



The Voice



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July 2013

www.aocalamarion.org

Volume 36, Issue 7

Intergroup District 17-3666A N.E. 25th St., Ocala, FL 34470 - aocalaintergroup@gmail.com - 352-867-0660

Open Weekdays 10:00 am-5:00 pm and Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm

Intergroup Reps meet at the office Sun., July 14th, 4:30 pm. Steering Committee meeting follows.

The office will be closed Thursday, July 4th, 2013

Step Seven

Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings

We said the prayer that is given in the book, p76, on our knees (that is, humbly). This need not be done with the sponsor and can be done the moment that the willingness required is there, which could be the same afternoon as finishing the Fifth Step. So the prayer is:

“My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do your bidding. Amen.”

The Big Book says that once we have finished saying the words of the prayer, “We have now completed step seven” (p76). It is as simple as that!

Therefore we do not take this step daily and do not need to say the Step Seven prayer daily. An indication that Steps Six and Seven are a commitment to go further with the program is given by the statement, on page 76, that after we have completed Step Seven, “Now we need more action, without which we find that ‘Faith without works is dead’” Of course, we can never finish the job of doing those “works”, but those are covered by steps 10, 11, 12. Step Seven requires an action and once we have taken it by reading the prayer we have completed the step. The perfect practice of Steps 10, 11 and 12 is an ideal which none of us has ever achieved. The best we can claim for ourselves is that we trying and we are making progress.

Note: it might have happened, but we are not aware of anyone experiencing that their defects of character are completely removed as a result of this. It's not what the prayer requests anyway. It asks not that God remove all defects of character so that we may be comfortable. It asks that God remove our defects only insofar as our usefulness to others is improved. We have experienced, however, that provided we take regular inventory, the resentments and self-centered fears caused by the defects will go and with God's help we find it easier to “do the right thing”.

We learn how to follow the dictates of a Higher Power rather than the dictates of our self-centered will. We note that this step requires us to acknowledge that we are good and bad. We are responsible for our actions. We cannot blame wrongdoing or resentments on alcoholism. They occur in us because of the defects of character. We are not powerless over our defects of character. But we do keep falling short of our ideals because we are not saints. We make progress, not perfection, in this area by trying to do what is right. One of the joys of the program is to admit our wrong doing and to discover that despite this, we are forgiven and we feel loved by God. This is what happened after Step Five and happens after our daily Step 10s.

Also, we find that to judge ourselves as humble is difficult, for it is an act of pride. We find that the easiest thing is to let our sponsors decide. If our sponsors are encouraging us to go on with the program then we can take it that he or she considers us to have sufficient humility to take this step. This step does provide each of us with an ideal of humility to aim for. It is described in Bill's Story. We believe with Bill W that the attitude to aim for is one that matches his realization described on page 13 that, “of myself I am nothing, that without Him I was lost”. The prayer asks God to accept us, both “good and bad”. Many of us feel that an indication of the required humility is in attributing what is bad to ourselves, and what is good to God. If we take responsibility for our defective nature and the bad actions, resentments and fears that result, we will take moral inventory daily. On the other side, we attribute anything good in us to God. So, if we do something good in the day, we don't take the credit but put it down on our gratitude list in the evening and thank God for giving us the grace to do it.

Grapevine Quote

“Our Traditions are set down on paper. But they were written first in our hearts. For each of us knows, instinctively I think, that AA is not ours to do with as we please. We are but caretakers to preserve the spiritual quality of our Fellowship; keep it whole for those who will come after us and have need of what has so generously been given to us.”

AA Co-Founder, Bill W. - November 1950 - "AA Is Not Big Business" - The Language of the Heart

Intergroup Insights

The Intergroup Summer Picnic was a huge success! Thank you, thank you, thank YOU for all you did to help. Over \$2,000 was brought in to help keep the doors of your Intergroup office open. The next fun-filled event, the 2nd Annual Serenity Scramble golf tournament will take place towards the end of the year. If you are interested in helping with the planning of the tournament call the office. Organizational meetings will start soon. Even if you're not a golfer, we could use your help.

The attendance of the monthly IGR meetings has increased. It's a joy to see the groups/meetings become involved at every level of service. All interested AA members, regardless of length of sobriety, are welcome to attend. The Steering Committee still has vacancies that need to be filled. Chair and Co-Chair. Could this be you? Stop by and visit or call. We'd love to hear from you.

In love and service,
Connie C. – Office Manager

Overheard in an AA meeting

- *Treat your mind like a bad neighborhood - don't go there alone.*
- *Ten out of ten people die, so don't take life too seriously.*

North Florida Area Assembly
 Orlando Marriott, Lake Mary, FL.
 July 12-14
aanorthflorida.org/activities.asp

Poker Night
 Lost & Found Club
 Sat., July 13 - 9:15pm

Intergroup Rep Meeting
 Sun., July 14 - 4:30 pm
 3666A NE 25th St.
 Ocala, FL 34470
 Steering Committee follows.

