

The Voice

Volume 27, Number 9

September 2010



One member's voice

A pathway to freedom

A story of experience, strength, and hope

"Made direct amends to such people wherever possible except when to do so would injure them or others."

Like many new to AA, when I still smarting from the recent beating I had taken from the booze, I was easy to sponsor. I gallantly worked the first seven steps, and I began to feel better.

But as I looked at Steps Eight and Nine ahead of me, I began to ask myself, "Why should I have to face all these people I can't stand when I'm already getting what I want from AA anyway?" So I began to shy away from my sponsor and from tackling those steps.

This line of thinking is like the little boy who goes to town to see the circus and, after seeing the parade of performers dancing toward the big top, goes home to tell his father that he saw the circus. In reality, he's never been inside the big top, nor has he seen the real show.

As the result of this kind of thinking, I

was robbing myself of some very valuable things. Without realizing it, I had decided to wage a cold war with the people I loved and really wanted to have relationships with. Because of my fear and resentment, I was denying myself the opportunity to live in harmony with my closest friends and relatives.

I suffer from a disease of perception—perception being the truth as I see it. As I approached people to make amends, the way I remembered my past compared to the way they remembered it was sometimes quite different.

For example, when I approached my younger brother, all I wanted to talk about was how sorry I was for having picked on and beat on him. When I was finished, he just smiled, shook his head, and said, "The only thing I ever held against you was that you left home when I was ten years old, and I was alone with no one to play with." So you see, my brother didn't view me as the

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**Intergroup 17
Fall Picnic
Sunday, October 10
See page 5 for details**

A quote for September

"We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves."

Alcoholics Anonymous, page 84

Tradition Nine

Assuming responsibility to serve.

A.A as such ought never to be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

Tradition Nine sometimes creates confusion for newcomers to AA, and for some not-so-newcomers as well. The tradition clearly states we are not organized, and then someone stands up and announces there's going to be a group business meeting at 6:30 next Wednesday. If we're not organized, why have a business meeting?

We find in AA that we

are all about service to one another—service rendered in the fellowship and through sponsoring and sharing our wonderful program with the newcomer.

Service to each other at the group level includes opening the door for a meeting, making the coffee, ordering the literature for our home group. At our business meetings, members of the

group agree to be responsible for taking care of these and other tasks necessary to keep our group going. This doesn't mean that they take authority. They assume responsibility.

At the group, district, and intergroup level, we create service boards or committees each time we take on a new activity. For example,

Continued page 4

Congratulations September Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate anniversaries that add up to a collective 409 years. That's more than 149,285 days of sobriety. One day at a time!

Fred S	45 years
Diane D	33 years
Paula V	31 years
Don D	26 years
Ruth T	25 years
Maria B.	24 years
John S	22 years
Ginger H	18 years
Bob K	15 years
William J	14 years
John B	13 years
Keith H	9 years
Bob T	7 years
James M	3 years
Kelly M	3 years
Cyndie W	2 years
Scott C	2 years
David M	2 years
Lourie J	2 years
Brian K	1 year
Greg M	1 year
Hampton R	1 year
Jeremy H	1 year
Matt B	1 year

August 2010

Toni Marie C	22 years
Michael	20 years
Caroline Y	18 years
Mike S	12 years
Leslie M	7 years
Mary FT	7 years
Holly M	6 years
Deb L	4 years
Eddie F	4 years
Kim S	4 years
Steve C	3 years
Cherlyn	2 years

Please share your AA birthday with all.
Deadline for October birthdays is September 20.
Email: 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

Archives Reflections

Your home group isn't an address. It's where your heart leads you.

When newcomers in our area say they're going to a meeting at St. Mark's, they may not always know that they're going to a meeting of the Ocala Group and that the location is St. Mark's United Methodist Church.

Those who have been going to meetings in Ocala long enough to be called old-timers may remember when the Ocala Group met in the First Presbyterian Church of Ocala on Third Street. The AA meeting was upstairs, and Al-Anon group met downstairs.

After many years the Ocala Group moved to what was then called Charter Springs (The Vines today). After several years, the group moved again to the strip mall on N. Magnolia across from the old Winn Dixie.

