.com

55th Florida State Convention
July 20-24, 2011, Orlando, Florida
Great Speakers/Workshops/meetings/Longtimers Panel/Meditation Meetings/Intergroup / Grapevine Friday / Saturday Dinner/Ice Cream Socials/AA's Got Talent/Golf Tournament/5K Walk / Run
Info/register: www.55.flstateconvention.com
August 26-28, 2011, Naples, FL
PO Box 11351, Tallahassee, FL 32302

Find a "job" at District 17 Service Committee Chairs

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

Other opportunities

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

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 others for publication.



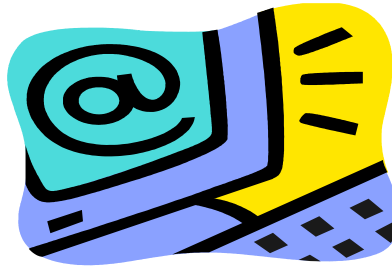
Intergroup 17 Meetings Everyone invited!

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

Next Meeting

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

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Intergroup 17 Ocala-Marion County Florida

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Ocala, FL 34470
Phone: 352.867.0660.

Website: aaocalamarion.org

Office Hours

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

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

Service. The Third Legacy.

District 17 seeks service committee chairs and more.

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

Special need for proficiency in American Sign Language.

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

Intergroup 17. Volunteers needed now!

Call for more information. 352 867-0660. Ask for Priscilla or leave name and telephone number.

Help take meetings to treat- ment centers and special needs community.

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

Life is a picnic. Help cele- brate it in May.

Volunteers of all sorts are needed to help make the next Intergroup 17 pic-

nic in May another wonderful event for the fellowship. Contact Picnic Chairperson Kathy B @ #352-266-2846, or Priscilla at Intergroup for details on how you can help. 352 867-0660. Watch The Voice for date, time, and location information.

Take the message to local correctional institutions.

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

County Jail Women's Meet- ings Need Your Support

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

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

Attitude of GrAAttitude

A tremendous thank you to the 16 groups and other individuals who contributed \$1 or more to Intergroup 17 in January, including:

- 164 Pages Group
- All You Need Group
- As Bill Sees It Group
- Belleview Eye Opener Group
- Belleview God's Way Group
- Breakfast Club
- Conscious Contact Group
- Fountain of Gratitude Group
- Happy, Joyous & Free
- Healing Group
- Lifesaver Group
- Living Sober
- Ocala Group
- Summerfield Group
- We Give Up Group
- Young People's Group

All who have helped support Intergroup 17 with financial contributions this year are gratefully acknowledged on page 5.

Intergroup 17 thanks all who volunteer to make our service possible: **Alison C, Arlene H, Bill J, Bobby J, Connie C, Diane M, Ed G, Jack, James N, Kathy B, Lew, Mike G, Peggy N, Ricky B, Rafael Q, Bosch R, John P, Max R, Sandy A, & Toni Marie C**

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

Priscilla P, Intergroup 17 Office Manager