

# The Voice

Volume 27, Number 11

November 2010



One member's voice

## In the doing, we reap the rewards

A story of experience, strength, and hope

Step 11. *Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood him, praying only for knowledge of his will for us and the power to carry that out.*

Because November is gratitude month throughout the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, I wanted to write about Step 11 using the language of the heart.

Our *Big Book* says that in working Step 9, we have entered the sunlight of the spirit. My experience has been that the ego takes over very quickly unless I am working Steps 10, 11, and 12 on a daily basis.

This can be a very difficult task, especially in the early years of sobriety when we're trying to set things right financially, trying to get over the guilt of neglecting families, trying to get and keep good jobs, buy homes and cars, and do all those other things we may have let slide.

My experience tells me that Step 11 is God's loving way of providing the spiritual tools I need to accomplish my tasks with joy

instead of with white-knuckled tension. Our literature also says that God cannot work in my life without my cooperation. The actual working of Step 11 is proof that I am seeking the help and guidance the Spirit of the Universe to do that.

I have also found that I cannot continue to do Step 10 or Step 12 on a spiritual basis without doing Step 11. These steps are not separate events in my life that I take singly, one by one. Yet taken together, they emerge as a way of living, and one that gets easier and softer the more I practice.

Earlier in sobriety I thought Step 11 was just about learning how to meditate and pray, and that if I simply meditated and prayed, I was taking the step. I've learned that working this step while practicing the principals behind it is very different from the acts of meditation and prayer.

For me, understanding the reason for doing Step 11 is just as critical as doing the work itself. I have to ask myself: Do I pray and meditate to feel good, or to improve my

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## Your Imagination Will Be Fired.

District 17  
2010 Annual  
Gratitude Dinner  
Saturday, November 13  
Our Lady of the Springs  
Speaker Debra V

Details page 7

### A quote for November

*"Constructive meditation is the first requirement for each new step in our spiritual growth."*

As Bill Sees It, page 10

## Tradition Eleven: Facing a new anonymity frontier

*Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never to be drawn into public controversy.*

When Bill W wrote Tradition 11, he could have had no idea what the phrase "public level" would come to encompass by 2010. But Bill did have the foresight to know that AA ought to stay away from publicized leadership and that being in the public eye would not be beneficial to our program.

Bill believed in exercising self-restraint lest the "performers" among us—even the well-intentioned—give the public an inaccurate or unrealistic view of what

Alcoholics Anonymous is and does. The Fellowship has always recognized the idea that its best for our friends to recommend us and for the world to understand that it's our principles rather than individual human beings that keep us strong and enduring.

For many years the news media has respected our request, which we make to them regularly, to not publish stories about AA that identify individual members. We've also tried

in our groups to teach the traditions so that our members do not willfully or unwittingly break one another's anonymity at the public level. As a result we have remained safely anonymous for 75 years.

Now we face a new frontier with many challenges: The Internet. Even though AA has established a policy about anonymity, the Internet, and social networking sites, some members of our fellowship may not be aware

*Continued page 4*

## Congratulations November Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate anniversaries that add up to a collective **520 years**. That's more than **189,930 days of sobriety**. One day at a time!

Rick W	35 years	Brent Mc	1 year
Arlene H	34 years	Melissa M	1 year
Katherine S	34 years	Phyllis H	1 year
Tom M	33 years	Robert G	1 year
Dan M	32 years	Tiffany N	1 year
Bill R	31 years		
Wayne C	31 years		
Peggy N	25 years		
Kevin McN	28 years		
Mitch W	27 years		
Joe C	20 years		
Dick C	18 years		
Winnie M	18 years		
David K	9 years		
Dennis J	7 years		
Ann R	3 years		
Ricky B	3 years		
Billy C	2 years		
Debbie St	2 years		
Rose H	2 years		
Bobby Jo	1 year		

### October

Brett C	26 years
Fred M	16 years
Ralph Mc	14 years
Cheryl T	10 years
Frank D	10 years
Nancy I	8 years

Please share your AA birthday with all.  
 Deadline for December birthdays is November 20.  
 Email: [thevoice@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:thevoice@aaocalamarion.org)  
 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 other alcoholics in Ocala and Marion County.