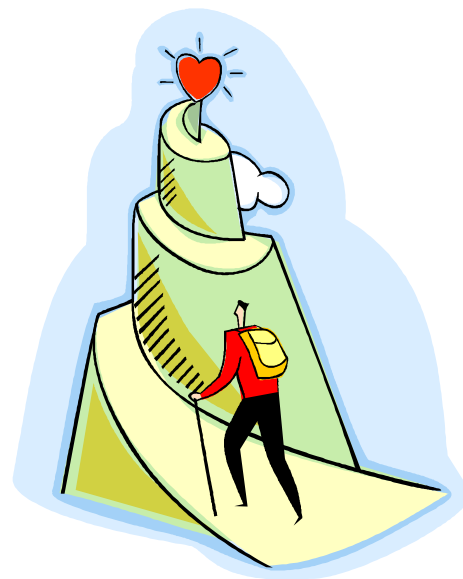
The next move was to the Unity Church off of 14th Street, and in its last move, the group found its current location at St. Marks. The group has dedi-

cated members who work hard at survival of the group, and all members are encouraged to attend the business meeting and take an active part.

Another area group that has experienced a move recently is Experience, Strength and Hope. The group originally began at the Methodist Church on the Blvd and SE 11, sometime around 1994.

The church urged the group to find another location, and the meeting was held at Grace Episcopal for many years until its move to Druid Hills. In August, the group moved to its new location at the Church of Christ, 2750 SE Mari-camp Road in Ocala.

When the group message is to "carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers" the group always survives. No matter where the location, the AA members will find the meeting and the message.



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 to Kathy P through Intergroup, 352-867-0660.

September by the Books

STEP NINE

“Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.”

A Tranquil mind is the first requisite for good judgment. Good timing is important in making amends. What is courage? Prudence means taking calculated chances. Amends begin when we join A.A. Peace of mind cannot be bought at the expense of others. Need for discretion. Readiness to take consequences of our past and to take responsibility for well-being of others is spirit of Step Nine.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions,
page 7

Good judgment, a careful sense of timing, courage, and prudence—these are the qualities we shall need when we take Step Nine.

After we have made the list of people we have harmed, have reflected carefully upon each instance and have tried to possess ourselves of the right attitude in which to proceed, we will see the making of direct amends divides those we should approach into several classes. There will be those who ought to be dealt with just as soon as we become reasonably confident that we can maintain our sobriety. There will be those to whom we can make only partial restitution, lest complete disclosures do them or others more harm than good. There will be other cases where action ought to be deferred, and still others in which by the very nature of the situation we shall never be able to make direct personal contact at all.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions,
page 83

Above all, we should try to be absolutely sure that we are not delaying because we are afraid.

For the readiness to take the full consequences of our past acts, and to take responsibility for the wellbeing of others at the same time, is the very spirit of Step Nine.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions,
page 87

TRADITION NINE

Tradition Nine *Long form*

Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary.

The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our overall public relations and the guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine.

All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions,
page 191

Special service boards and committees. The General Service Conference, the board of trustees, and group committees cannot issue directives to A.A. members of groups. A.A.'s can't be dictated to---individually or collectively. Absence of coercion works because unless each A.A. follows suggested Steps to recovery, he signs his own death warrant. Same condition applies to the group. Suffering and love are A.A.'s disciplinarians. Difference between spirit of authority and spirit of service. Aim of our services is to bring sobriety within reach of all who want it.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions,
page 12

CONCEPT NINE

Concept IX Checklist

- Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety.. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
- Do we discuss how we can best strengthen the composition and leadership of our future trusted servants?
- Do we recognize the need for group officers? What is our criteria for election? Do we sometimes give a position to someone “because it would be good for them?”
- Do I set a positive leadership example?

“Concepts Checklist,” page 3

No matter how carefully we design our service structure of principles and relationships, no matter how well we apportion authority and responsibility, the operating results of our structure can be better than the personal performance of those who must man it and make it work. Good leadership cannot function well in a poorly designed structure . . . Weak leadership can hardly function at all, even in the best of structures.

A leader in A.A. service is therefore a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him and help with his job.

Good leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, any where. Consequently, good leadership will often discard its own cherished plans for others that are better, and it will give credit to the source.

