

The Voice

Volume 28, Number 5

May 2011



One member's voice

Our Fears Fall From Us

A story of experience, strength, and hope

Step Five: Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

I came into Alcoholics Anonymous willing to do whatever it took to stay sober. I was raised in the Catholic Church, so going into a confessional and telling a priest everything I had done since my last confession was not unusual. But, I had long since stopped going to church or telling a priest anything.

During my drinking, I was taken to a crisis unit where I ended up talking to a shrink for a couple of months. Then one day he pronounced that I was well enough to go out and meet the world. The bottom line was I had never told him anything about me or my drinking problem. I only told him what I

wanted him to know and think about me.

After taking the first four steps of the Alcoholics Anonymous program—and by now understanding honesty was the guiding principle for me as an alcoholic—I knew that I was actually going to have to sit down with my Fourth Step and share it with another human being. Step Five is definitely an action step and taking it means we have shared the exact nature of our character defects with another human being.

The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, clearly points out, “If we skip this vital step, we may not overcome drinking.” As I said I was willing to do anything, because by the time I got to the Fifth Step I was starting to experience a new way of life and was not

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**Intergroup 17
Spring Picnic**
Sunday, May 22
Carney Island Park
See page 7



A quote for May

“The more AA sticks to its primary purpose, the greater will be its helpful influence everywhere.”

AA Comes of Age, page 109

Tradition Five

Our primary purpose, the ultimate spirituality

“Each group has but one primary purpose — to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

We live in interesting times. Our fellowship mirrors society at large and all of its problems, which are only magnified because of the nature of our personalities. Tradition Five is a dramatic reminder of why we have AA groups and why we are here.

When Bill Wilson wrote the traditions based on experiences that the fledgling fellowship endured, he envisioned that we could be sidetracked easily from our single, primary purpose. That is why Tradition Five is so important. The new person in the last stages of active alcoholism who shows up at our meeting room door needs not only to see the seriousness of

our disease, but also that we take it very seriously.

When a group comes together, Tradition Five reminds us of this. Yes, it's nice to go to meetings and see our friends each day for an hour. It is nice to laugh and joke. It's nice to feel good. But it's imperative, if we are to survive as a fellowship, to understand our purpose—why we are here.

AA literature tells us that our primary purpose is to stay sober and to help another alcoholic. This is the individual's calling if he or she wants to have a happy useful life. As a group, we are called on collectively to remember that our primary

purpose is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

In the early years of sobriety it is all about self. In working the 12 steps in our own lives and over time, Tradition Five takes paramount importance, and the program becomes one of “we” instead of “I.”

We love our picnics, our dances, and our dinners. We love to dine together and to enjoy fellowship. All of this is important to our well-being, but let's not forget the newcomer. More importantly, let's not forget the still-suffering alcoholic who may or may not be drinking.

Continued on page 6 —>

Congratulations May Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate anniversaries that add up to a collective **368 years**. That's more than **134,325 days of sobriety**. One day at a time!

Roger J	39 years	Bonnie Sh	2 years	April 2011	
Bill H	30 years	Caroline M	2 years		
Andy H	29 years	Harry P	2 years	Kevin D	13 years
Bob S	28 years	Heather A	2 years	Esther	5 years
Rich F	28 years	Diego H	1 year	Judy	3 years
Steve P	26 years	James M	1 year	Bree	2 years
Priscilla P	24 years	Lauren H	1 year	Brent M	2 years
John T	23 years	Tabitha M	1 year	Loren	2 years
Pam E	23 years	Tamye J	1 year	Marshall	1 year
Tony E	20 years			Matt	1 year
Kevin L	10 years			Stacey	1 year
Delores C	9 years				
David S	8 years				
Mike P	6 years				
Phillip S	5 years				
Sam S	3 years				
Andrea H	2 years				
Ben H	2 years				

Please share your AA birthday with all. Deadline for May birthdays is June 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
3666A N.E. 25th Street
Ocala, Florida 34470

Our Fears Fall From Us

Continued from page 1

about to give it up for anything. I was not in favor of taking this step with my sponsor. I loved her but felt she was too old for me to tell her some of my inventory.

