



The Voice



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Intergroup District 17-3666A N.E. 25th St., Ocala, FL 34470 - aaocalaintergroup@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., June 9th, 4:30 pm. Steering Committee meeting follows.

Step Six

Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

This is a short and simple step. We made sure that there was nothing that we had knowingly left out of Step Five (see page 75, last paragraph).

We asked ourselves: am I entirely willing to have my defects removed?

In the light of what we have learnt from Steps Four and Five it is likely that we will be. If we are, then we do not hesitate and move to Step Seven without complicating it further.

However, for some of us there was a hesitation. We felt perhaps that we wanted to hang on to some of the defects and the bad behavior driven by them. For example, some of us wanted to hang on to lust because we thought we would never have sex again. Our sponsors assured us that in this analysis of defects we are talking about the self-seeking part of us. From the very name we give them – defects – it indicates that we are talking about a defective desire. When we are experiencing lust, our motivation is self-centered. We were told that there is another motivation for sex. One that is good – love. Our experience is that when self-centeredness drives us it causes problems in our relationships. So trying to do the loving thing in our relationships is the ideal we aim for.

Similar arguments can be used for any of the defects. For example, pride: acting without pride doesn't mean that we stop dressing well or washing. If we do this out of pride it is likely to be vanity. However, it is good to dress well if we are aiming to look becoming for others. This is not taking a "pride" in our appearance (although that is how we would refer to it in everyday language) but consideration of others. Similarly, we should not be "proud" of our abilities but we can be pleased that we have them and aim to use them to the full because we are grateful to God for having them and we want to use them for good.

When we made a start on the program we had to start the process of living our lives according to spiritual principles. In trying to do the right thing we were doing our best at putting Step 12 into practice – practice these principles in all our affairs. We try to follow the principles of the steps and to "do the right thing". Many of us were inexperienced in this and so need to learn the discernment that could guide us in all our affairs, that is one reason that a sponsor is so helpful. He has been an objective viewpoint who could help us to see how spiritual principles apply in our daily lives. He could point out if we are being dishonest or selfish, for example, where we were blind to it ourselves.

Now that we have completed Step Five, we can see more clearly self-centered and dishonest behavior and attitudes. This does not mean that we no longer need a sponsor, but it does mean that we have more of a sense of what it means to live a life according to spiritual principles. So in the light of this in Step Six, many see it

as a resolution in the light of what we know to carry on with the program, which means completing steps Seven to Nine, and continued practice of 10, 11 and 12. We continue to trust God, clean house (which now means regular written Step 10s) and help others – we try to follow the principles of the steps and to "do the right thing". This commitment is the indication of the willingness we had when we took Step Six. This can apply to our conduct in all areas where a code of morality applies: for example, questions of honesty and sexual morality. A more detailed discussion of how we know what is the right thing to do is given in Step 12 in discussing practicing these principles in all our affairs.

If we are struggling to be willing, then we can ask God to be given the necessary willingness until we receive it.

Our most sincere condolences to the family and friends of Sam S. from the Living Sober group and Margaret B. who was an Intergroup volunteer and from the old Winner's Circle Club. They helped many people in their years of sobriety and will be greatly missed.

Intergroup Insights – If you're procrastinating buying a ticket to the summer picnic June 22nd at Carney Island, remember the deadline is June 15th. On that date all monies and unsold tickets will be turned in. This year's event is packed with all kinds of fun. Face painting, volleyball, badminton, soccer, swimming, smack the piñata, horseshoes, music, dancing, food, 50/50 raffle, fun, speaker meeting, auction, and fellowship to name a few. Desserts and side dishes are welcome. Also, if you'd like to bring a deck of cards or any other game, please do.

Did you know that you can sponsor an inmate? Pen pal applications are available at the office or through the Men's (Frank B.) or Women's Corrections Chairs (Lori M.). A special 5th Step form is available so you will be able to do this step face to face. All your personal information is kept completely confidential. The mail goes through the office and will be dispersed to you by the Corrections Chairs or myself. Imagine sitting in a cell for the rest of your life because in a black out you did great harm to someone. Going to AA meetings once a week is all you have to help you stay sober. There is a need for sponsors. Could this special type of sponsor be you?

There are openings for AA members with one year or more sobriety to work at the desk. Time slots open are Wednesday 2:00 – 5:00pm, Saturday 10:00am – 2:00pm. This service position is extremely rewarding to your sobriety.

