

The Voice

Volume 27, Number 3

March 2010



One member's voice

All aboard. It's Step Three, baby!

A story of experience, strength, and hope

"Made a decision to turn our lives and our will over to the care of God as we understood Him."

I am an alcoholic. According to the Second Step, this means that I have a particular brand of insanity. For example, I'm the kind of guy who takes great pride in doing things the hard way and if anybody suggests an easier, softer way...Well, I'll be damned if I'm gonna listen, let alone actually do it.

It is possible to pedal a tricycle from here to Washington, DC. It's hard work, exhausting actually, frustrating, and slow—but I promise you, it can be done.

And if you suggest that a car would get me there quicker...Well, no thank you. I'm fine. The fact that you might be suggesting a better, easier, more efficient way to get the results that I want actually offends me and only makes me more determined to pedal faster and harder!

"Lack of power," wrote the first 100, "that was our dilemma. We had to find a power by which we could live, and it had to be a *Power greater than ourselves*" (*Alcoholics Anonymous*, page 45). What alcoholic, I ask you, isn't into more power? I sure was. Hey, one beer feels pretty good . . . Two is better . . . And 12 better still. But beer is only 12 percent, let's give this 151 proof rum a test drive! Whoa! No turning back now.

"We deal with alcohol—cunning, baffling, powerful. Without help, it is too much for us" (page 58-59). You would think, as one who is interested in "more power," that all this talk about "One who has all power" (page 59) would have appealed to me. Unfortunately, when it came to Step Three...Well...When it came to making a decision to turn my will and my life over to the care of God, I had a big, big problem.

You see, the one being asked to make that decision, as the Second Step correctly

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Birthday Club? Faithful Fivers? Double Nickel? 50-30-10-10?

Learn more about the important role you and your group can play in the future of Intergroup 17. Page 4.

A quote for March

When I took my third step, it was the first time ever that my life had been managed by anyone other than a total idiot..

Anonymous

Who Is A Member Of Alcoholics Anonymous?

The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.

The origins of our Third Tradition

The first edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* makes this brief statement about membership: "The only requirement for membership is an honest desire to stop drinking. We are not allied with any particular faith, sect or denomination, nor do we oppose anyone. We simply wish to be helpful to those who are afflicted."

This expressed our feeling as of 1939, the year our book was published.

Since that day all kinds of experiments with membership have been tried. The number of membership rules which have been made (and mostly broken!) are legion. Two or three years ago the Central Office asked the groups to list their membership rules and send them in. After they arrived we set them all down. They took a great many sheets of paper. A little reflection upon these many rules brought us to an

astonishing conclusion. If all of these edicts had been in force everywhere at once it would have been practically impossible for any alcoholic to have ever joined Alcoholics Anonymous. About nine-tenths of our oldest and best members could never have got by!

Who'd Have Lasted?

In some cases we would have been too discouraged by the demands made upon us. Most of the early members of AA would have been

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Congratulations March Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate anniversaries of our local AA family members that add up to a collective 256 years. That's more than 94,440 days of sobriety. One day at a time!

Mike W	31 years
Donna P	24 years
Carson F	23 years
Monte B	19 years
Penny B	19 years
Nina	14 years
Shelly O	14 years
Brenda M	12 years
Tera S	8 years
Mary M	6 years
Nancy M	5 years
Cynthia O	3 years
Jennifer H	3 years
Christina	2 years
Lonnie	2 years
Mick H	2 years
Anthony K	1 year
Anthony S	1 year
Diane W	1 year
Jerrod O	1 year

February

Camden	45 years
Henry	9 years
Nancee B	5 years
Sarah W	2 years
Teresa A	2 years
Cheryl	1 year
Sue Ellen	1 year

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

E-mail to: thevoice@aaocalamarion.org
Telephone: 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.

Make checks payable to and send with celebrant's information to:
Intergroup 17
P.O. Box 1192
Ocala, Florida 34478

(See page 4 for more on how individuals contribute to Intergroup 17.)

Archives Reflections

Members of the local fellowship recall our Ocala-Marion County AA history as they lived it.