55th ICYPAA
 Biltmore Hotel
 Phoenix, AZ from July 11-14
<http://55th.icypaa.org/>

Lending the AA name?

Tradition Six reminds us to be careful not to endorse I make sure my sponsees know the difference between .A.A. and non-A.A. material. Is it A.A.? Many people feeling they need not ask. The distinction between what is A.A. and what is not is obvious, isn't it? Not necessarily so. Let's study a couple of short examples drawn from my own experience. I was sober almost a year before I realized that certain books were not A.A. literature, and that a local home for low-bottom cases was not an A.A. facility. The reason? I saw outside literature displayed beside our A.A. literature at several groups I attended. I heard such literature quoted at numerous meetings and used as the basis for group discussions on occasion. I also saw many groups sending regular contributions to the rehabilitation center -- money collected during A.A. meetings, money out of our hat, not a separate collection. The obvious conclusion? If we are selling and

57th Florida State Convention
 Wed. – Sun. July 24-28
 Hyatt Regency Jacksonville, FL
<http://57.flstateconvention.com/>

District 17 Meeting
 Thurs., July 25, 6:45 pm
 St. Mark's United Methodist
 1839 NE 8th Rd., 34470

We Give Up Group Celebrates 5 years
 Mon., July 29
 Ascension Lutheran Church
 5730 SE 28th St., Ocala 34480-6429
 5:30pm – 7:00pm Food & Fellowship
 7:00pm – 8:00pm Speaker: Karen R.
 Author of "Crossing the River of Denial"
 Page 328, Alcoholics Anonymous **Dr.**

supporting these things, they must be A.A. I already hear the outrage of our members as they read this. Don't get me wrong. I'm not judging these outside books and organizations as bad or good. It's just that they are not A.A.

Our Sixth Tradition states: "An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

Yet don't we endorse the literature we sell at our meetings? Certainly we do, if only by association. We surely lend the A.A. name to anything we quote often enough in our meetings, and we certainly finance any organization we contribute to.

Our Big Book tells me that there are many helpful books on prayer and meditation, yet it endorses none. It leaves the search to me. Meditation being essentially an individual exercise, we in A.A. have no business standing behind any book as a source of meditation

Bob's Home, Inc. Presents The Second Annual Akron Homecoming
 August 8-11, 2013
 Akron City Center Hotel
 20 West Mill St.
 Akron, Ohio 44308
 drbobshome.com

14th Annual Serenity Weekend Women's Fall Conference 2013 Presents – "THE GIRLSTOCK OF AA"
 Sept. 6-8
 The International Palms Resort
 1300 N. Atlantic Ave.
 Cocoa Beach, FL
 321-783-2271

material. We found long ago that an A.A. group can't effectively manage a drying – out home. The financing and administration of such a haven is best left to interested citizens. I think these issues are important, because the only impression many people receive of Alcoholics Anonymous comes from our open meetings. If we are seen pushing outside literature in rehabilitation homes, what impression do we give to the person who has not been exposed to our Fellowship long enough to know that they are not A.A.? We invariably give the impression that these are A.A. supported entities.

This, in turn, raises a whole new problem. If these things are viewed as A.A. by uninformed outsiders and members, then their actions are naturally seen as A.A. actions.

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 **Congratulations! July Birthdays!** 

Ashley D 1	Jackie C 1	Nicki C 2	Don T 3	Rob P 4	Cameron M 11	Randy M 21	Bosch R 32	June
Linda J 1	Felix L 1	Kenny G 2	Matt D 3	Yvonne M 4	Don M 15	Lori M 23	Bob C 34	Debbie B 26
Jaimie W 1	Donna R 2	Alan R 3	Matt R 3	Ashley C 6	Cathy R. 16	Pat C 25	Mary Jo H 35	Roseanna S 20
Renee R 1	John H 2	Audra C 3	Matt V 3	Jason B 6	Boni G 16	Joe S 28	Gary F 37	
Ryan B 1	John I 2	Craig K 3	Ganetta D 4	Marvin P 6	Michelle M 21	Kate S 30	Charlie M. 38	

Participate in The Birthday Plan - In grateful celebration of their sobriety birthdays, many A.A. members contribute one dollar or more for each year of sobriety to any or all of our four service entities; the local Intergroup, District, Area Assembly, and General Service Office. Every A.A. service is designed to help carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Your Birthday Plan contributions help make our vital services possible. Some members attribute their birthday contribution to their home group. If you make note of your home group's name along with your Birthday contribution, Intergroup District 17 will list your group in this monthly newsletter. Also, a receipt and 'thank you' letter will be sent to your group.