The Intergroup Steering Committee is in dire need of a Chair and Co-Chair. Two years of sobriety is required. See the By-laws at our website www.aocalamarion.org for a description of duties. Attend the Intergroup Rep/Steering Committee meeting the second Sunday of every month at 4:30pm at the office. We would love you see you. In love and service,
Connie C. – Office Manager

Traditions 6, 7 & 8

Tradition 1 explains the need for AA unity and that all the Traditions work towards this end. Tradition 12 reminds us that they do so by requiring us to take actions of humility and countering the defects of character that reside in all of us. Traditions 6, 7 and 8 protect AA from our greed and dishonesty. They concern money.

The long form of Tradition 7 reads: **The AA groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those AA treasuries with continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money and authority.**

This Tradition outlines the idea of corporate poverty. We try to avoid accumulating money. Also, after the initial setting-up period, a group declines outside contributions. This tradition protects AA as a whole from dishonest alcoholics. It is the principle of autonomy applied to finances. Wherever there is a pile of money, you can be sure that we will quarrel about it and pretty soon an alcoholic somewhere will try to steal it; the bigger the pot of money, the greater the temptation. Such disputes are likely to bring the group down, but as long as each group is not financially connected to any other, it cannot bring any other groups down with it. Similarly, if AA as a whole is not receiving any outside funds, it cannot bring AA into dispute with any outside agencies, which might have been cheated of their money. Occasionally, there are difficulties when a group fails to pay the rent and comes to its local intergroup for help. On these occasions, the intergroup might pitch in and pay the outstanding amount, but only on the condition that the group is closed down. This saves AA's good name without supporting the group that is failing to be self-supporting artificially. Also, if a group is not reliant on any other, or any outside agencies, for money, then it will not compromise its message in order to try to please the outside donors. This helps to protect the integrity of the AA message.

This question of preserving the integrity of the AA message is important. Tradition 8 is designed to deal with this in particular: **Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage non-alcoholic. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual AA "12 Step" work is never to be paid for.**

Businesses are successful because they give people what they want. As we know, what we want and what we need are not always the same thing. If we were offering AA for money, the temptation to adapt it so that it corresponds more to what people will pay for might be too great for some of us to resist. Changing the message until it is palatable is contrary to spirit of the chapter Working with Others, which outlines our general approach: we lay the program out on the table and then sit back and let people decide if they want to pick it up or not. If they don't want it, we don't change the program, we drop our prospect and switch our focus onto others that do.

If we wanted to sell AA to make money, we might be tempted to alter a few things so that people were more inclined to do it. This Tradition does not say there is anything wrong with people outside the context of an AA group charging people for doing the program. In fact AA has always aimed to cooperate with everyone who treats alcoholics. It just says that if we do charge, we shouldn't call it AA. Also, AAs are as entitled as anyone else to be professionals in alcohol treatment. If anyone pays us for carrying the message, it does not affect the usefulness of the advice given and so may help to keep the individual who receives the advice sober. However, it will not help to keep the counselor who gave the advice sober because it does not represent 12th-step work. If we work professionally in alcohol-related fields and want the benefits of the AA program, we must do 12-step work that is freely given as well as our paid work.

Tradition 6 concerns a special case where we do need to accumulate large sums of money: **Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to AA should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An AA group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to AA, such as clubs or hospitals which require much property and administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the AA name. Their management should be sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, AA managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside AA – and medically supervised. While an AA group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An AA group can bind itself to no one.**

This Tradition has most application where there are clubhouses. These are run by individuals and have meetings round the clock as well as coffee bars and social rooms. They are legally separated from AA, and are usually run as not-for-profit organizations with a different name, for example, Alano Club, and each AA group rents space from them in the usual way. This means that if they go under, they don't bring AA down with them.

DCM's Corner - Carson F.

Thank you to all of the Officers, Committee Chairpersons and GSRs that regularly attend the District 17 meetings. The District could not operate for the good of AA and the groups without your support. To those GSRs that are not attending, please consider being at the next meeting on May 30, 2013 at St. Mark's (Ocala Group) at 6:45 PM. The group GSR is a vital link (voice) between the Area, District and your home group. I hope to see you soon.

Saturday, May 18th, I attended The Volunteer Appreciation Banquet at Lowell Correctional Institute (LCI). It was an awesome event. The Staff and women of LCI made it quite clear that the volunteers are appreciated. AA was recognized as the Re-Entry Volunteer Group for the Annex at LCI. It was a humbling experience. Like all of the groups represented, the women of AA who carry the message to the women at LCI, we do it out of love and service. It has been a frustrating year getting more of our AA women volunteers cleared to enter the facility. Saturday evening made our efforts worthwhile. District 17 is planning several workshops during the next year. Be on the lookout for service opportunities and a chance to learn more about AA.

