

The Voice

Volume 27, Number 4

April 2010



One member's voice

A door I didn't know was there.

A story of experience, strength, and hope

"Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves."

When I stood at the crossroads of life and recognized unmanageability, insanity, and hopelessness, I thought this would be easy to straighten out!

All my new friends in Alcoholics Anonymous made this spiritual journey look very simple and quite inviting. I saw women who looked great and sounded even better. Men spoke of their true feelings and their spiritual walk! Yes, I decided, I would go for it!

I was introduced to my sponsor and without losing much time, she had me reading the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* and underlining the things I could relate to. The chapter "How it Works" was particularly intriguing. If I wanted what you guys had I should be willing to go to any length to get it. Any length did not really bother me until we got to Step Four.

I was very surprised at how long this step took! I later learned that most alcohol-

ics in early recovery drag their feet on this one out of fear.

The first thing I was told to do was to search out the flaws in my own makeup, the ones that had caused my failure. I didn't mind this too much. I looked at these flaws as traits I was born with, characteristics I could not help!

I listed these traits and didn't like what I saw. I had been to enough meetings by now that I knew I was going to have to learn to live without these traits. I moved on with much anxiety.

My sponsor, Stephanie, said I should list people from my past that I was mad at or holding a little grudge against! Well I did not think I was mad at too many folks. And quite frankly I couldn't see the value of this particular exercise, but it was in THE BOOK, so she insisted we go through with it.

As the days went by, and the alcoholic fog lifted I was able to make quite a lengthy

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When it rains, it pours.



Be prepared for a busy April. New groups, new meetings, workshops, celebrations, Area Assembly, and more.

See details inside.

A quote for April

Whenever a great need arises, that need is always met.

Bill W

Put yourself on the front line of service work. Intergroup 17 needs volunteers immediately.

Over the past few weeks, Intergroup 17 has lost the services of five loyal volunteers due to illness, injury, necessary absences, and even the good fortune of landing a full-time job.

This has created a critical shortage in staffing for the Intergroup office desk.

If you or someone you know is looking for a temporary or more long-term service opportunity, now is the time to step up and say, "Yes, I will."

The benefits that your service brings to others are

immeasurable. The joy you receive from directly carrying the message is enormous.

- Duties include answering phones, greeting visitors, and sales transactions for literature and gifts
- Shifts are for three or four hours only, 10 am to 2 pm (Mon-Sat) or 2 pm to 5 pm (Mon-Fri)
- A variety of shifts and days are available
- You can volunteer for just one or several shifts

- Training is provided; the job is easy to learn
- One year of continuous sobriety required.

Volunteer today!

Please give this request your serious consideration and pass the word along to other members, especially your home group. We need your help now.

To volunteer or learn more, call 352 867-0660 or visit the office at 3666-A N.E. 25th Street, Ocala. Do it today.

Congratulations April Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate anniversaries of our local AA family members that add up to a collective 387 years. That's more than 141,255 days of sobriety. One day at a time!

Jimmy G	28 years	Barb B	1 year	Craig C	6 years
Gil G	26 years	Diane A	1 year	Dennis	6 years
John B	20 years	Donna R	1 year	Max F	6 years
Tim B	18 years	Jeff B	1 year	Renee	5 years
Darlene C	15 years	Kate M	1 year	Greg B	4 years
Liza W	15 years	Mark K	1 year	Christina B	2 years
Geno F	13 years	Pat W	1 year	Beth T	1 year
Rex C	11 years	Scott S	1 year	Diane W	1 year
Buddy S	10 years	Terri H	1 year	Kari	1 year
Caroline	9 years	Vinnie C	1 year	Lisa	1 year
Trish D	8 years			Meghan	1 year
Will E	7 years				
Tammy	6 years				
Cree	6 years				
Alan W	5 years				
Jim J	5 years				
Marie B	5 years				
Rex W	5 years				
Fred C	4 years				
Rick F	2 years				
Ronnie G	2 years				
Ronnie S	2 years				

MARCH

John J	30 years
Mike I	20 years
Carol W	18 years
Bill J	9 years
Donny B	9 years
Michelle	9 years
Rick B	9 years
Linda	7 years

Please share your AA birthday with all. Deadline for May birthdays is April 20.