To join, send name, sobriety date, years of sobriety, and a donation—suggested is \$1, \$5, or \$10 for each year of sobriety to:

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

### Plug into Intergroup 17 online

Explore our new website features: [www.aaocalamarion.org](http://www.aaocalamarion.org)  
 Subscribe to The Voice by email: [thevoice@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:thevoice@aaocalamarion.org)



### Archives Reflections

# Their hearts—and plates—were full.

On November 13, our local District 17 fellowship will gather at our Annual Gratitude Dinner to celebrate and give thanks. We express our gratitude for the miracle of our sobriety, the program of Alcoholics Anonymous that continues to make such miracles possible, and our families, friends and fellow who support us.

Gratitude celebrations are a cherished and longstanding tradition throughout our worldwide fellowship and one that dates back 24 years here in Ocala and Marion County.

But just how did a sincere feeling of “gratitude” translate into a banquet with a speaker and all the trimmings? The story goes something like this.

In March 1986, John P, Kathy P, Judy L, and Dan L attended the Sowega Roundup in Albany, Georgia. On the drive back to Ocala, feeling full of fellowship, the conversation turned to gratitude. After telling the others about the great experiences he'd had at gratitude dinners he had attended in Jack-

sonville and Atlanta, John P. allowed that the local Ocala fellowship had grown large enough that we should have our own Gratitude Dinner here in Marion County.

Everyone loved the idea, and with Judy L and John P in the lead and Kathy P and Dan L pitching in with support and ticket sales, the Ocala AA fellowship decided to hold its first Gratitude Dinner that November. The site was at a function room at Marion Community Hospital that accommodated 100 people.

The menu included a choice of entrée, and Judy L — who faced lagging ticket sales, not unlike many other Gratitude Dinner chairpersons after her sales— kept asking the others, “How many people will come? Did we order enough food?” To which John P kept repeating, “It will all turn out just fine.”

Judy says this was the first time she truly turned her concerns over to her higher power. Just as John pre-

dicted, it turned out just fine, and last minute ticket sales filled all 100 seats.

The speaker was Jim K, who was wonderful, and Ginny F did a great job with door prizes. When the raffle tickets were drawn, prize after prize went to Pat K until amid much laughter, it was suggested she sit down and let somebody else win. A great and grateful time was had by all.

So this year, as we say our collective thanks for all that AA has given us, let's also remember to add a special measure of gratitude to John P, Judy L and the other long-timers for starting our tradition of gratitude here in Ocala.

*The District Archives house the written and oral history of AA in Ocala-Marion County. If you have a story, memory, documents, photos, or other memorabilia that relate to our local history, please relay it through the Intergroup office to Kathy P, District 17 Archives Committee Chair. 352-867-0660. Email: [ocalaintergroup@msn.com](mailto:ocalaintergroup@msn.com)*

# November by the Books

## STEP ELEVEN

*Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood him, praying only for knowledge of his will for us and the power to carry that out.*

On awakening let us think about the twenty-four hours ahead. We consider our plans for the day. Before we begin, we ask God to direct our thinking, especially asking that it be divorced from self-pity, dishonest or self-seeking motives. Under these conditions we can employ our mental faculties with assurance, for after all God gave us brains to use. Our thought-life will be placed on a much higher plane when our thinking is cleared of wrong motives.

In thinking about our day we may face indecision. We may not be able to determine which course to take. Here we ask God for inspiration, an intuitive thought or a decision. We relax and take it easy. We don't struggle. We are often surprised how the right answers come after we have tried this for a while ...

... As we go through the day we pause, when agitated or doubtful, and ask for the right thought or action. We constantly remind ourselves we are no longer running the show, humbly saying to ourselves many times each day "Thy will be done."