From an interview with Wayne C. at The No Name Group in Anthony on his 29th AA birthday.

"I remember being on the front page of the *Ocala Star Banner* in 1979 for driving—or flying—into the lime rock pit on Highway 441," recalls Wayne. "The picture showed them hauling me out."

Wayne also remembers that detox at that time was located on the south side of Munroe Hospital, and when he was drinking, he would sit in the motel across the street and shoot beer cans at the porch. Although Wayne made several trips in and out of the program, he became a valuable member of our AA community.

New feature.

Each month, starting in March, Kathy P, District 17 Archives Chair, will bring us a small slice of history from our local archives.

What do you recall about coming into AA?

That's not a trick question, although granted, some memories may be fuzzy. If you have funny, inspirational, or other meaningful memories of what the times were like when you came into AA in Ocala and Marion County, please share them with Kathy at 629-4142. They'll become part of our local AA Archives.



The local AA Archives are housed at Intergroup 17 offices for all to enjoy.

Plug into Intergroup 17 online

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



March by the Books

STEP THREE

Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him.

Step Three is like opening of a locked door. How shall we let God into our lives? Willingness is the key. Dependence as a means to independence.. Dangers of self sufficiency. Turning our will and our lives over to Higher Power. Misuse of willpower. Sustained and personal exertion necessary to conform to God's will.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 5

We were now at Step Three. Many of us said to our Maker, as we understood Him: "God, I offer myself to Thee---to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy will always!" We thought well before taking this step making sure we were ready; that we could at last abandon ourselves utterly to Him.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 27

TRADITION THREE

The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Early intolerance based on fear. To take away any alcoholic's chance at A.A. was sometimes to pronounce his death sentence. Membership regulations abandoned. Two examples of experience. Any alcoholic is a member of AA when he says so.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 10

The answer, now seen in Tradition Three, was simplicity itself. At last experience taught us that to take away any alcoholic's full chance was sometimes to pronounce his death sentence, and often to condemn him to endless misery.. Who dared to be judge, jury, and executioner of his own sick brother? On the AA calendar it was Year Two. In that time nothing could be seen but two struggling, nameless groups of alcoholics trying to hold their faces up to the light.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 141

CONCEPT THREE

To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives---with a traditional "Right of Decision."

"Twelve Concepts for World Service" (short form)

There will always be plenty of ultimate authority to correct inefficiency, ineffectiveness, or abuse. If the Conference does not function well, the groups can send in better Delegates. If the Trustees get badly out of line, the Conference can censure them, or even reorganize them. If the Headquarters' services go sour, the Trustees can elect better directors and hire better help. These remedies are ample and direct. But for so long as our world services function reasonably well—and there should always be charity for occasional mistakes—then "trust" must be our watchword, otherwise we shall wind up leaderless.

The A.A. Service Manual Combined with Twelve Concepts for World Service, by Bill W, 2004-2005 Edition

IN MEMORIAM

HANK N

Local member Henry (Hank) N died on December 31, 2009. After finding sobriety in New Jersey, he and his wife Peggy moved to Ocala in December 2005 where they found a home in AA. In addition to serving as a trusted servant in numerous capacities for Intergroup 17 and his local group, Shores of Sobriety, Hank also gave selflessly of his time to many other local service and community organizations.

LYLE W

Lyle W, a proud member of Alcoholics Anonymous for 35 years, departed this earth on December 31, 2009. Lyle was a member of the Living Sober group, worked at the Intergroup 17 office, and helped many souls to realize a clean and sober lifestyle. Our prayers go out to his wife, Barbara.

GSO Seeks Group's Input District 17 GSR's to help.

Ask your group's General Service Representative about how your group can respond to the General Service Conferences' request for input from the fellowship on two separate questions regarding the use of literature profits to partially fund services of the GSO in New York.

The request was made through North Florida Area Assembly and District 17. If your group does not send a GSR to District 17 meetings or North Florida Area Assembly, please attend the next District 17 meeting to learn more. March 25, 6 pm, St. Mark's UMC, Ocala.