Our leaders do not drive by mandate, they lead by example. We say to them, “Act for us, but do not boss us.”

“The Twelve Concepts for World Service,” pamphlet, page 8

“Like Heaven on Earth.”

2010 International Convention through the eyes of the world and local members.

In terms of attendance, not even the Final Four could beat out the 2010 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous held July 1 through 4 in San Antonio, Texas. It was the city's largest convention ever.

"It's very rare that you'll get a convention of this size, where you're welcoming over 50,000 people, all coming on their own from all over the world," said Scott White, Executive Director of the San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau in an interview with WOAI, the city's NBC news affiliate.

The *San Antonio Express News* called the convention a celebration of "75 years of Alcoholics Anonymous and the enduring legacy—and mysterious power—of its famous 12 steps to recovery."

The Express News article also included an excerpt from the remarks of Dr. Al Mooney, a prominent addiction-medicine specialist from Raleigh, N.C., who spoke at the convention on Friday and noted, "I like to think of myself as a scientist, but a physician primarily needs to be a healer. AA has been doing things for 75 years that, thank God, we didn't wait on science to catch up to start doing."

According to AA World Services, International Conventions are primarily

occasions for celebration of the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous and seeing the wide-spread results of "carrying the message" one alcoholic to another. The theme of this year's International Convention – "A Vision for You" – was taken from the last chapter of the first 164 pages of the *Alcoholics Anonymous*, also known as the *Big Book*. The convention attracted AAs from all 50 of the United States, its territories, and more than 75 other countries worldwide.

A view from a bit closer to home

More than a dozen local members attended the convention and returned with glowing reports of the fellowship, love, and spirituality they felt during their stay in San Antonio.

Nancy D summed up the experience as "heaven on earth." She says, "There were so many incredible memories from the moment I got onto the airplane with a whole flight loaded with AA people and not one drink sold. Then arriving at the San Antonio airport to be met by friends of Bill W giving hugs and holding up signs. I started to cry tears of gratitude."

She also recalls seeing and meeting people from all over the world—Japan, Finland, New Zealand, Spain, Italy, Germany, Canada, Pakistan, Sweden, Ire-

land, Scotland – and the opening meeting flag ceremony with the flags of all nations being marched in. The opening also included the presentation of the 30 millionth published copy of the *Big Book* to the American Medical Association.

Fellow convention attendee and local fellowship member, John P says of the opening ceremony, "There's nothing quite like saying the Lord's Prayer with 52 thousand other alcoholics."

Tradition Nine

Continued from page 1

as a fundraiser for Intergroup 17, members from Ocala and Marion county got together recently for a great spaghetti dinner.

We created a temporary service committee just long enough to accomplish all the necessary tasks. Committee members took responsibility for finding a place to have the dinner, making flyers, and organizing a raffle, which including and making a quilt to raffle off, printing up the raffle tickets, and then selling the tickets in advance. Others found people to donate food and volunteers to prepare and serve the dinner.

Was anyone in complete authority? No! Everyone who became involved in the activity was there to serve our Intergroup 17 and the AAs who came to the event.

Each service entity in AA is directly responsible to those they serve. At every level of service in AA, members assume the responsibility to serve the fellowship. Each member is responsible to help carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

No one else can require you to get involved and serve, but we can lovingly suggest that you do. It certainly helps your fellow members, and many who have become involved in service say it's been key to their sobriety and survival.

Prepared by Kathy and John P drawing on the history of AA as seen through our founders' eyes as well as their own experience. Excerpts from AA publications are reprinted with permission of AA World Services. The views, expressions, and opinions presented here are those of the authors and not necessarily those of AA or Intergroup 17 as a whole

Tell Your Story through The Grapevine.

The Grapevine, AA's national journal, has been a lifeline linking one alcoholic to another. For many not able to attend a meeting in person, it serves as an "meeting in print."

There has been discussion and concern lately at the General Service Office and Area 14 Assembly levels regarding the future of the Grapevine.

District 17 Grapevine Committee is encouraging you and other local members to show your support for keeping *The Grapevine* alive by sharing your experience, strength and hope in writing and possibly having your story printed in the magazine.