I was blessed at the time with a gal named Pat from California who was a member of my group. I felt that Pat was open-minded, and I needed that assurance. I prayed before disclosing myself to Pat.

She was just the right person for me. She was younger than my sponsor, but when I shared the secret that I would have “gone to the grave with,” she shared a similar life experience of hers with me. I felt awed and relieved. From that point forth I had no problem telling her the whole story.

I felt such relief after taking this step. I no longer had to walk in shame and embarrassment. To be entirely honest with another human being frees us from the power of our past to hurt us. Bill W. wrote, “We can look the world in the eye. We can be alone at perfect peace and ease. Our fears fall from us.” These I believe are the Step Five promises.

To be relieved from fear was wonderful. Of course I felt closer to my higher power and to the people in Alcoholics Anonymous. I felt as though we

had taken this trip together—the people that had gone before me and the people that I knew would continue to come after me.

There is another part of the fifth step that is so very satisfying and rewarding that I hope none of you will miss it. For anyone who has enjoyed a life of sobriety and has had an opportunity to sponsor others in the program and hear their fifth steps you know just how special this experience is.

I sponsor women today who hear fifth steps and are amazed at how gratified they feel to be of service to others and to experience being happily, usefully whole. When you are allowed to hear a fifth step, you truly experience God's grace in your fellow man's life.

The Big Book says. “Carefully reading the first five proposals we ask, if we have omitted anything for we are building an arch through which we shall walk a free man at last. Is our work solid so far? Are the stones properly in place? Have we skimmed on the cement put into the foundation? Have we tried to make mortar without sand?”

Kathy P.
May 2011
Ocala, Florida

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.

The Next Write Thing “AA and the Armed Services” Call for Stories

To update the pamphlet, “AA and the Armed Services,” World Services wants to include stories that reflect recent experiences of AA members on active duty as well as those of veterans.

Guidelines for submission

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

Deadline extended to July 15

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

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

Need Help?

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

May by the Books

STEP FIVE

“Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

If we skip this vital step, we may not overcome drinking. Time after time newcomers have tried to keep to themselves certain facts about their lives. Trying to avoid this humbling experience, they have turned to easier methods. Almost invariable they got drunk.

Having persevered with the rest of the program, they wondered why they fell. We think the reason is that they never completed their housecleaning.

They took inventory all right, but hung on to some of the worst items in stock. They only thought they had lost their egoism and fear; they only thought they had humbled themselves. But they had not learned enough of humility, fearlessness, and honesty, in the sense we find necessary, until they told some else *all* their life story.

Alcoholics Anonymous, page 72

Somehow, being alone with God doesn't seem as embarrassing as facing up to another person. Until we actually sit down and talk about what we have so long hidden, our willingness to clean house is still largely theoretical. When we are honest with another person, it confirms that we have been honest with ourselves and with God.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 60

TRADITION FIVE

“Each group has but one primary purpose, to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers”

A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.

The A.A. Service Manual, page 5

Tradition Five Checklist

1. Do I ever cop out by saying, “I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me?”
2. Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the *limitations* of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
3. Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
4. Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?
5. Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose?
6. Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

Service Material from the GSO, www.aa.org

CONCEPT FIVE

Throughout our world services structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, thus assuring us that the minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

The “Right of Appeal” recognizes that minorities frequently can be right; that even when they are in error they still perform a valuable service when they compel a thoroughgoing debate on important issues. The well-heard minority, therefore is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority.

The Twelve Concepts for World Service, page 8

Concept Five Checklist for Groups

1. Do we encourage the minority opinion, the “Right of Appeal,” to be heard at our home group, district committee meetings, area assemblies and the Conference?
2. What does our group accept as “substantial unanimity?”
3. Has our group experienced the “tyranny of the majority” or the “tyranny of the minority?”
4. Does our group understand the importance of all points of view being heard before a vote is taken?