Information about North Florida Area Assembly can be found at: www.aanorthflorida.org

The Coming of Faith

The foundation stone of freedom from fear is faith: a faith that despite all worldly appearances to the contrary, causes me to believe that I live in a universe that makes sense.

Bill W, AA Grapevine, January 1962

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

AA Responsibility Statement

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 and supplies. 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 Fiscal Year June 2009 - May 2010.

**Figures below reflect total contributions for fiscal year 2009 -10.
Report below is for June 1 2009 through January 31, 2010 only.**

Intergroup 17 Call Center January 2009

Meeting info requests	86
Twelfth Step Calls	7
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.

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 Financial Statements

Monthly financial statements for Intergroup 17 are available for review at the Intergroup 17 office during regular office hours.

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**

GROUP NAME	\$ Jan '10 Contribu- tions	Contri- butions 6/1/09- YTD	GROUP NAME	\$ Jan '10 Contribu- tions	Contri- butions 6/1/09- YTD
164 Pages Group		\$ 69.19	Living Sober Group		487.22
17th Street Group			Lunch Bunch Group		149.11
Acceptance		100.00	McIntosh Group		
Alive and Well	30.00	80.00	Men's Group Ocala	200.00	502.00
All You Need Group	33.41	33.41	New Attitudes Group		92.09
Anonymity Group			New Beginnings Group		
As Bill Sees It	116.60	391.65	New Life Group		
Belleview Eye Opener			No Name Group		83.25
Belleview God's Way		15.77	Ocala Group	311.49	1,895.37
Belleview Group		100.14	Ocklawaha AM Group		
Bonfire Group			One Page At A Time		
Breakfast Club	565.00	2,040.79	Primary Purpose Group		45.00
Came To Believe		20.00	Resentment Too Group		
Charity Group			Second Step Group		
Citra Group		6.69	Shores of Sobriety		110.00
Come As You Are		25.00	Sisters of Serenity		
Conscious Contact	46.43	84.41	Start A New Life	200.00	400.00
Day by Day			Steps and Promises		
Dunnellon Group			Stop Whining & Sober Up	150.00	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	40.00	160.00	Sundae Social Group		
Fountain of Gratitude		167.00	TLC Group, The Centers		8.70
Free To Be		90.00	Thursday Night Step Gp.		
Ft. McCoy Group		40.00	We Give Thanks	40.00	80.00
Grace Group			We Give Up		42.50
Grateful Gals			Weir Crazy		440.00
Green Group			Williston Winners		
Grupo Mano Abierta		50.00	Won Rebos Group		
Grupo Nueva Vida			Young People's Group		
Happy Hour Group		50.00	Birthday Club (personal)		
Happy, Joyous & Free	72.17	1,255.75	Double Nickel (personal)		10.00
Headstart Group	52.19	255.95	Faithful Fivers (pers'nal)	26.00	58.00
Individuals			Individuals (other)	12.15	279.06
It's In The Book			Total	\$1,895.44	\$10,358.90
Keep It Simple		308.00			
Last Call Group		50.00			
Last House on the Block					
Life is Good Sober Group					
Life Saver Group		100.15			

Who Is A Member Of Alcoholics Anonymous?

Continued from page 1

thrown out because they slipped too much, because their morals were too bad, because they had mental as well as alcoholic difficulties. Or, believe it or not, because they did not come from the so-called better classes of society. We oldsters could have been excluded for our failure to read the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* or the refusal of our sponsor to vouch for us as a candidate. And so on, *ad infinitum*. The way our "worthy" alcoholics have sometimes tried to judge the "less worthy" is, as we look back on it, rather comical. Imagine, if you can, one alcoholic judging another!

At one time or another most AA groups go on rule-making benders. Naturally enough, too, as a group commences to grow rapidly it is confronted with many alarming problems. Panhandlers begin to pan-handle. Members get drunk and sometimes get others drunk with them. Those with mental difficulties throw depressions or break out into paranoid denunciations of fellow members. Gossips gossip, and righteously denounce the local Wolves and Red Riding Hoods. Newcomers argue that they aren't alcoholics at all, but keep coming around anyway. "Slippees" trade on the fair name of AA, in order to get themselves jobs. Others refuse to accept all the Twelve Steps of the recovery program. Some go still further, saying that the "God business" is bunk and quite unnecessary. Under these conditions our conservative program-abiding members get scared. These appalling conditions must be controlled, they think. Else AA will surely go to rack and ruin. They view with alarm for the good of the movement!