E-mail to: thevoice@aaocalamarion.org
Telephone: 352 867-0660.

A greeting of gratitude and a birthday gift to Ocala-Marion County Fellowship

The following letter from a married couple, both members of the fellowship, arrived at the Intergroup 17 offices just the other day:

Hi There:

Intergroup 17 has provided a valuable service to our AA community for the years we have been residents of District 17. It is with a great feeling of gratitude that we wish to join the Birthday Club.

The enclosed check represents a combined total of seventy years of happy and joyous sobriety for my wife and I. Much of those years have been spent watching and assisting in the growth of our Intergroup.

The tremendous improvements in the Voice and other services you have provided is a monument to the growth of Marion County AA. Thank you and please keep up the great work."

**Would you like to join
the Birthday Club?
How about honoring your
sponsor, sponsee, or
another fellow member?**



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.

Make checks payable to and send with celebrant's information to:

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

Free Subscription. The Voice by e-mail. Sent anonymously.

For your free monthly subscription, send an e-mail with "Free Voice" in the subject line to: thevoice@aaocalamarion.org

The Voice by e-mail can be read using Adobe Reader. Free download available at www.adobe.com. Printed copies at Intergroup office. Current and past issues can be viewed online at aaocalamarion.org

April by the Books

STEP FOUR

"Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves."

How instincts can exceed their proper function. Step Four is an effort to discover our liabilities. Basic problem of extremes in instinctive drives. Misguided moral inventory can result in guilt, grandiosity, or blaming others. Assets can be noted with liabilities. Self-justification is dangerous. Willingness to take inventory brings light and new confidence. Step Four is beginning of lifetime practice. Common symptoms of emotional insecurity are worry, anger, self-pity, and depression. Inventory reviews relationships. Importance of thoroughness.

Twelve Steps Twelve Traditions, page 6

Some will object to many of the questions posed, because they think their own character defects have not been so glaring. To these it can be suggested that a conscientious examination is likely to reveal the very defects the objectionable questions are concerned with. Because our surface record hasn't looked too bad, we have frequently been abashed to find that this is so simply because we have buried these selfsame defects deep down in us under thick layers of self-justification. Whatever the defects, they have finally ambushed us into alcoholism and misery.

Therefore, thoroughness ought to be the watchword when taking inventory. In this connection, it is wise to write out our questions and answers. It will be an aid to clear thinking and honest appraisal. It will be the first tangible evidence of our complete willingness to move forward.

Twelve Steps Twelve Traditions, page 54

TRADITION FOUR

(Long Version)

With respect to its own affairs, each AA group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect AA as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.

Twelve Steps Twelve Traditions, page 180

When that [cloud of failure] lifted, a wonderful thing had happened. The head promoter wrote the Foundation office. He said he wished he'd paid some attention to AA experience. Then he did something else that was to become an AA classic. It all went on a little card about golf-score size. The cover read "Middleton Group #1, Rule #62." Once the card was unfolded, a single pungent sentence leaped to the eye: "Don't take yourself too damn seriously."

Thus it was that under Tradition Four an AA group had exercised its right to be wrong. Moreover, it had performed a great service for Alcoholics Anonymous, because it had been humbly willing to apply the lessons it learned. It had picked itself up with a laugh and gone on to better things. Even the chief architect, standing in the ruins of his dream, could laugh at himself-and that is the very acme of humility.

Twelve Steps Twelve Traditions, page 140

CONCEPT FOUR

Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation," taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

The principal of "Participation" has been carefully built into our Conference structure. The Conference Charter specifically provides that the Trustees, the Director of our service corporations. (AA World Services, Inc. and The AA Grapevine, Inc.), together with their respective executive staffs, shall always be voting members of the General Service Conference itself.

Exactly the same concept is borne in mind when our General Service Board elects the Directors of its wholly-owned active service corporations, AA World Services, Inc. and own Trustees to these corporate directorships. But a powerful tradition has grown up to the effect that this never ought to be done.