7thTradition Addresses - How groups and individuals support the work of Alcoholics Anonymous

Below is the financial guideline AA World Services suggests to groups that have an Intergroup office in their area.*

50% Intergroup District 17
3666A NE 25th Street
Ocala, FL 34470
Checks payable to: Intergroup District 17, Inc.

30% General Service Office
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10164
Checks payable to: GSO

10% North Florida Area Conference
P.O. Box 360831
Melbourne, FL 32936
Checks payable to: NFAC

10% District 17
P.O. Box 3081
Ocala, FL 34478
Checks payable to: District 17

*From the pamphlet *Where Money & Spirituality Mix*, AA General Service Conference-approved literature

Contributions Fiscal Year June 1, 2012 to May 31, 2013

Group Name	May	Y/T/D
164 Pages		102.76
Alive & Well		25.00
A Light in Citra	5.83	5.83
All You Need	4.41	164.41
Anonymity		14.00
Bellevue Group		300.00
Bellevue Eye Opener	30.00	131.00
Bellevue God's Way		
Blycton Road		79.00
Breakfast Club	208.88	2,009.31
Cabin in the Woods	200.00	603.00
Came to Believe		46.71
Conscious Contact	98.00	98.00
Eleventh Step	150.00	150.00
Experience Strength and Hope	150.00	150.00
Forest Group		94.81
Forest Men's Group		165.00
Fort McCoy Group		.64
Fountain of Gratitude		41.14
Freedom House		29.76
Free To Be		414.59
Fresh Start		1.37
Grace Group		75.93

Group Name	May	Y/T/D
Grupo Mano Abierta		50.31
Happy Hour	40.00	262.51
Happy, Joyous and Free	1,687.00	3,664.27
Headstart	196.91	1,117.51
The Healing Group		
Heavy Hitters	20.00	48.69
Into Action		
It's Not Them		
Keep It Green		
Joy of Living		
Keep It Simple		115.98
Last Call	50.09	52.67
Living Sober		383.55
Lunch Bunch		80.00
McIntosh Group		
Marion Oaks 12 Step		
Mid Afternoon Group		4.25
New Attitudes		37.89
Ocala Group	155.20	1,342.48
Ocala Men's		329.50
One Day at a Time		700.00
Primary Purpose		173.00
Serenity Group		50.00

Group Name	May	Y/T/D
Sisters of Serenity		
Sober Yankees		143.42
Start a New Life		37.50
Stop Whining & Sober Up		
Strength in Numbers		295.66
Summerfield Group		
Sundae Social	75.00	75.00
TLC	.61	7.25
Thursday Night Step		40.00
Together We Can		
Total Surrender		116.00
We Give Up		90.04
We Give Thanks		6.55
Weir Crazy	203.07	668.07
Young People's Group		300.00
District #17		1,700.97
Birthday Club	30.00	895.00
Double Nickel		
Faithful Fivers		15.00
Individual Members	55.00	434.99
Total	3,360.00	18,142.05

A.A. History in July

June 29-July 2, 1995 - 56,000 attend 60th Anniversary of AA in San Diego. What a party!

July 1-3, 1960 - 8700 attend 25th Anniversary of AA in Long Beach, CA

July 2, 1960 - Father Ed Dowling dies.

1965 - *Best of Bill* and pocket-sized *I 2 & I 2*; first sold.

1965 - First *La Vigne*, the Canadian version of the *Grapevine*, is published.

1993 - 50 years of AA celebrated in Canada.

July 2-3, 1955 - 5000 attend 20th Anniversary at our St Louis Convention; Bill W. turns "the fellowship over to the fellowship" at 4:00 PM

July 2-4, 1965 - 10,000 attend 30th Anniversary of AA in Toronto, our Responsibility Declaration is adopted.

July 4, 1939 - First AA meeting in Flatbush, NY starts.

July 3-5, 1970 - 10,900 attend 35th Anniversary of AA in Miami; Bill W. gives his last talk to AA.

July 3-6, 1980 - 22,500 attend 45th Anniversary of AA in New Orleans; first true marathon meeting is held here.

July 4-6, 1975 - 19,800 attend 40th Anniversary of AA in Denver; worlds largest coffee server serves 1/2 million cups a day.

July 5, 1985 - AA gives Ruth Hock 5,000,000th Big Book during 50th AA Anniversary in Montreal, Canada.

1990 - AA gives Nell Wing 10,000,000th Big Book during 55th AA Anniversary in Seattle, WA

July 3-6, 1980 - Gay AA's have own program at 40th AA Anniversary in New Orleans.

July 5-7, 1985 - 45,000 attend 50th Anniversary of AA in Montreal; House of Seagrams flies their flags at half mast for 3 days.