At this point the group enters the rule and regulation phase. Charters, by-laws, and membership rules are excitedly passed and authority is granted committees to filter out undesirables and discipline the evil doers. Then the group elders, now clothed with authority, commence to get busy. Recalcitrants are cast into the outer darkness, respectable busybodies throw stones at the sinners. As for the so-called sinners, they either insist on staying around, or

else they form a new group of their own. Or maybe they join a more congenial and less intolerant crowd in their neighborhood. The elders soon discover that the rules and regulations aren't working very well. Most attempts at enforcement generate such waves of dissension and intolerance in the group that this condition is presently recognized to be worse for the group life than the very worst that the worst ever did.

After a time fear and intolerance subside. The group survives unscathed. Everybody has learned a great deal. So it is, that few of us are any longer afraid of what any newcomer can do to our AA reputation or effectiveness. Those who slip, those who pan-handle, those who scandalize, those with mental twists, those who rebel at the program, those who trade on the AA reputation--all such persons seldom harm an AA group for long. Some of these have become our most respected and best loved. Some have remained to try our patience, sober nevertheless. Others have drifted away. We have begun to regard these ones not as menaces, but rather as our teachers. They oblige us to cultivate patience, tolerance and humility. We finally see that they are only people sicker than the rest of us, that we who condemn them are the Pharisees whose false righteousness does our group the deeper spiritual damage.

Ours Not to Judge

Every older AA shudders when he remembers the names of persons he once condemned; people he confidently predicted would never sober up; persons he was sure ought to be thrown out of AA for the good of the movement. Now that some of these very persons have been sober for years, and may be numbered among his best friends, the old-timer thinks to himself "What if everybody had judged these people as I once did? What if AA had slammed its door in their faces? Where would they be now?"

That is why we all judge the newcomer less and less. If alcohol is an uncontrollable problem to him and he wishes to do something about it, that is enough for us. We care not whether his case is severe or light, whether his morals are good or bad, whether he has other complications or not. Our AA door stands wide open, and if he passes through it and commences to do any-

thing at all about his problem, he is considered a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. He signs nothing, agrees to nothing, promises nothing. We demand nothing. He joins us on his own say so. Nowadays, in most groups, he doesn't even have to admit he is an alcoholic. He can join AA on the mere suspicion that he may be one, that he may already show the fatal symptoms of our malady.

Of course this is not the universal state of affairs throughout AA. Membership rules still exist. If a member persists in coming to meetings drunk he may be led outside; we may ask someone to take him away. But in most groups he can come back next day, if sober. Though he may be thrown out of a club, nobody thinks of throwing him out of AA. He is a member as long as he says he is. While this broad concept of AA membership is not yet unanimous, it does represent the main current of AA thought today. We do not wish to deny anyone his chance to recover from alcoholism. We wish to be just as inclusive as we can, never exclusive.

Perhaps this trend signifies something much deeper than a mere change of attitude on the question of membership. Perhaps it means that we are losing all fear of those violent emotional storms which sometimes cross our alcoholic world; perhaps it bespeaks our confidence that every storm will be followed by a calm; a calm which is more understanding, more compassionate, more tolerant than any we ever knew before.

Bill W

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District 17 Corner

- Want to know how Alcoholics Anonymous works locally, regionally, nationally, and worldwide to carry the message?
- Want to know how you can play a personal role in the critical mission?

Find out at the next District 17 meeting.

Thursday, March 25, 6 pm
St. Marks UMC, Ocala
All Welcome

All aboard. It's Step Three, baby!

Continued from page 1

points out, is quite “insane”—making me the least qualified to be making such a major life-changing decision.

Even though there was “One who had ALL power” (emphasis mine), I still harbored this strange notion that it was better to rely on my own power—however weak and limited that was. Yes, I was 100 percent convinced that I was powerless over alcohol, and God was clearly greater than my disease (as evidenced by the fact that I wasn’t drinking one day at a time).