We are then in much less danger of excitement, fear, anger, worry, self-pity, or foolish decisions. We become much more efficient. We do not tire so easily, for we are not burning up energy foolishly as we did when we were trying to arrange life to suit ourselves. It works—it really does. We alcoholics are undisciplined. So we let God discipline us in the simple way we have just outlined.

*Alcoholics Anonymous, page 86*

## TRADITION ELEVEN

*Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.*

The inquiring voices are not all alcoholics or their families. Doctors read medical papers about Alcoholics Anonymous and call for more information. Clergymen see articles in their church journals and also make inquiries. Employers learn that great corporations have set their approval upon us, and wish to discover what can be done about alcoholism in their own firms.

Therefore, a great responsibility fell upon us to develop the best possible public relations policy for Alcoholics Anonymous. Through many painful experiences, we think we have arrived at what that policy ought to be. It is the opposite in many ways of usual promotional practice. We found that we had to rely upon the principle of attraction rather than of promotion.

This, in brief, in the process by which AA's Tradition Eleven was constructed. To us, however, it represents far more than a sound public relations policy. It is more than a denial of self-seeking. This Tradition is a constant and practical reminder that personal ambition has no place in AA. In it, each member becomes an active guardian of our Fellowship.

*AA Grapevine, November 1955*

## CONCEPT ELEVEN

*Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority — the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.*

While the Trustees hold final responsibility for AA's world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Therefore the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs, and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.

*AA Service Manual, page 33*

### Concept 11 Checklist

The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

- Do we understand how the roles of nontrustee directors and nontrustee appointed committee members help serve and strengthen the committee system?
- How do we encourage our special paid workers to exercise their traditional "Right of Participation?"
- Do we practice rotation in all our service positions?

*Twelve Concepts Checklist, page 5*

Excerpts from *The Big Book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and other AA publications are reprinted with permission of AA World Services.

# District 17 Corner

## District 17 Monthly Meeting High- lights September 30, 2010

**DCM:** Nancy D presided. 24 officers, committee chairs, GSRs, and visitors in attendance.

**DCM Report:** Area 14 Delegate Report will take place jointly with District 7 later. GSRs reminded to attend Area meeting to vote for new officers.

**Secretary's Report:** August minutes read and accepted.

**Treasurer's Report** Accepted. Financials available to view on request.

**Accessibilities:** Chairperson position now open. Volunteers sought.

**CPC/PI:** Purchased 1400 Where & When schedules to distribute to all area probation officers.

**Corrections:** Purchased two cases of Daily Reflections for women's facilities. Need more volunteers for men's and women's prison meetings. Collecting old Grapevines and other AA literature for corrections facilities.

**Grapevine:** Made formal contact with GSO in New York.

**Intergroup:** All tickets sold for picnic.

**Literature:** Purchasing a table top display for use by this committee and others that can use it.

**Treatment:** Need volunteers to attend meetings. Place ad in The Voice.

**Gratitude Dinner:** November 13, Our Lady of the Springs Church. Planning committee meeting weekly. Volunteers needed.

**New business:** Ricky B elected Accessibilities chairperson. Nominees sought for new DCM and Alternate DCM.

### District 17 Officers & Committee Chairs

DCM: Nancy D  
Secretary: Alison C  
Treasurer: Ashley C  
Accessibilities: Ricky B  
Archives: Kathy P  
Bridging the Gap: Billy C  
CPC/PI: Chris P  
Corrections: Sherry R  
Grapevine: Lydia N  
Intergroup: John P  
Literature: Max R  
Treatment: William J  
Bridging the Gap: Bill C

### Group GSRs

164 Group: John B  
Anthony: Lisa E  
Came to Believe: John D  
Conscious Contact: Jim B  
Forest Group: Petra H  
Free to Be: Brian L  
Happy, Joyous & Free: Rick D  
Head Start: Patti B  
Keep It Simple: Tina T  
Last Call: Chris P  
Living Sober: Diane I  
Men's Group: Bob L  
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: Melissa B

The list above includes names of GSRs who have been active in recent District 17 activities. If your group's GSR is not listed, please send name and contact info to: [thevoice@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:thevoice@aaocalamarion.org)

**To contact a District 17 officer, committee chair, or GSR, call 352.867.0660.**

### Next Meeting. All Welcome. Officer Elections.

Thursday, November 18, 6:00 pm  
St. Mark's UMC  
3452 NE Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala

## TRADITION 11

*Continued from page 1*

of it. In order for our fellowship to survive, each of us who uses the Internet needs to understand Tradition 11 and the important role it plays in guarding anonymity in this age of electronic communication.