July 7, 1940 - Bill attends first summer session at School of Alcohol Studies at Yale University

July 5-8, 1990 - 48,000 attend 55th Anniversary of AA in Seattle. 75 countries are represented as the former Soviet Union's members attend for the first time.

July 8, 1940 - First AA group formed in Dayton, Ohio.

July 10, 1941 - Texas newspaper publishes anonymous letter from founding member of Texas AA Group.

July 14, 1939 - Blythwood Sanitarium; Dr Harry Tiebout gives Big Book to Marty M. who promptly throws it back at him.

1979 - Dr. Ernest Kurtz publishes *Not God*, a history of AA

July 16, 1965 - Frank Amos AA Trustee dies.

July 20, 1941 - First AA group forms in Seattle, Washington.

July 22, 1877 - William Duncan Silkworth born in Brooklyn, NY.

July 22, 1980 - Marty M. early AA woman and founder of Nationa Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (NCADD) dies.

July 23, 1940 - Philly AA's send 10% of kitty to Alcoholic Foundation, setting precedent.

July 23, 1943 - Esther C.'s sobriety date; she died sober Jan 15, 2005.

July 23, 1943 - New Haven Register CT reports arrival of AA's to study with E.M.Jellinek.

July 24, 1943 - L.A. press reports formation of all-Mexican AA Group.

July 28-30, 1950 - First AA Convention celebrates 15th anniversary of AA in Cleveland.

July 3, 1972 - Rollie H., former baseball player, dies sober in Washington DC.

**A major contributor to Dr. Bob's success in early Akron A.A.
Sister Mary Ignatia (1889-1966)**



Born Della Mary Gavin in 1889 in Ireland, Sister Ignatia worked with Dr. Bob to help admit alcoholics into St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, Ohio, starting in 1939. She surmounted obstacles to personally care for thousands of alcoholics over the next several decades, both in Akron and later at St. Vincent Charity Hospital in Cleveland. Beloved by all who were associated with or helped by her, she was commonly referred to as the "Angel of Alcoholics Anonymous."

Originally a musician, Sister Ignatia was transferred by her order, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Augustine, to St. Thomas Hospital in Akron to work in their admissions office. It was in that capacity that she first met and worked with Dr. Bob. In an interview with Bill W., Sister regaled the co-founder with cherished recollections of Dr. Bob and their work with drunks at St. Thomas:

"Dr. Bob was the essence of professional dignity. He had a fine sense of humor and exceptional vocabulary.... Now, as I look back over the years, I realize that Dr. Bob was slowly but surely preparing me for the great project he had in mind. We often discussed the problem of alcoholism and the tragedies caused by excessive drinking. The individual given to alcoholic addiction is frequently a wreck of humanity – broken in body and soul, and heart and unable to help himself. His loved ones suffer, too; there were many broken homes and hearts because of compulsive drinking." (Recording of Sister Ignatia, 1954)

Her work in helping alcoholics was done with much dignity and modest distinction. In December 1949, she was presented with the Poverello Medal of the College of Steubenville. The medal was given to her for the A.A. Fellowship for her untiring efforts with alcoholics in Akron. In March 1961, Sister Ignatia received a letter of acknowledgment for her pioneering contributions from the White House (President Kennedy), which she shared with Bill W. The letter read:

Dear Sister Mary Ignatia:

Through an admirer of yours, the President has learned of the fine work you have done in the past at St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, and, more recently, at St. Vincent's in Cleveland.

He has been informed that a large number of citizens have been restored to useful citizenship as a result of your efforts. As you have been a strong influence for the good to many people, you have added strength to your community and nation.

In response to receiving a copy of the President's letter, Bill responded to Sister Ignatia and wrote:

We have read the marvelous letter which President Kennedy requested be sent to you. It reminds me that I have no words to tell of my devotion and my gratitude to you, of the constant inspiration you have given me and so many over the years by your example of the finest in all that is spiritual and eternal, as well as temporal.

Following Dr. Bob's death in 1950, Sister Ignatia continued her work at St. Thomas. Then in 1952, she was transferred to St. Vincent Charity Hospital at Cleveland, where she was placed in charge of its alcoholic ward. Upon arrival, the ward at "Charity" was part of a dilapidated wing and was in great need of rejuvenation. Through the Sister's urging and much assistance from A.A. members with carpentry skills, the ward was soon transformed and named Rosary Hall Solarium.

Sister Ignatia provided each patient who left her care with a Sacred Heart badge. Receiving this item was accompanied by a personal promise to the Sister that the patient would return the badge before they drank again.

She died in Richfield Ohio, at age 77, on April 1, 1966. There were reportedly about 3,000 people present at the funeral, including A.A.'s co-founder, Bill W.