Twelve concepts page 17

The "Right of Participation" is therefore a corrective of ultimate authority because it mitigates its harshness or misuse. It also encourages us who serve AA to accept the necessary disciplines that our several tasks require.

We can do this when we are sure that we belong, when the fact of our "participation assures us that we are truly the "trusted servants" described in AA's Tradition Two.

Twelve concepts page 21

Plug into Intergroup 17 online

Explore our new website features: www.aaocalamarion.org
Subscribe to The Voice by email: thevoice@aaocalamarion.org



I am responsible. Whenever anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA to be there. For that I am responsible.

Intergroup is self-supporting through the contributions of the groups and individuals we serve. We accept no outside contributions and generate a minimal additional income from the sale of literature. Intergroup is absolutely reliant upon group contributions to continue to provide our services.

Today, Intergroup 17 faces critical financial challenges. The average monthly operating expenses run between \$2500 and \$2800. Unfortunately, group contributions have dropped sharply in the past year putting Intergroup 17 in serious financial difficulty.

Only about 20 percent of area

groups make financial contributions, regularly. Support is much needed and gratefully acknowledged. If your group does not contribute regularly, please consider doing so. If you as an individual can make a direct personal contribution, your gift will be gratefully welcomed.

How Groups and Individuals Support the Work of AA

Group contributions are the major funding source for 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
P.O. Box 1192
Ocala, FL 34478

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

NFAC
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)

Make your contribution today.

"When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat, we give a token that we are grateful for our blessing and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer."

Bill W, Language of the Heart

There are many ways to contribute to Intergroup 17 as an individual. Please indicate your preferred method below, complete the form, enclose your contribution made payable to Intergroup 17 Inc., and mail to Intergroup 17, P.O Box 1192, Ocala, Fl. 344708

Faithful Fiver. \$5 contribution each month

Double Nickel. \$10 each month.

Birthday Club: \$ _____

One-a-year contribution: \$ _____

Providing any or all of the following information is optional:

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contributions may be tax deductible. Please consult your tax preparer for more information and guidance.

Group Contributions to Intergroup 17 February 2010

**Figures below reflect total contributions for fiscal year 2009-10.
Report below is from June 1, 2009 through February 28, 2010 only.**

GROUP NAME	\$ Feb '10 Contributions	Contributions 6/1/09- YTD	GROUP NAME	\$ Feb '10 Contributions	Contributions 6/1/09- YTD
164 Pages Group		\$ 69.19	Living Sober Group	45.00	532.22
17th Street Group			Lunch Bunch Group	100.85	249.96
Acceptance	\$ 50.00	150.00	McIntosh Group		
Alive and Well		80.00	Men's Group Ocala		502.00
All You Need Group		33.41	New Attitudes Group		92.09
Anonymity Group			New Beginnings Group		
As Bill Sees It		391.65	New Life Group		
Belleview Eye Opener			No Name Group	41.25	124.50
Belleview God's Way		15.77	Ocala Group	59.52	1,954.89
Belleview Group	188.85	288.99	Ocklawaha AM Group		
Bonfire Group			One Page At A Time		
Breakfast Club		2,040.79	Primary Purpose Group		69.00
Came To Believe		20.00	Resentment Too Group		
Charity Group			Second Step Group		
Citra Group	50.00	56.69	Shores of Sobriety		110.00
Come As You Are		25.00	Sisters of Serenity		
Conscious Contact		84.41	Start A New Life		400.00
Day by Day			Steps and Promises		
Dunnellon Group			Stop Whining & Sober Up		150.00
Dunnellon Rainbow			Strength In Numbers		0.70
Eleventh Step Group			Summerfield Group		32.00
Experience, Strength & Hope			Summerfield New Green		
First Impressions			Sm'field Living in Today		
Forest Group	50.07	210.07	Sundae Social Group		
Fountain of Gratitude	17.00	144.00	TLC Group, The Centers		8.70
Free To Be		90.00	Thursday Night Step Gp.		
Ft. McCoy Group		40.00	We Give Thanks		80.00
Grace Group			We Give Up		42.50
Grateful Gals			Weir Crazy		440.00
Green Group			Williston Winners		
Grupo Mano Abierta	25.00	75.00	Won Rebos Group		
Grupo Nueva Vida			Young People's Group		
Happy Hour Group	50.00	100.00	District 17	255.00	255.00
Happy, Joyous & Free	247.00	1,502.75	Birthday Club (personal)	102.00	102.22
Headstart Group	30.00	285.95	Double Nickel (personal)		10.00
It's In The Book			Faithful 5-ers (personal)	15.00	70.00
Keep It Simple	100.00	408.00	Individuals (other)	42.50	324.56
Last Call Group	75.00	125.00	Total	\$1,544.04	\$11,886.94
Last House on the Block					
Life is Good Sober Group					
Life Saver Group		100.15			