Still, I held on to the insane notions that as long as I had the power to think clearly, to figure things out, to make good decisions, then I had the power to run my own life (despite the mounting evidence to the contrary). As long as I had my tricycle, I was determined that I could still pedal to Washington, DC by my unaided will.

From the very first AA meeting that I attended, I heard about this Higher Power—this “One who has all power.” I heard about a loving God, a God who

could do all kinds of things...if I would let Him.

But before I could let Him, I had to believe that He actually could do all the wonderful and amazing things that I heard people talking about at meetings. As the Big Book puts it, I needed a “psychic change” and I had to be convinced that “something more than human power” could bring that change about.

That change happened on the side of Archer Road in Gainesville, Florida. When I got to AA, I had absolutely reached the end of my drinking—but I had not reached the end of my “self” sufficiency.

Yes, I went to meetings. Yes, I had a sponsor. Yes, I was doing service work. But after two years of stark, raving sobriety, I was still pedaling around on my tricycle of self-will.

I was in the middle of a divorce. I was confused, frustrated, completely boxed in, and helpless...busted down on the side of the road, tired, helpless, with three flat tires...ready to give up...when God pulled up beside me in, of all things, a Leer jet and said, “Hey, are you ready to leave the driving to me? We can be in DC by dusk!”

Tricycle? Leer jet? At that point, the “sane” choice seemed clear.

Every day that I wake up, the choice is the same: Am I gonna ride my tricycle, pedal my own way through the day? Or, will I take a Leer jet and let God do all the driving?

Most of the time, the answer is simple. But there are times, believe it or not, when I have to pull up to the meeting on my tricycle, see all the Leer jets—and all the other tricycles—to once again be reminded: “There is One who has all Power.” My prayer is that you find Him now.

Gordon P
March 2010



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

Third Tradition Checklist

The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Who can measure what is in the heart of another? He may not say he wants it, or act as if he does, but if the desire is in his heart, even unknown to himself, that is enough.

Third Tradition Checklist

- In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?
- Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
- Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
- Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
- Am I over-impressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member

simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?

- 6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he has been to AA before? What his other problems are?



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ocalaintergroup@msn.com.

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Looking for a local meeting?

Choose from more than 160 .



When and Where online!
www.aocalamarion.org

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

Open Discussion, 7PM
Monday
Zion United Methodist Church
1605 Blichton Road
(Corner ML King Blvd & Blichton,
north of the railroad crossing)

New Meetings

Last Call Group
New meetings. New times.



New! Tuesday 10 pm

OD Candle Light

New! Thursday 10 pm

Step & Traditions Candle Light

Fridays 11 pm

OD Candle Light

Saturdays 11 pm

OD Candle Light

Sundays 10 pm

OD Candle Light

All meetings at CATS
730 SE Osceola Avenue, Ocala



New Group. New meeting. Sober Yankees Group Tuesdays, 7 pm, starting March 2

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
5200 SW SR 200, Ocala, 34474

No smoking on premises
Parking in back.

New added meeting. Ocala Group Saturdays, 1 pm

St. Mark's United Methodist
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Start a New Life Fourth Step Workshop

Saturday, April 17
10 am to 3:30 pm
St. Mark's UMC

All welcome. Lunch provided.
Suggested donation \$5.
Bring your Big Book.

Special Events, Celebrations, Notices

Intergroup 17

Inventory Clearance Sale

Savings of up to 40% or More on selected publications

- **Books at discount prices**
- My First 40 Years: An Autobiography by the co-founder of AA, \$21.95 Now \$13.95
- NOT- GOD; A History of Alcoholics Anonymous, \$14.50 Now \$10.00
- Children Of The Healer: The Story of Dr. Bob's Kids, \$7.99 Now \$6.39
- My Search For Bill W, \$14.00 Now \$10.00
- Twenty Four Hours a Day For Teens, \$12.95 Now \$6.00
- 101 Meeting Starters: A Guide to Better 12 Step Discussion, \$7.67 Now \$6.14
- Young-Sober & Free: Experience, Strength, and Hope For Young Adults, \$12.95 Now \$8.00
- The Eye Opener, \$12.00 Now \$9.60
- The Little Red Book, \$9.80
- Wisdom to Know More Daily Meditations for Men, \$12.95 Now \$9.99
- Daybreak: Meditations for Women/ Survivors of Sexual Abuse, \$12.95 Now \$7.00
- Answers in the Heart: Daily Meditations for Men and Women, \$13.95 Now \$7.50