Service Material from the GSO, www.aa.org

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.

More new at Intergroup

The 12 'n 12 Dictionary

More than 2,200 words and phrases explained. Soft cover. \$4.80 each.

Emotional Sobriety: The Next Frontier

From the AA Grapevine, 43 stories. Soft cover. \$12.35 Also on 2 audio CDs. \$12.35 each.

Also check out our Lending Library of special use publications and resources including DVDs for youth audiences, Braille edition of the *Big Book*, and other resources to make the message more accessible to all regardless of their physical abilities.

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

Ensure that AA, District 17, and Intergroup 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.aaocalamarion.org Click on Meetings.

Stay Linked. Individual sobriety depends on AA unity.

District 17 Corner

Alcoholics and Anonymity online. Guidelines. Traditions. Common Sense.

AA Guidelines are compiled from the shared experience of AA members in various service areas. They also reflect guidance given through the twelve traditions and the General Service Conference (U.S. and Canada).

In keeping with our tradition of autonomy, except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole, most decisions are made by the group conscience of the members involved. The purpose of these Guidelines is to assist in reaching an *informed* group conscience.

Based on AA's strength and history of personal and intimate sharing, the spiritual nature of "one drunk talking to another" is an ongoing concern when discussing technology as a source of AA information. Even many Internet-savvy AA members say that they do not want the ease of new technology to detract from the one-on-one sharing that has been so essential to our Fellowship and our recovery from alcoholism.

It is helpful to remember that there is no need to let the speed of technology dictate the speed of our actions. Based on shared experience to date, website committees not only discuss the technical aspects of developing a website but also address questions related to preserving the spiritual connection created by one alcoholic talking with another.

Some committees have reported a loss of the "personal touch" when relying too heavily on technology, while others report that they have found a balance that works for them. It will be up to a committee's informed group conscience to determine what AA content is useful and appropriate. The good news is that today's decisions can be reviewed, revised, abandoned or expanded. A committee can always try something for a certain length of time and then come back and determine how well it is working. This is the AA way!

AA Traditions

We observe all AA's principles and Traditions on AA websites. **Anonymity**—As anonymity is the "spiritual foundation of all our Traditions," we practice anonymity on public AA websites at all times. Unless password-protected, an AA website is a public me-

dium, and, therefore, requires the same safeguards that we use at the level of press, radio and film. In simplest form, this means that AAs do not identify themselves as AA members using their full names and/or full face photos. For more information on anonymity online, see the section of this Guideline, "Guarding Anonymity Online."

Guarding Anonymity Online

Modern communication in AA is flowing from one alcoholic to another in ways that are high-tech, relatively open-ended and evolving quickly. Protecting anonymity is a major concern for members, who are accessing the Internet in ever-growing numbers.

A guiding resource of shared AA experience regarding websites is the GSO service piece "Frequently Asked Questions about AA websites," question seven.

General Social Networking websites

MySpace, Facebook, and other social networking websites are public in nature. Though users create accounts and utilize usernames and passwords, once on the site, it is a public medium where AA members and non-AAs mingle. As long as individuals do not identify themselves as AA members, there is no conflict of interest. However, someone using their full name and/or a likeness, such as a full-face photograph, would be contrary to the spirit of the Tradition Eleven, which states in the long form that, "... our [last] names and pictures as AA members ought not be broadcast, filmed or publicly printed."

Experience suggests that it is in keeping with the Eleventh Tradition not to disclose AA membership on social networking sites as well as on any other website, blog, electronic bulletin board, etc., that is not composed solely of AA members, is not password protected or is accessible to the public.

Rick D.

DCM, District 17

Excerpts from AA Guidelines reprinted with permission of AA World Services, New York

District 17 Officers & Service Chairs

DCM: Rick D
 Alternate DCM: Melissa B
 Secretary: Alison C
 Treasurer: Vacant
 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: Ricky 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**

**Treasurer
 Archives Service Chair
 Bridging the Gap**

Next Meeting. All Welcome.