Intergroup 17 Call Center February 2009

Meeting info requests	72
Twelfth Step Calls	6
Office transactions	31
Visitors	52
Al-Anon	11
Miscellaneous	37

*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.

District 17 Corner

Highlights of the February 25, 2010 meeting.

- 22 officers, chairpersons, and GSRs in attendance
- Volunteers needed to help staff registration desk at Area Assembly in July
- Ashley C elected new treasurer
- CPCPI to focus on communications with local police and fire departments in 2010
- Sherry R elected to chair the Corrections Committee. Volunteers always needed. Collecting back issues of the Grapevine for inmate use.
- Suggested that groups redirect District and GSO contributions to Intergroup 17 for a few months
- New meeting added for Phoenix House. Volunteers need to take meetings to men and women..
- Seeking volunteers to assist with the 2010 Gratitude Dinner.

Want to get involved.

Attend the next
District 17 meeting.

**Thursday, April 29, 6 pm
St. Marks UMC, Ocala
All Welcome**

Archives Reflections

Remember the Serenity House?

Don't worry. Neither do most. But a few still do.

Joan M (who used to be Joan S) and Jim S stopped by recently because Jim just moved back to the area and is celebrating 45 years of sobriety. Joan is celebrating 35 years.

Jim was very influential in AA activities in 1975. He had moved up from Miami and was dedicated to starting a clubhouse here in Ocala, which he did.

The Serenity House stood on the corner of 19th Street and Magnolia. The bungalow building, which is no longer there, included a dining room/living room that served as the meeting space.

At that time the membership consisted of Dave B, Jim S, Jack W, Bob from NY (who lived in Half Moon), Carol F, Quentin, and Georgia.

These are some of the people who helped to "pass it on" long before many in Ocala got sober. Thank God they were into service work and carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic.



Each month, as Archives chairperson for District 17, Kathy P, shares a reflection from the written and oral history of Ocala-Marion County. The District Archives are housed at Intergroup 17 offices. If you have a story, memory, documents, photos, or other memorabilia that relate to our local history, please let Kathy know. Leave a message at Intergroup with phone number or email address, and Kathy will contact you. Call 352 867 0660.

Autonomy Is Not an Excuse

Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.

The Fourth Tradition seems to me to be one of the least understood and most misinterpreted. During discussions of Tradition Four, I've heard opinions expressed all the way from "Autonomous means we can do whatever we want" to "AA as a whole is affected by everything a group does--it's just a matter of degree."

In my experience, the truth lies somewhere in between these two. The idea that a group is autonomous has been used to justify breaking other Traditions (such as affiliating with a club or a treatment facility or failing to be self-supporting by accepting gifts of money or services or rent-free meeting places from other organizations), and to justify failure to participate in AA as a whole through the service structure. Disunity has been seen as independence, and self-will has been justified, all in the name of autonomy.

Familiarity with the long form of Tradition Four has helped me understand the principle involved. The long form reads: "With respect to its own affairs, each AA group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole without conferring with the Trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount."

In the long form, the emphasis is on responsibility to the group conscience, and independence from outside influence. No mention is made of separation from other groups or AA as a whole. Instead, emphasis is placed on concern for the welfare of other groups and of AA as a whole: "On such issues our common welfare is paramount."