In the simplest form we do not identify ourselves as AA members using

our full names and /or full-face photos. This not only protect us as individuals, it also helps to protect the fellowship should we decide to resume our drinking careers?

*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 as a whole*

## In the Doing, We Reap the Rewards

*Continued from page 1*

conscious contact with my higher power? Do I truly pray for the knowledge of his will for me and for others in my life, or do I pray for my wishes and desires to be fulfilled?

Thank God, as the *Big Book* says, "We claim spiritual progress rather than spiritual perfection." Nowhere is this concept more important than in working Step 11.

Our literature also says that we alcoholics are an undisciplined lot and that, "We let God discipline us." There is no better place to practice humility, in my opinion, than in the practice of Step 11. That's why on any given Sunday you'll find me at an Eleventh Step meeting. It's also why when I am spiritually fit, each morning, no matter what, I set aside time to pray and meditate.

The reward of doing this is indescribable. How do you describe love for your fellows? How do you describe the joy of living? How do you describe the peace that passes all understanding? My experience is you can't. They must be lived, and the practice of Step 11 to the best of my ability is the road to doing that.

I believe that when I try to live in this manner, every day is a gift from God. I also believe that every day I don't live this way, my ego is trying to pull me back from the sunlight of the spirit.

When I was newer in the program—and only half believing what people were saying and what I was reading—all I could do was act on what I was told and hope for the best. What choice did I have? It was either go forward with the suggestions, or go back to hell.

Thank God I was able to go forward and discover that it is in the *doing* that we find the results we seek. There is no better proof of this than in working Step 11, and its essence is captured eloquently in the *Big Book's* invitation: "Join us as we trudge the road of happy destiny."

Bob C  
Ocala, Florida  
November 2010

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

## Group Contributions to Intergroup 17 September 2010

**This table presents contributions for fiscal year June 2010-May 2011.  
Report below is from June 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010 only.  
If there is an error, please contact Intergroup 17.**

GROUP NAME	\$ Sept '10 Con- tributions	Contri- butions 6/1/10- 9/30/10	GROUP NAME	\$ Sept '10 Con- tributions	Contri- butions 6/1/10- 9/30/10
164 Pages Group	\$25.25	\$99.78	Living Sober Group		66.00
Acceptance			Lunch Bunch Group		159.05
Alive and Well			Marion Oaks		
All You Need Group		30.00	McIntosh Group		
As Bill Sees It		169.00	Men's Group Ocala		81.00
Belleview Eye Opener			New Attitudes Group		
Belleview God's Way			New Beginnings Group		
Belleview Group		150.00	New Life Group		
Bonfire Group			No Name Group		42.75
Breakfast Club	403.88	788.88	Ocala Group		502.63
Cabin in the Woods		25.00	One Page at a Time		
Came To Believe		24.00	Primary Purpose Group		24.00
Citra Group			Resentment Too Group		
Come As You Are			Second Step Group		
Conscious Contact		50.00	Shores of Sobriety		
Day by Day			Sisters of Serenity		
Eleventh Step			Sober Yankees		100.00
Experience, Strength & Hope			Start A New Life		75.00
First Impressions			Steps and Promises		
Forest Group	20.00	40.00	Stop Whining & Sober Up		
Fountain of Gratitude		50.00	Strength In Numbers		
Free To Be		45.00	Summerfield Group		
Ft. McCoy Group			Summerfield New Green		
God's Way Group		8.76	Sm'field Living in Today		
Grace Group			Sundae Social Group		
Grateful Gals			TLC Group, The Centers		.35
Green Group			Thursday Night Step Gp.		
Grupo Mano Abierta	25.00	25.00	We Give Thanks		
Grupo Nueva Vida			We Give Up		47.03
Happy Hour Group	50.00	130.00	Weir Crazy		143.00
Happy, Joyous & Free	744.48	1,729.63	Williston Winners		
Headstart Group	33.14	124.12	Won Rebos Group		
Healing Group		30.00	Young People's Group		
It's In The Book		60.00	Zion-Blichton Group		20.00
Keep It Simple	60.00	136.51	District 17	50.00	100.00
Last Call Group			Birthday Club (personal)		
Last House on the Block			Double Nickel (personal)		
Life is Good Sober Group			Faithful 5-ers (personal)		25.00
Life Saver Group		200.00	Individuals (other)	6.76	39.54
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,418.51</b>	<b>\$5,341.03</b>