Thursday, May 26, 6:00 pm
 St. Mark's United Methodist
 1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala, FL

**District 17 is self-supporting through
 group contributions.**

P.O. Box 3081, Ocala, FL 34478

Group Contributions to Intergroup 17 March 2011

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

GROUP NAME	\$ Mar '11 Contri- butions	Contri- butions 6/1/10- 03/31/11	GROUP NAME	\$ Mar '11 Contri- butions	Contri- butions 6/1/10- 03/31/11
164 Pages Group	\$ 36.45	\$308.55	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		120.00	New Attitudes Group		76.83
As Bill Sees It		424.51	No Name Group		123.75
Bellevue Eye Opener		27.86	Ocala Group	185.13	1,374.38
Bellevue God's Way	8.75	28.26	One Page at a Time	2.58	2.58
Bellevue Group		150.20	Primary Purpose Group	36.00	94.00
Breakfast Club	400.00	2,120.84	Shores of Sobriety		30.00
Cabin in the Woods	50.00	150.00	Serenity Group		1.01
Came To Believe		25.25	Sober Yankees		265.05
Citra Group		2.51	Start A New Life	50.00	175.15
Come As You Are		30.00	Strength In Numbers		19.00
Conscious Contact		99.37	Summerfield Group		6.36
Forest Group	20.00	121.79	Sundae Social Group		1.00
Forest Men's Group		100.00	TLC Group, The Centers		.35
Fountain of Gratitude		262.10	We Give Up		127.40
Free To Be		71.08	Weir Crazy		143.00
Grace Group		10.44	Westside Recovery	15.00	15.00
Grateful Gals		21.00	Young People's Group	100.00	169.83
Grupo Mano Abierta		25.00	Zion-Blichton Group	30.00	81.64
Happy Hour Group		90.00	Archives		
Happy, Joyous & Free	498.28	3,966.25	District 17	100.00	443.85
Headstart Group	19.69	285.08	Birthday Club (personal)		195.00
Healing Group		80.00	Double Nickel (personal)		
In the Woods		25.00	Faithful 5-ers (personal)	5.00	65.00
It's In The Book		60.00	Individuals (other)	4.89	522.65
Keep It Green		10.00			
Keep It Simple		161.03	Total	\$1,561.77	\$13,816.75
Last Call Group		5.75			
Lifesaver Group		650.00			

District 17 Monthly Meeting Highlights March 24, 2011

DCM: Rick D presided. 21 officers, GSRs, alternates, and visitors present
Secretary's report: Approved.
Treasurer's report: Approved. Available for review upon request. New treasure being sought.
Corrections. Volunteers needed now.

Intergroup: Spring Picnic, May 22. February income did not cover expenses.
Literature: Explained conference approved lit. Hand out: AA literature for different membership demographics.
Treatment: Need volunteers to chair meetings at treatment centers.
Workshops: Funshop, 12th Stepping the Wet Drunk May 7, Unity Place.
Old business: Service fair tentative for June. GSRs to attend delegate meeting.
New business: Michelle Y elected CPC/I service chair.

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

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 March 2011

Meeting info requests	114
Twelfth Step Calls	3
Office transactions	55
Visitors	30
Al-Anon*	7
Miscellaneous	26

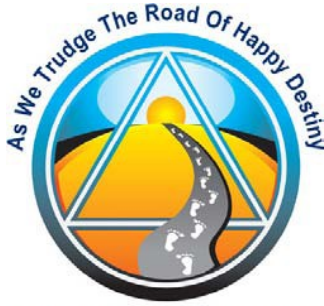
*Calls requesting information relating to Al-Anon Family Groups are promptly and respectfully referred to the appropriate local resources.