As Bill saw The Grapevine

"The Grapevine will be the voice of the Alcoholics Anonymous movement. Its editors and staff will be primarily accountable to the AA movement as a whole.... Within the bounds of friendliness and good taste, the Grapevine will enjoy perfect freedom of speech on all matters directly pertaining to Alcoholics Anonymous..... like the AA movement it is to mirror, there will be but one central purpose: The Grapevine will try to carry the AA message to alcoholics and practice the AA principles in all its affairs."

Bill W, 1946

For more information on how to get your story published, please contact Lydia N. 352-867-0660.

Intergroup 17 ANNUAL FALL PICNIC

Sunday, October 10, 2010
Carney Island Park, Lake Weir
Ocklawaha

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



Fabulous Food

Chicken on the grill
Sides and beverages.
Bring a dessert to share.
Lunch served at 12 noon



Fun & games

DJ Seth will spin the tunes.
Lawn games, swimming, volleyball
and more for children of all ages.
A surprise or two may be in store.



Tickets

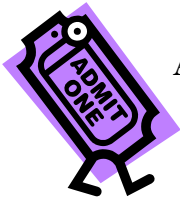
Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Adults: \$6 Children: \$4

Available from the Intergroup Office. Or ask your Intergroup rep.

Advance purchase only. No on-site ticket sales.

Please note. Pets are not permitted inside the park.



Directions

Carney Island Park, 13275 SE 115th Ave., Ocklawaha
Carney Island Park is off SR 25 between Belleview and Ocklawaha,
just south of Silver Springs Shores.
Follow the signs into the park from SR 25.



Volunteers

A great chance for service. Volunteers are needed
before, during, and after the picnic. You can call it
service, but we guarantee it's lots of fun.

To volunteer or for more information

Call Intergroup 17 at 352-867-0660

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 3447

Individual contributions

Individual members can provide financial support to Intergroup 17 in various ways.

- *Faithful Fivers*: \$5 each month
- *Double Nickel*: \$10 each month
- *Birthday Club Members*: \$1 or more per year of sobriety, on their AA "birthday"
- Once-a-year contribution

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

A Pathway to Freedom

Continued from page 1

unwanted piece of crap that I had wanted to believe I was. He loved me.

During Step Nine, I also discovered a valuable tool for combating resentment. I had harbored an ongoing resentment for over a year. Praying for the person helped immensely. Remembering that I placed myself in a position to be hurt also helped to keep the resentment from consuming me. Still I just couldn't shake it.

Upon deciding to subject myself to another house cleaning, I again faced this resentment. I illuminated my part in this failed relationship and reluctantly put this person on my new Eighth Step list. Continuing to Step Nine, I confessed to her my part in the problems, not mentioning her part, along with a commitment to not treat her or anyone else in that manner again.

Now here comes the magic! As I turned my back and walked away I felt as if I had never had the problem. Since that day I haven't felt fear or anger toward this person. The next time we were together, it was as if we were never more than casual acquaintances. The lesson? Emotional sobriety eludes me as long as I have this type of unfinished business.

One of the greatest benefits of Step Nine is the opportunity to make living amends. I do this by just staying sober and continuing to peel away all my emotional deformities.

It's dawned on me what it must have been like for my father when all the other guys where he worked stood

around the break room talking about their children with pride. I've thought about the embarrassment that my grandparents must have felt as I terrorized them and the little town we lived in.

Today, when my dad gets with his friends and colleagues, he can say that his son has become the kind of guy who works hard and cares for his children and grandchildren. He can hold his head up and be proud to be my father. When my grandfather got cancer, as a sober man I was allowed to be there for him, and my grandmother and all their friends knew that I had changed.

I came to AA to save my skin, but got a lot more. I've been given priceless gifts that I could never have guessed were possible for a drunk like me. The words from *The Big Book*, "We beg of you to be fearless and thorough from the very start," are some of the most important words in our literature.

The twelve steps are not punishment. They are the pathway to a freedom I didn't know existed.

Monte B
Ocala, Florida
September 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.

District 17 Corner

Highlights of the minutes of the July 29, 2010, meeting of District 17.

DCM Nancy D presided. 26 officers, committee chairs, GSRs, and visitors in attendance.