Intergroup Picnic Planning Meeting

Mon., June 3, 10, 17 - 6:30pm
St. Matthew's Lutheran
3453 E Silver Springs Blvd.
Ocala, FL 34470
All are welcome.

Dance with DJ Daryl

Fri., June 7th - 9:00pm
\$4.00 admission
Lost & Found Club
2315 NE 29th Terr.
Ocala, FL 34470

Living Sober group

June 9, Sun. 7:30 pm
Speaker: Camden A.
July 14, Sun. 7:30 pm
Eat and Speak meeting
Speaker: Jim V. of Gainesville
got sober in Chicago
First Congregational UCC
7171 SW Hwy 200 Ocala, FL
34476

Intergroup Rep Meeting

Sun., June 9 - 4:30 pm
3666A NE 25th St.
Ocala, FL 34470
Steering Committee follows.

Bingo

Sat., June 15th - 9:00pm
Lost & Found Club
2315 NE 29th Terr.
Ocala, FL 34470

Intergroup 17 Summer Picnic

Sat., June 22 - Carney Island
13275 SE 115 Ave.,
Ocklawaha 32179
Advanced ticket sales only
\$6.00 adults \$4.00 children
under 12 Lunch 12:00 Noon
Burgers and dogs on the grill.
Sides and desserts welcome.
Speaker: Frank W. of the
Carry this Message 4th
Dimension Group

District 17 Meeting

Thurs., June 27, 6:45 pm
St. Mark's United Methodist
1839 NE 8th Rd., 34470

District 14 Archives Committee

Presents Founder's Day 2013

June 8, Sat., 4 pm - 10 pm
History Speaker: Chet P.
Speaker: Karen R. - author of
"Crossing the River of
Denial" Big Book pg. 328
Trinity United Methodist
4000 NW 53rd Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32653
Bring a covered dish to
share. \$5.00 in advance.
Dinner & Dance & 50/50

Founders' Day Herald 78th Anniversary of

Alcoholics Anonymous
June 7 - 9, Akron, OH
www.akronaa.org

55th ICYPAA

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

A Spiritual Weekend

June 21-23 with
Sandy B. of Tampa, FL
Bob B. of St. Paul, MN
Hilton Airport Westshore
2225 N. Lois Ave
Tampa, FL 33607
813.877.6688 or
800.HILTONS
More info call Lee Y.
407.333.4330

7th Tradition 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

Intergroup Contributions	April	YTD
164 Pages		102.76
Alive & Well		25.00
A Light in Citra		
All You Need	47.00	160.00
Anonymity	3.47	14.00
Belleview Group		300.00
Belleview Eye Opener		101.00
Belleview God's Way		
Blichton Road		79.00
Breakfast Club	240.00	1,800.43
Cabin in the Woods		403.00
Came to Believe		46.71
Conscious Contact		
Eleventh Step		
Experience Strength & Hope		
Forest Group		94.81
Forest Men's Group		165.00
Fort McCoy Group		0.64
Fountain of Gratitude		41.14
Freedom House		29.76
Free To Be	212.00	202.59
Fresh Start		1.37
Grace Group		75.93

	April	YTD
Grateful Gals	40.00	151.50
Grupo Mano Abierta	25.31	50.31
Happy Hour	82.51	222.51
Happy, Joyous and Free		1977.27
Headstart	203.36	920.60
The Healing Group		
Heavy Hitters	10.00	28.69
Into Action		
It's Not Them		
Keep It Green		
Joy of Living		
Keep It Simple		115.98
Last Call		2.58
Living Sober	75.00	383.55
Lunch Bunch		80.00
McIntosh Group		
Marion Oaks 12 Step		
Mid Afternoon Group		4.25
New Attitudes		37.89
Ocala Group		1,187.28
Ocala Men's		329.50
One Day at a Time	100.00	700.00
Primary Purpose	31.00	173.00

	April	YTD
Serenity Group		50.00
Shores Of Sobriety		50.23
Sober Yankees		143.42
Start a New Life		37.50
Stop Whining & Sober Up		
Strength in Numbers	98.00	295.66
Summerfield Group		
Sundae Social		
TLC	.32	6.64
Thursday Night Step		40.00
Together We Can		
Total Surrender		116.00
We Give Up	23.75	90.04
We Give Thanks		6.55
Weir Crazy		465.00
Young People's Group	200.00	300.00
District #17	100.00	1700.97
Birthday Club	80.00	865.00
Double Nickel		
Faithful Fivers		15.00
Individual Members	27.65	379.99
Total	1,599.37	14,782.05