## 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 Worldwide General Services Office
- 10 percent to North Florida Area Assembly
- 10 percent to District 17

### Group contributions

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

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

**NFACAA**  
P.O. Box 567  
Melbourne, FL 32902

**District 17**  
P.O. Box 3081  
Ocala, FL 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 September 2010

Meeting info requests	58
Twelfth Step Calls	6
Office transactions	39
Visitors	52
Al-Anon*	6
Miscellaneous	40

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

## Upcoming Events and Meetings of Interest

### Looking for a local meeting?

Choose from more than 160 meetings a week.

**When and Where online!**  
[www.aocalamarion.org](http://www.aocalamarion.org)

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

Here's just a sampling that may be of interest.

### Beginners Meeting

#### Mondays

#### 17th Street Group

6:00pm every Monday

Church of Christ

2730 SE Maricamp Rd., Ocala

#### Tuesdays

Needs your support!

Living Sober Group

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

### District 17 Monthly Meeting

All GSRs. Everyone welcome.

6:00 pm last Thursday of the month

St. Mark's United Methodist

1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

### Intergroup 17 Monthly

Intergroup reps. All welcome.

5:15 pm second Sunday of month

St. Mark's United Methodist

1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

## New Meetings

### 164 Pages Group

#### Two New Meetings

#### Women's Meeting

Mondays 6 pm WC/HC

Ocklawaha United Methodist

Church, 13333 East Hwy 25

#### Men's Meeting

Mondays 6 pm WC/HC

Ocklawaha United Methodist

Church, 13333 East Hwy 25

### A Vision For You

Mondays, 7 pm

Open Discussion

Florida Highlands Baptist Church

10891 SW 155th St, Dunnellon, FL

Accessible

### Live, Laugh, & Love

Sundays, 1 pm

Lost & Found Club

339 NE Sanchez Avenue, Ocala

## Meeting News

### Name Change

Ocklawaha AM Group has changed its name to the **Cabin in the Woods Group**. Wednesdays, 10 am

### New Meeting Location

#### Experience, Strength & Hope Group

Fridays, 8 PM, Speaker Meeting

Church of Christ, 2730 SE Maricamp

Road, Ocala, Florida

### Discontinued

**Last House on the Block** men's meeting discontinued. Sundays 3 pm.

**Happy Highlanders** meeting discontinued. Wednesday 5 pm Florida Highlander Baptist Church, Dunnellon

**17th Street Group** dissolved. Meetings discontinued, Monday and Thursday, 6 pm.

**A Vision for You**, Tuesday 7 pm meetings discontinued Highlands Baptist Church in "Highland" Dunnellon.

### How to publicize new and changed meetings

To help ensure the accuracy of information about meeting dates, times, and locations, please submit all new and changed information in writing or by email ([ocalaintergroup@msn.com](mailto:ocalaintergroup@msn.com)) and authorized by the Home Group chairperson, secretary, or Intergroup representative. Thanks.