On matters affecting only my group we have unlimited freedom. No other group can say when, where, or how often our groups should meet. Our format, meeting length, room setup, and internal business affairs concern only the members of our group. We are guided by all of the Twelve Traditions in making

our group decisions, but they are our decisions to make. And no other individual or organization has a right to dictate to a group regarding these matters. We ensure our autonomy from outside influence by applying the other Traditions--we are self-supporting; we do not endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to other organizations or causes; we avoid public controversy; we remain non-professional.

When the actions of our group affect other groups, however, we are told those groups ought to be consulted. Such situations might include scheduling conflicts, public information efforts, carrying the message into local treatment and correctional facilities, and directing the activities of our local central office. Our group has found that these matters can best be handled in cooperation with other groups through participation in the AA service structure at the district level.

And what about matters affecting AA as a whole? Our group feels strongly that any public anonymity break, solicitation of funds from outside our Fellowship, affiliation with other organizations or institutions--in short, any violation of the Traditions has the potential to affect AA as a whole, and in these matters it is essential to confer with the General Service structure through our area delegate.

We also have a responsibility to share with our delegates, and through them with the entire Fellowship, any bright and shining idea for improvement of Alcoholics Anonymous we may come up with. Do we have a more effective way to carry the message? Have we found the answer to encouraging better communication and participation? Are we aware of a strong need for an additional service committee, pamphlet, video, or other tool for carrying the message? We have not only the opportunity, but the obligation, to share our ideas and information.

*From the Grapevine, April 1998
Reprinted by permission AA World Services,
New York, New York.*

Tradition Four as Bill sees it.

A declaration of mutual trust and love.

Tradition Four is yet another confident declaration of mutual trust and love as it flows from each AA group to the other.

We give each group full autonomy, the undisturbed right to manage its own affairs. To make this condition doubly permanent and secure, we have guaranteed to all AA groups that they will never be subjected to any centralized government or authority.

In turn, each group agrees that it will never take any action that could injure us all.

Rarely indeed has any AA group ever forgotten that precious trust.

Bill W
Grapevine
November 1960

Fourth Tradition Checklist

- Do I insist that there are only a few *right* ways of doing things in AA?
- Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of Loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?
- Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?
- Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?
- Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths--his lengths, not mine --to stay sober?
- Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?

Reprinted from the AA Grapevine by permission of AA World Services

IN MEMORIAM TED H

Members of the Summerfield Group would like to express their sorrow at the passing of a beloved member of their group, Ted H, who died unexpectedly as a result of an automobile accident on February 22. He will be greatly missed.

Free Subscription. The Voice by e-mail. Sent anonymously.

For your free monthly subscription, send an e-mail with "Free Voice" in the subject line to:

thevoice@aaocalamarion.org

The Voice by e-mail can be read using Adobe Reader. Free download at www.adobe.com. Printed copies available at Intergroup office. Also view current and past issues online at www.aaocalamarion.org

A door I didn't know was there.

Continued from page 1

list of people that had harmed me! The feelings of anger and fear and guilt were overwhelming at times during this process. My sponsor said that was normal.

"After all," she said, "you are quite the drama queen, and everything is such a big deal to you!" I was carrying around burdens and resentments for so long they seemed comfortable to me. Much like a toddler who will not leave his ratty "blankie" behind, those feelings were all I knew.

Stephanie then told me to list things I had done in my drinking years that caused harm to other people. I certainly had no trouble remembering most of the wrongs I had committed. I was, after all my worst enemy.

Remembering and writing these things were the most painful parts of this step for me. My mom died the year before I got sober. My children had gone many nights without me at home. I had been fired for stealing liquor. I had been arrested. The list seemed to go on and on.

I suggested to Stephanie that I could just admit I had screwed up my whole life and everyone around me and go from there. She let me in on the secret that we will need this list later in the remaining steps. So I had to go to any length again and make the list of my own sins.

Stephanie explained how to relate these shortcomings to fear and sex. I had to get direction from her many times during this process. She always assured me this was quite normal to have hesitations and questions, and the most important thing about the whole process was to never give up.

I thought she was just trying to scare me into doing the work when she told me that most of her sponsees who do not do a fourth step go out and drink again. Now that I am a sponsor, I know she was being very honest about that.