55th Florida State Convention

July 20-24, 2011
Orlando, Florida

THE DOUBLETREE HOTEL
At the entrance to Universal Studios Orlando

Information & registration
www.55.flstateconvention.com



55th Florida State Convention

Inspiring speakers

- Rose E, Spring Hill, FL
- Matt M, Long Beach, CA
- Chris C, Coshocton, OH
- Adam T, Los Angeles
- Carla M, Tujunga, CA
- Doug R, Tujunga, CA
- Line G, Carlsbad, CA
- Ron W, Los Angeles, CA
- Sandy B, Tampa, FL
- Fr Tom W, Oakland, CA
- Ajit S, Irvine, CA

Meetings & workshops

- Spanish Speaking
- Marathon
- Meditation
- Long Timers
- Young People
- GLBT
- Intergroup/Grapevine
- AI-Anon & Ala-Teen

Tons of fun

- Friday / Saturday Dinner
- Ice Cream Socials
- Entertainment
- AA's Got Talent (see below)
- Golf Tournament
- 5K Walk / Run
- Much, much more



Our Primary Purpose

Continued from page 1

The still-suffering alcoholic can also be the member who has terminal cancer. The person who's lost a family member. The one member who just got laid off or can't find a job. The newcomer who still has the obsession.

Tradition Five even reminds us that we have a 24-hour reprieve from drinking based on our spirituality. It is the ultimate spirituality to remember our primary purpose is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffer that we have recovered from hopeless, helpless state of mind as a result of the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.

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

Come one. Come all. Recovery House Annual Cookout!



Food, Fun And Fellowship!
Ribs, Chicken,
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs
Side dishes and desserts welcome

Saturday, May 14, 2011
3:00 To 5:00 pm
243 NW 4th Terrace
Ocala, FL

Behind the Interfaith Building

We are a non-profit organization working toward our goal of rebuilding lives. Your support helps us maintain the growth and healing that is flourishing within our community

Share your special gift at The 55th Florida State Convention AA's Got Talent Bring your talent! Bring your vote!

Entry fee: \$5 (to purchase awards)
Entry deadline: July 15, 2011
Online registration at
www.55.flstateconvention.com

Questions?
Request more information by email:
AAsgotTalent@gmail.com



**Lost & Found Club
Special Event
Memorial Day Weekend
Breakfast Omelet in a Bag,
OJ & Coffee \$5
Bake Sale Goodies to Go
50/50 Raffle 11:45 am**

Saturday, May 28, 2011
8:00 to 11:00 am
339 NE Sanchez Avenue, Ocala

More in May at the Lost and Found Club

- Saturday, May 7: Dance, 9:15 pm. \$2 members/\$3 nonmembers.
- Saturday, May 14: Movie Night. 9:15 pm. \$1 entry. 50¢ hot dogs/sodas/popcorn.
- Saturday, May 21: Bingo Night, 9:15 pm. \$2 entry. 25¢ /card, 25¢ /game.
- Saturday, May 28. Memorial Day Event. (see above.)

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.

Mark Your Calendar

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

5/1, 2011 Living Sober Spring Fling Picnic. Details page 9.

5/8, 2011 Intergroup 17 Monthly Meeting, Details page 8.

5/5-8, 2011 Woodstock of AA, Cocoa Beach. Details page 9.

5/7, 2011 12th Stepping the Wet Drunk, District 17 Funshop. Details page 9

5/11, 2011 Weir Crazy Group, Miracles in May Celebration. Details page 9.

5/22, 2011 Intergroup 17 Spring Picnic. Details page 7

5/26, 2011 District 17 Monthly Meeting, Details page 8.

Intergroup 17 ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC

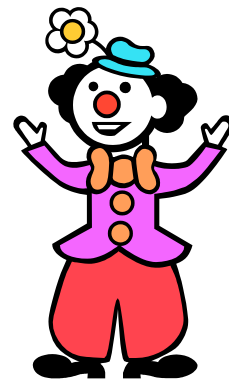
Sunday, May 22, 2011
Carney Island Park, Lake Weir
Ocklawaha

Fun starts: 10:00am Lunch: 12:00 noon



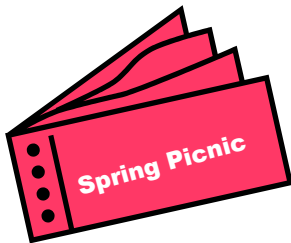
Fabulous Food

Chicken on the grill
Sides and beverages.
Lunch served at 12 noon



Fun & games

Intergroopie the Clown.
Face painting. Tunes.
Lawn games, swimming, volleyball and
more for children of all ages.