Brochures \$1 each

- Men's Issues in Recovery
- I Can't Be an Alcoholic Because.....
- A Merry-Go-Round Named Denial
- Step 5 Telling my story
- Step 8 Preparing for change

Gifts, cards, stickers, memorabilia , and more

- Large bumper stickers
- Live and let live, Keep coming back, Came to believe
- I'm a friend of Bill W
- Small bumper stickers: It's OK not to drink, Sober-n-Crazy; F.O.B., AA symbol
- Serenity prayer stickers
- Easy Does It/ One Day at a Time license plate
- Foot prints plague, AA slogans, phone me cards, greeting cards, earrings, necklaces, hat pins
- Medallions w/sayings and with years of sobriety, bronze, gold
- Plastic, and bronze medallion key chains, coffee mug
- Everything you need to start a meeting

Visit or call Intergroup 17 to make your selection.

Intergroup 17 needs you.

Put yourself on the front line of service work.

Intergroup 17 needs folks who would like to work the front desk.

Duties include:

- Sale of literature and other merchandise
- Writing sales tickets and collecting sales money.
- Answering the phone
- Providing meeting information or other assistance

The Greatest Rewards

You may be asked all kinds of questions regarding AA and related issues. Some calls will just need a listening ear and a caring heart. Some calls could be similar to a 12-Step call. This part of the job is most rewarding.

Training provided. One year of sobriety needed.

Hours/Shifts

Monday thru Friday 10-2, or 2-5
Saturday 10-2.

Volunteer today!

For more information, contact Intergroup 17 office. 352 867-0660.

Mark Your Calendar

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

3/19-21, 2010 6th Annual Soberstock 2010, Tampa, www.soberstock.com

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

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

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

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

March at the Lost and Found Club

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

- Saturday, 3/6: Dance, 9 pm
- Friday, 3/12: Free Pool, 9 pm
- Saturday, 3/13: Car Wash, 10 am; Bingo, 9 pm
- Tuesday, 2/16: Activities meeting, 7 pm
- Friday, 3/19: Free Pool, 9 pm
- Friday, 3/26: Free Pool, 9 pm
- Saturday, 3/27: Car Wash, 10 am; Bingo, 9 pm

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 about availability.

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 .

Sunday, February 14, 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.

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

Get some more life into your life. Volunteer to staff the Intergroup office. Help needed especially on Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm, but other times are available. One year of sobriety required. To learn more, call 352 867-0660.

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 needed to help respond to 12th Step calls. One year of sobriety required. Call Intergroup 17 to volunteer: 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, March 25, 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

Intergroup 17 can't thank you *enough*—but we can thank you enthusiastically. Thanks to all the groups below that contributed to Intergroup 17 in January.

- Alive & Well Group
- All You Need Group
- As Bill Sees It Group
- Breakfast Club Group
- Conscious Contact Group
- Happy, Joyous, & Free
- Headstart Group
- Men's Group Ocala
- Ocala Group
- Start a New Life Group
- Stop Whining & Sober Up Group
- We Give Thanks Group

Thanks also to all groups and individuals who have contributed so this fiscal year. They are all gratefully acknowledged on page 5.

Intergroup 17 is especially blessed by and grateful to all of our Trusted Servants who volunteer to staff the office and hotline, maintain our website, and produce our publications: Rafael Q, Peggy N, James N, James M., Michelle Y, Connie & Toni Marie C, Phil H., Gordana U, Dave G, Kelli T, Diane M, Arlene H, Keith H, Alison C, Max R . If we've left anyone out, it's purely accidental. Please let us know, and we'll make amends next issue.

Priscilla P, Intergroup 17 Office Manager