DCM Report: Thanks for the great coverage for hosting Area Assembly registration desk. District 17 had 12 votes on Sunday. N.F. Area Assembly moves to St. Augustine in January.

Secretary's Report: June minutes read and accepted.

Treasurer's Report Read and accepted. 11 groups contributed in June. Financials available on request.

CPC/PI: Area 14 CPC chair is seeking volunteers to staff information booths at area events. Chair is vacant.

Corrections: Bought two cases of Big Books for the prisons.

Grapevine: Lydia N nominated and elected Grapevine chair person.

Intergroup: Office volunteers vacancies filled. Picnic on agenda for August 8 meeting.

Literature: Ordered 20 copies of 75th Anniversary edition of *AA Comes of Age* for district use.

Treatment: William J accepted position of Treatment Chair.

Workshop subcommittee: Volunteers sought for Homegroup workshop.

Gratitude Dinner: Date and location to be determined. Committees now forming for various dinner responsibilities and tasks.

Want to get involved?
Attend the next District 17 meeting.
Thursday, September 30, 6 pm

Group Contributions to Intergroup 17 July 2010

**This table presents contributions for fiscal year June 2010-May 2011.
Report below is from June 1, 2010 through July 31, 2010 only.
If there is an error, please contact Intergroup 17.**

GROUP NAME	\$ July '10 Con- tributions	Contri- butions 6/1/10- 7/3110	GROUP NAME	\$ July '10 Con- tributions	Contri- butions 6/1/10- 7/3110
164 Pages Group	\$49.00	\$64.93	Living Sober Group	65.00	66.00
Acceptance			Lunch Bunch Group	159.05	159.05
Alive and Well			Marion Oaks		
All You Need Group	30.00	30.00	McIntosh Group		
As Bill Sees It	169.00	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	150.00	New Life Group		
Bonfire Group			No Name Group		
Breakfast Club		385.00	Ocala Group	197.97	245.79
Cabin in the Woods			One Page at a Time		
Came To Believe	24.00	24.00	Primary Purpose Group	24.00	24.00
Citra Group			Resentment Too Group		
Come As You Are			Second Step Group		
Conscious Contact			Shores of Sobriety		
Day by Day			Sisters of Serenity		
Eleventh Step Group			Sober Yankees		
Experience, Strength & Hope			Start A New Life		
First Impressions			Steps and Promises		
Forest Group			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			Sm'field Living in Today		
Grace Group			Sundae Social Group		
Grapevine Group	76.51	76.51	TLC Group, The Centers		
Grateful Gals			Thursday Night Step Gp.		
Green Group			We Give Thanks		
Grupo Mano Abierta			We Give Up		47.03
Grupo Nueva Vida			Weir Crazy		143.00
Happy Hour Group	40.00	80.00	Williston Winners		
Happy, Joyous & Free	400.56	806.79	Won Rebos Group		
Headstart Group	25.38	65.48	Young People's Group		
Healing Group			Zion-Blichton Group	20.00	20.00
It's In The Book			District 17	25.00	50.00
Keep It Simple			Birthday Club (personal)		
Last Call Group			Double Nickel (personal)		
Last House on the Block			Faithful 5-ers (personal)	5.00	25.00
Life is Good Sober Group			Individuals (other)	17.09	25.02
Life Saver Group					
			Total	\$1,477.56	\$2,832.60

Intergroup 17 Call Center June 2010

Meeting info requests	89
Twelfth Step Calls	6
Office transactions	34
Visitors	30
Al-Anon*	12
Miscellaneous	43

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

Intergroup 17 Financial Statements

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

First Contact



"Is this AA? Well, um . . .
I might have a drinking problem.
Can you help me?"

**Can YOU?
Yes YOU can!
Will YOU?**

**Just say "Yes" to
answering 12th Step calls,
we'll show you the rest.**

Call Intergroup to learn more.
352 867-0660

Intergroup 17 Monthly Meetings Everyone invited!

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

**Sunday, September 12, 5:15 pm
St. Mark's United Methodist
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala**

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

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

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

6:00 pm last Thursday of the month

All GSRs. Everyone welcome.

St. Mark's United Methodist

1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Intergroup 17 Monthly

5:15 pm second Sunday of month

Intergroup reps. All welcome.