Tickets

Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Adults: \$6 Children: \$4

Available from the Intergroup office. Or ask your Intergroup rep.
Advance purchase only. No on-site ticket sales.

Directions

Carney Island Park, 13275 SE 115th Ave., Ocklawaha
Park is off SR 25 between Belleview and Ocklawaha, just south of
Silver Springs Shores. Follow the signs into the park from SR 25.
Free parking. More information? Call Intergroup 352-867-0660

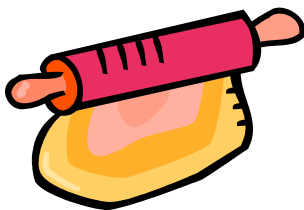


Baked Goods Auction

Donate your favorite sweet treat to be auctioned to the highest bidder.

Package all items for transport. No refrigeration provided.

The following items are suggested.



- Layer or sheet cakes.
- Bundt or loaf cakes.
- Pies, tarts
- Muffins (min 1 dozen).
- Cookies (min. 3 dozen)
- Cupcakes (min. 1 dozen.).
- Brownies/bars (min. 2 dozen)

All proceeds benefit Intergroup 17. Call for more info. 352 867-0660.

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

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

Spanish Speaking

Wednesdays

Grupo Nueva Vida

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

Fridays and Saturdays

Grupo Mano Abierta

7:00 pm every Friday
2082 Walnut Street, Dunnellon

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

Ocala Group

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

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 Congregation UCC
15056 SW 29th Terrace Road
Ocala, FL

New Grapevine meeting.

Sober Yankees

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

New 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
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 Osceola, 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

Lifesaver Group

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

New Meeting Location

Belleview Eye Opener.

Thursday, 8:00 am. St Paul's Parish PNCC, corner of Rte. 441 & SE 53 Court, Belleview 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

Special Events, Celebrations, Notices



Living Sober Spring Fling Picnic Sunday May 1

6:00 pm Food & Fellowship
7:00 pm Speaker, Pam V
50/50 Raffle

Donations accepted
Bring a side dish or dessert to share

First Congregational Church
7171 SW State Rd 200, Ocala

Eat 'n Speak Meetings

Keep It Simple
Thursday, May 26

Dinner 7:00 pm Speaker 8:00 pm
Ascension Lutheran Church
5730 SE 28th Street, Ocala

Ocala Group
Saturday, May 28

Dinner 7:00 pm Speaker 8:00 pm
\$2 if you bring a dish, \$4 without
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Speaker Meetings

Living Sober Group
Sunday, May 8, 7:30 pm
Speaker: Pam V

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

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.

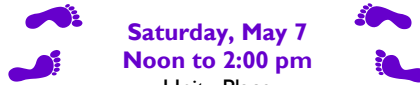
District 17 Funshop

12th Stepping the Wet Drunk



Are you prepared?

Learn what and what not to do when a fellow alcoholic is in need of immediate—perhaps even life-saving— help or professional care.



Saturday, May 7
Noon to 2:00 pm

Unity Place
525 NE Sanchez Avenue
Free to all. Lunch provided.
Desserts to share welcomed.
More info: 352-867-0660

The Weir Crazy Group presents

7th Annual "Miracles in May" Celebration on beautiful Lake Weir Wednesday, May 11th



Celebrating the 76-year anniversary of the Meeting of Bill W and Dr Bob

6:00 pm Cookout
7:00 pm Speaker
Randie P, Clermont, FL

Hamburgers, hotdogs, soft drinks
& coffee provided.

Please bring your favorite
side dish or dessert to share.