Step Four opened a door that I did not know was there. When I found this new way to think and act, I was overwhelmed with feelings, some good and peaceful, some dark and scary. I knew what was next because someone I trusted very much told me, and so far she had never been wrong.

As long as I can honestly look at

how my own behavior hurts me I can go with the plan to change it. Now that I have gone through all twelve steps, I can look with love and forgiveness at the people who have hurt me

This way of life is not just a program. It is a dream come true, a mother's answered prayer. I will live it one day at a time for the rest of my life. I have lived many different lives. This one is my all time favorite!

Nancee B
Ocala, Florida
April 2010



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

Upcoming Events and Meetings of Interest

Ocala/Marion County

There are more than 140 AA meetings per week in Ocala/Marion county visit. Check out the Where & When online: www.aacalamarion.org

Monday

Beginners Meeting

17th Street Group

6:00pm every Monday

Church of Christ

2730 SE Maricamp Rd., Ocala

Wednesday

Meditation

Conscious Contact

7:00pm every Wednesday

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

3452 NE Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala

Spanish Speaking

Grupo Nueva Vida

7:00pm every Wednesday

150-A SW 23rd Ave. (1/2 block South of Ft. King), Ocala

Thursday

Eat 'n Speak

Keep It Simple Group

Last Thursday of the month

Eat: 7:00pm Speaker: 8:00pm

Small fee for meal

ALL INVITED!

Ascension Lutheran Church

5730 SE 28th Street, 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

Friday

Speaker Meeting

Experience, Strength and Hope

8:00pm every Friday

Druid Hills Methodist Church

1712 SE Lake Weir Blvd., Ocala

Spanish Speaking

Grupo Mano Abierta

7:00pm every Friday

2082 Walnut Street, Dunnellon

Saturday

Eat 'n Speak

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

Spanish Speaking

Grupo Mano Abierta

7:00pm every Saturday

2082 Walnut Street, Dunnellon

Sunday

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 LOCATION

Heavy Hitters of Ocala (men's group)

Closed Big Book Discussion

Saturdays, 5:00-6:30 pm

Unity Place

525 NE Sanchez, Bldg 300, Ocala

The Come As You Are

Women's Group

Big Book, first Tuesday of month

Speaker, last Tuesday of month

1138 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Thursday Night Step Group

Closed Step Meeting

Thursdays, 8 pm

South Ocala Baptist Church

2907 SE 52nd St, Ocala, FL

Carry the Message Group

Needs your support!

Open Discussion, 7PM

Monday

Zion United Methodist Church

1605 Blichton Road

(Corner ML King Blvd & Blichton)

NEW GROUP. NEW MEETING.

Carry the Message Group Big Book Study Meeting Sundays, 5:00 to 6:30 pm

Our Saviour Lutheran Church
206 Marion Oaks Lane
Ocala, Florida



We look forward to seeing you and solving our common problem together

For additional information, call Frank at 245-3196. If no answer, please leave a message and contact information.

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

Sober Yankees Group

New Group. New meeting.

Tuesdays, 7 pm, starting March 2

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

Special Events, Celebrations, Notices

Start a New Life Group
Big Book Step Study
Invites You to a

Fourth Step Workshop
Saturday, April 17 2010

Nine Speakers.
What a deal!

Agenda

- 10:00 am Resentments
- 11:30 am Fear
- 1:00 pm Lunch
- 2:00 pm Sex relations

Bring your Big Book!
Suggested donation \$5.00

Fourth Step Workshop
Saturday, April 17, 2010
10:00 am to 3:30 pm
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
1839 NE 8th Street
Ocala, Florida

Apr 17, 2010
4th Step Workshop

Resentment Group &
Attitude Adjustment Group

9:30 am: Coffee & donuts
10:00 am: Workshop begins

Worksheets provided.
Please bring
Big Book
12&12
Pen & notebook

4th Step Workshop
Saturday April 17, 10 am
Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church
Inverness, Florida

More information
Call Willye: 601-5362
Ellen 726-2074
Jay 212-0234

The **wEiR cRaZy**
GrOup
"wEiR wEir HaPpY"
Presents
6th Annual
Miracles In May Celebration
on Beautiful Lake Weir

Celebrating the 75 Year Anniversary
of the meeting of Bill W. and Dr Bob

Wednesday, May 12, 2010
6:00 pm Cook Out
7:00 pm Speaker
Lee Y, Orlando, Florida



The group will provide hamburgers,
hot dogs, soft drinks, & coffee.
Please bring a covered dish or dessert.
And your favorite chair or blanket.