St. Mark's United Methodist

1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Newer Meetings

New Meeting

A Vision For You

Mondays, 7 pm

Open Discussion

Florida Highlands Baptist Church

in "Highland"

10891 SW 155th St, Dunnellon, FL

Accessible

Last Call Group

New meetings. New times.

New! Tuesday 10 pm

OD Candle Light

New! Thursday 10 pm

Step & Traditions Candle Light

Continuing: Friday and Saturday,

11 pm; Sunday, 10 pm.

All meetings at CATS

730 SE Osceola Avenue, Ocala

Carry This Message Group

Big Book Study Meeting

Mondays, 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Lion's Club

5850 Lillian Circle

Bellevue, Florida

(across from Lake Lillian)

The Come As You Are

Women's Group

Big Book, first Tuesday of month

Speaker, last Tuesday of month

1138 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Sober Yankees Group.

Tuesdays, 7 pm

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

5200 SW SR 200, Ocala, 34474

No smoking on premises

Parking in back.

Ocala Group.

New added meeting.

Saturdays, 1 pm

St. Mark's United Methodist

1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Carry the Message Group

Needs your support!

Open Discussion, 7PM Monday

Zion United Methodist Church

1605 Blichton Road

(Corner ML King Blvd & Blichton)

Thursday Night Step Group

Closed Step Meeting

Thursdays, 8 pm

South Ocala Baptist Church

2907 SE 52nd St, Ocala, FL

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

New Location

Heavy Hitters (men's group)

Closed Big Book Discussion

Saturdays, 5:00-6:30 pm, Unity Place,

525 NE Sanchez, Bldg 300, Ocala

Correction

The No Name Group in Anthony is

still an active AA group. Meets Mon-

days 7:30 pm. Anthony United Method-

ist, 2396 NE 97th St. Road, Anthony.

Discontinued

Happy Highlanders meeting discon-

tinued. Wednesday 5 pm Florida High-

lander Baptist Church, Dunnellon

17th Street Group dissolved. Meet-
ings discontinued, Monday and Thurs-
day, 6 pm.

Special Events, Celebrations, Notices

Living Sober Group

Speaker Meeting

Sunday, September 12
7:30 pm
Speaker: Beverly H

Annual Picnic

Sunday, October 3
6:00 pm Food & Fellowship
7:30 pm Speaker: Bosch R
Bring side-dish/dessert and families!
50/50 raffle. Donations welcome.

Congregational Church
7171 SW State Rd 200
Ocala, Florida
All Welcome

Ocala Group Eat 'n Speak Saturday, September 28

Dinner 7 pm
Potluck
Speakers 8 pm
Dan J

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

September at the Lost and Found Club

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

- Saturday, September 4: Dance, 9 pm. \$2 members/\$3 nonmembers. 50-cent hot dogs/sodas/chips.
- Monday, September 6, Labor Day: BBQ, 2 to 4 pm. Burgers/hot dogs/sides.
- Saturday, September 11: Movie Night. *Edge of Darkness*. 50 cents. Plus 50-cent hot dogs/sodas/chips/popcorn.
- Saturday, September 18: Open Jam, 9 pm. Bring instruments. \$2 admission.
- Saturday, September 25: Bingo, 9 pm. Cards \$1/3, \$2/7.

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.

Mark Your Calendar

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

9/3-9/6, 2010 24th Annual Tampa Bay Fall Roundup.

www.tampabayfallroundup.com

9/12, 2010 Annual Florida Corrections Workshop, Sanford, Florida.

www.aanorthflorida.org

9/10-12, 2010 11th Annual Serenity Weekend Women's Fall Conference, Cocoa Beach, Florida. Information at 407-876-4430.

9/23-26, 2010 AA National Archives Workshop, Cornelia, Georgia.

www.aanationalarchivesworkshop.com

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

www.fcypaa2010.org

10/2, 2010 Fun in Recovery Unity Day, Picnic, Fruitland Park, FL. Information at 678-278-5457

10/10, 2010 Intergroup 17 Fall Picnic, Carney Island, Ocala. See page 5

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

Looking for a book? Need a brochure? Want more AA information?

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

We also have available copies of AA pamphlets and brochures, service manuals, chips, medallions, and other group supplies. If we don't have what you want, we'll happily order it for you.