St John Lutheran Church
10495 Sunset Harbor Rd
Summerfield, FL 34491

"The age of miracles is still with us, Our own recovery proves that."

Alcoholics Anonymous, page 153

Breathe Easy

27 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

Headstart Group

Monday-Saturday 7:30 am; Sunday 9 am

Lunch Bunch Group

Monday-Saturday, noon

New Attitudes Group

Monday--Thursday, 8 pm
Friday-Sunday, 7:30 pm

Lost & Found Club
339 NE Sanchez Avenue
Ocala, FL

Plan Ahead. Upcoming Area Events

District 17 Funshop
Twelfth Stepping the Wet Drunk, May 7
See this page for more details.

Living Sober
Spring Fling Picnic, May 1
See this page for more details.

Intergroup 17 Monthly Meeting
Sunday, May 8, 5:15 pm
See page 8 for more details.

Weir Crazy
7th Annual Miracles in May, May 11
See this page for more details.

Intergroup 17 Picnic
May 22. Carney Island Park. Ocklawaha
See page 7 for more details.

District 17 Monthly Meeting
Thursday, May 26, 6 pm
See page 8 for more details.

Woodstock of AA
21st Spring Conference
May 5-8, 2011, Cocoa Beach, Florida Registration fee.
Call 877-902-5975 or email: leescds@gmail.com.

Founders' Day
June 3 - 5, 2011, Tallahassee, 32303. Info and register
at: <http://www.foundersdayflorida.org>.

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

16th Annual SE Region
Woman to Woman Seminar
August 26-28, 2011, Naples, FL., Register at: PO Box
11351, Tallahassee, FL 32302



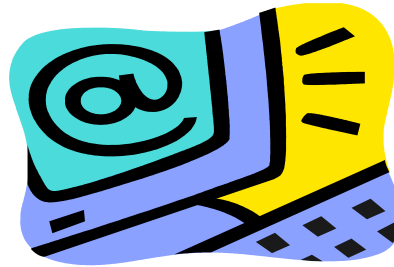
Intergroup 17 Meetings Everyone invited!

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

Next Meeting

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

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with "Free Voice" in
the subject line to:

thevoice@aaocalamarion.org

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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 Memorial Day

Monday, May 30, 2011

24-Hour Hotline

365 days a year

352-867-0660

Service. The Third Legacy.

Life is a picnic. Help celebrate it May 22.

Volunteers of all sorts are needed to help make the next Intergroup 17 picnic on May 22 another wonderful event for the fellowship. Contact Picnic Chairperson Kathy B at 352-266-2846, or Priscilla at Intergroup for details on how you can help. 352 867-0660. See page 7 for more picnic details.

District 17 seeks service committee chairs and more.

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

Intergroup 17. Volunteers needed now!

Intergroup needs immediate help in staffing the office. Please volunteer. Also seeking candidates for the position of Intergroup Treasurer. Call for more information. 352 867-0660. Ask for Priscilla or leave name and number.

"Corresponding" sponsors.

Learn how you can serve as a "corresponding" sponsor to other women alcoholics currently serving time. Sponsorship can be done with

complete anonymity. Contact Deb L or Sherry R through Intergroup 17 at 352-867-0660.

District 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 District 17 February 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 Meetings 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 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 14 groups that contributed \$1 or more to Intergroup 17 in March, including:

- 164 Pages Group
- Belleview God's Way Group
- Breakfast Club
- Cabin in the Woods
- Forest Group
- Happy, Joyous & Free
- Headstart Group
- Ocala Group
- One Page at a Time Group
- Primary Purpose Group
- Start a New Life Group
- West Side Recovery Group
- Young People's Group
- Zion-Blichton Group

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

Intergroup 17 thanks all who volunteer to make our service possible: **Alison C, Arlene H, Bill J, Connie C, Diane M, Helen, Jack, James N, Jeff D, Kathy B, Kathy P, 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. All are appreciated greatly.

Priscilla P, Intergroup 17 Office Manager