### DISCLAIMER

*The Voice* newsletter is published by Intergroup 17 Ocala-Marion County, Florida, and is created by alcoholics for alcoholics. Articles in the newsletter written by individual members of Alcoholics Anonymous are expressions of their own experiences and opinions and not necessarily those of Intergroup 17 or AA as a whole. *The Voice* editorial committee reserves the right to edit anything submitted prior to its publication.

## Special Events, Celebrations, Notices

### Join us in celebrating our Eight-Year Anniversary Grupo Mano Abierta

Saturday, January 22, 2011  
Meeting 7:00 pm  
Dinner 8:30 pm

**All welcome.**  
Please bring desserts to share.  
12390 NW Hwy 328  
Ocala, Florida

**Living Sober Group  
Speaker Meeting**  
Sunday, November 14  
7:30 pm  
Speaker: Wayne C  
Congregational Church  
7171 SW State Rd 200  
Ocala, Florida

**Ocala Group  
Eat 'n Speak**  
Saturday, November 27  
Dinner 7 pm Potluck  
Speaker 8 pm Mike W  
\$2 if you bring a dish  
\$4 without a dish  
St. Mark's United Methodist Church  
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

**November at the  
Lost & Found Club**  
339 NE Sanchez Avenue  
(352-351-4688)

- Saturday, November 6: Dance, 9 pm. \$2 members/\$3 nonmembers.
- Saturday, November 13: Movie Night. *Hunting the Hunters*. 50-cent movie/hot dogs/sodas/chips/popcorn. 50-cent fifty/fifty raffle
- Saturday, November 20: Fellowship Night. Free games of pool, board and card games.
- Thanksgiving Day, November 25: Turkey dinner and all the fixin's. Free to AA members and family. 1:30 pm. Bring a dessert or side dish to share if you can.
- Saturday, November 27: Sober Bingo, 9 pm. \$1/three cards; \$2/seven cards.

*The Lost & Found Club is not affiliated with Alcoholics Anonymous World Services or Intergroup 17. AA groups and others rent space for meetings. Inquire at the club about availability.*

**District 17  
2010 Annual  
Gratitude Dinner**  
Saturday, November 13

**Your imagination  
will be fired.**

**An evening of thanks  
and celebration.**

Social hour & hors d'oeuvres  
Dinner buffet  
Guest speaker Debra V  
Sobriety quilt raffle  
Cake auction  
50/50 raffle  
Sobriety count down  
And much more

**Tickets \$20 each**

See your group GSR or contact Intergroup 17

Doors open: 5:30  
Dinner: 6:30  
Speaker: 8:00 pm

**Our Lady of the Springs Church**  
4047 NE 21st Street  
Ocala  
North of Silver Springs Blvd,  
east of 36th Avenue.

### Thank You Picnic Volunteers

So many people pitched in to help make the Intergroup 17 Fall Picnic such a success, that rather than trying to list them all and risk leaving out a name, we'll just say to everyone who contributed: **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.**

The food was fabulous, the activities—from a piñata and face-painting for the kids, to volleyball, to hula hoop contest—were numerous and spirited. The raffle and auction attracted lots of attention

All 300 tickets to the event were sold out and the fund-raising activities collected more \$750 to help support Intergroup's mission of carrying the message. Watch The Voice for news of the next event. You mustn't miss it.

**Intergroup office volunteers  
needed immediately.  
Call 352 867-0660**

### Mark Your Calendar

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

**11/5-7, 2010** Gratitude Weekend 2010. Five speakers, much more. \$30 registration. Visit [www.jekyllislandaa.com](http://www.jekyllislandaa.com) or email: [wiland-bon@comcast.net](mailto:wiland-bon@comcast.net).