St. Johns Lutheran Church
10495 Sunset Harbor Rd ,
Summerfield/Weirsdale, FL

For More Information
Michelle M 352.303.7344
Michelle Y 352.216.0304
Email hdwildfire@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar

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

4/9-11, 2010 North Florida Area As-
sembly, Gainesville.
www.aanorthflorida.org

4/17, 2010 Fourth Step Workshop,
Start a New Life Group, St. Mark's,
Ocala

4/17, 2010 4th Step Workshop, Resent-
ment Group & Attitude Adjustment
Group, Inverness.

5/12, 2010 Miracles in May, Weir Crazy
Group, Summerfield/Weirsdale

7/1-4, 2010 International Convention, A
Vision for You. San Antonio, TX. Regis-
ter now. www.aa.org

8/11-15, 2010 54th Florida State Con-
vention, Miami.
<http://54.flstateconvention.com>

Looking for a local meeting?

Choose from more than 160
meetings a week.



When and Where online!
www.aocalamarion.org

April at the
Lost and Found Club

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

Check the club for scheduled activities.

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

DISCLAIMER. *The Voice* newslet-
ter 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* edito-
rial 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 .

Sunday, April 11, 5:15 pm
St Mark's United Methodist
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Free Subscription. The Voice by e-mail.



For your free monthly subscription, 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: info@aaocalamarion.org
Website: 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.

Hotline & 12th Step calls.

InterGroup has a critical need for volunteers to answer our 24-Hour Hotline "after business hours" from their own home or cell phones. Others are needed to help respond to 12th Step calls. One year of sobriety required. Call InterGroup 17 to volunteer: 352-867-0660.

Put yourself out front! As an InterGroup 17 Office Volunteer.

Get some more life into your life. Volunteer to staff the InterGroup office. Help is needed especially on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, but other times are available. One year of sobriety required. To learn more, call 352 867-0660.

District 17 . Committee chairs and other service positions. Volunteers needed.

We need several volunteers to serve in Committee Chair and other service positions. To learn more attend the next district meeting, 6 pm, Thursday, April 29, 2010, St. Marks UMC, 1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Through *The Grapevine!*

Many of our brothers and sisters in area corrections facilities enjoy reading *The AA Grapevine*. Drop off your old copies at the InterGroup Office, or coordinate a group effort through your GSR.

Take the message to local correctional institutions.

Participation requires prior approval. Applications available at InterGroup 17 office.

Women's Meetings

There is a critical need to carry the message to women in prison (women only). To learn more, call 352 867-0660.

Men's Meetings

To learn more, call 352 867-0660.

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 below that contributed to InterGroup 17 in **February**.

- Acceptance Group
- Belleview Group
- Citra Group
- Forest Group
- Fountain of Gratitude Group
- Grupo Mano Abierto
- Happy Hour Group
- Happy, Joyous, & Free
- Headstart Group
- Keep It Simple Group
- Last Call Group
- Living Sober Group
- Lunch Bunch Group
- No Name Group

Thanks also to District 17, Birthday Club member, Faithful Fivers, and individuals who contributed in February. All who have contributed this fiscal year are gratefully acknowledged on page 5.

InterGroup 17 is especially grateful to all of our Trusted Servants who volunteer to staff the office and hotline, maintain our website, produce our publications, and maintain the office: Alison C, Bill J, Bobby J, Bosch, Connie & Toni Marie C, Daniel R, Diane M, Gordana U, James M, James N, Jason B, John P, Katie, Keith H, Kelli T, Max R, Mike G, Peggy N, Rafael Q. If we've left anyone out, we sincerely apologize. Let us know, we'll make amends.

Priscilla P, InterGroup 17 Office Manager