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

Cash purchases only.

In Memoriam Roger D

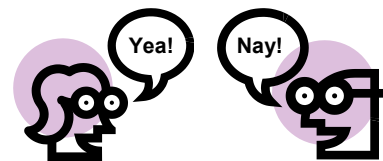
Roger D, an active and beloved member of the Living Sober Group, died August 14, 2010, with 49 years of continuous sobriety.

He came to AA in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and moved to Florida in the early 1990s. We will remember him most for the vivid, often hilarious, stories of his life as a suffering alcoholic, and his steady climb to spiritual sobriety.

His joy in sobriety was contagious. Roger never lost gratitude for the life he was given, and always had a kind word of encouragement and love for the suffering alcoholic inside and outside the rooms of AA. His memory will live on.

Group Members. Is your voice being heard?

Stay informed. Have a voice. Make sure your Intergroup Representative is willing to serve and attend meetings.



Next Intergroup 17 Meeting
Sunday, September 12, 5:15 pm
St. Mark's United Methodist
Ocala
Everyone welcome

DISCLAIMER

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



Intergroup 17 Meetings Everyone invited!

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

Next Meeting

Sunday, September 12, 5:15 pm
St. Mark's UMC
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Free Subscription. The Voice by e-mail.



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

thevoice@aaocalamarion.org

The Voice by e-mail is in PDF format. Requires Adobe Reader software. Free download available at www.adobe.com. Printed copies available at Intergroup office.

Intergroup 17 Ocala-Marion County Florida

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

Email: ocalaintergroup@msn.com
Website: aaocalamarion.org

Hours of operation

Monday-Friday 10 am to 5 pm
Saturday 10 am to 2 pm
Closed Labor Day, September 6

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

Service. The Third Legacy.

Gratitude Dinner!

Anyone wishing to volunteer to help with any aspect of this year's Gratitude Dinner is invited to attend the next planning meeting. Thursday, September 9, 6:45 pm, St. Marks UMC, 1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala.

Picnic. Picnic. Help. Help.

Intergroup 17 needs lots of volunteers to make this year's fall picnic another rousing success. Before, during, and after, there's lots of service work to do. Call 352-867-0660 to offer your help.

District 17 . Committee chairs and volunteers.

We need several volunteers to serve in Committee Chair and other service positions. To learn more attend the next district meeting, 6:00 pm, Thursday, September 30, 2010, St. Marks UMC, 1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala.

"Corresponding" sponsors needed! Women only.

Members from District 17 are creating a way for women in our local fellowship to serve as "corresponding" sponsors to other women alcoholics

currently serving time . Sponsorship can be done with complete sponsor anonymity. Want to learn more? Contact Debbie or Sherry through Intergroup. 352-867-0660

Through The Grapevine!

Help keep the Grapevine alive. Tell your story in print. See page 5 for more information.

Share old copies of *The AA Grapevine* with fellow alcoholics in local corrections facilities. Drop off at the Intergroup Office or through your GSR.

Take the message to local correctional institutions.

There is a critical need to carry the message to women and men in area corrections facilities. Participation requires prior approval. Applications available at Intergroup 17 office.

To learn more, call 352-867-0660. Or attend the next District 17 meeting, 6:00 pm, Thursday, September 30, 2010, St. Marks UMC, 1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala.

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

Attitude of GrAAitude

A tremendous thank you to all the groups and individuals that contributed \$1 or more to Intergroup 17 in July, including:

- 164 Pages
- All You Need
- As Bill Sees It
- Belleview Group
- Came to Believe
- Grapevine Group
- Happy Hour Group
- Happy, Joyous, & Free
- Headstart Group
- Living Sober
- Lunch Bunch
- Ocala Group
- Primary Purpose
- Zion-Blichton Group

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

Intergroup 17 thanks all who volunteer to staff and maintain our office and hotline, manage our website, and produce our publications: Alison C, Bill J, Bobby J, Bonnie S, Bosch, Connie C, Diane M, Gordana, James N, Jason B, John P, Katie, Kelly T, Max R, Mike G, Peggy N, Phil H, Rafael Q, Toni Marie C.

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

Priscilla P, Intergroup 17 Office Manager