**11/10, 2010** Weir Crazy Group Anniversary and Gratitude Celebration, Details this page

**11/13, 2010** District 17 Annual Gratitude Dinner. See this page for details.

**11/14, 2010** Intergroup 17 monthly meeting. Details back page.

**11/18, 2010** District 17 monthly meeting, Details page 4.

**1/21-23/2011** Big Book Workshop Weekend, multiple speakers. \$25 advance, \$30 on site. See [www.leestapesandcdds.com](http://www.leestapesandcdds.com) Call: 1.877.902.5975 Email: [leestapes@vaifamily.com](mailto:leestapes@vaifamily.com)

**1/22, 2011** Grupo Mano Abierta 8-Year Anniversary Celebration. Details this page.

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

**tHe wEiR CrAzY gRoUp  
"wEiR wEiR HaPpY"  
7 Year Anniversary &  
Gratitude Celebration**

**Wednesday, November 10**

6:00 pm. Food and Fellowship  
7:00 pm, Speaker, Randie P. Winter Garden, Fl

St. John Lutheran Church  
10495 Sunset Harbor Rd  
Summerfield/Weirsdale Florida

Group provides meat, cheese, rolls,  
chips, coffee and soft drinks.

Bring a nice covered dish or desert to express  
your thanks giving.



## Intergroup 17 Meetings Everyone invited!

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

### Next Meeting

**Sunday, November 14, 5:15 pm**  
St. Mark's UMC  
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

## Free Subscription. The Voice by e-mail.



To subscribe for free,  
send an e-mail  
with "Free Voice" in  
the subject line to:

[thevoice@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:thevoice@aaocalamarion.org)

The Voice by e-mail is in PDF format. Requires Adobe Reader software. Free download available at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com). Printed copies available at Intergroup office.

## Intergroup 17 Ocala-Marion County Florida

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

Email: [ocalaintergroup@msn.com](mailto:ocalaintergroup@msn.com)  
Website: [aaocalamarion.org](http://aaocalamarion.org)

### Hours of operation

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

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

## Service. The Third Legacy.

### Gratitude Dinner!

Volunteers needed for this year's Gratitude Dinner Set Up, 10 am, Saturday, November 13, Our Lady of the Springs Church. 4047 NE 21st Street, Ocala. You'll have lots of fun too!

### County Jail Women's Meetings Need Your Support

Help take meetings to women in Marion County Jail Saturday mornings (immediate need) and Thursday evenings. Requires one year of sobriety, no felonies or probation for past year. Quick clearance with photo ID and SSN. Learn more about how you can help fill this critical service need. Call Nancy I through Intergroup 17. Call 352 867-0660.

### Intergroup 17 . Desperate need for office volunteers. Treasurer position open.

Intergroup needs immediate help in staffing the office during business hours. 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.

### Help take meetings to treatment centers.

District 17 Treatment Committee seeks volunteers to help take meetings to local treatment centers. Attend next District 17 meeting to learn more.

### District DCM nominations sought. Elections 11/18.

Learn more. Attend the next district meeting. See page 4.

### "Corresponding" sponsors needed! Women only.

Learn how you can serve as a "corresponding" sponsors to other women alcoholics currently serving time. Sponsorship can be done with complete anonymity. Contact Debbie L or Sherry R through Intergroup. Call 352 867=0660.

### 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.

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

### Attitude of GrAAttitude

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

- 164 Pages
- Breakfast Club
- Forest Group
- Grupo Mano Abierto
- Happy Hour Group
- Happy, Joyous, & Free
- Headstart Group
- Keep It Simple

Intergroup 17 serves more than 70 groups in the Ocala and Marion County area with a 24-hour hotline, volunteer staffed call desk during office hours, up-to-date website and newsletter, and much more. All who have helped support these efforts with financial contributions this year are gratefully acknowledged on page 5.

Intergroup 17 thanks all who volunteer to make our service possible: Alison C, Bill J, Bobby J, Mike G, Daniel R, Ricky B, Jason B, Jack, Lew, Diane M, Connie C, Toni Marie C, Rick F, Phil H, Peggy N, James N, Rafael Q, Bosch R, Ed G, John P, Max R.

If we've left anyone out, we sincerely apologize. Let us know, we'll make amends. Every contribution whether in time, energy, or money is greatly valued and sincerely appreciated.

*Priscilla P, Intergroup 17 Office Manager*