

The Voice

Volume 27, Number 5

May 2010



In this issue

One Member's Voice.....	1
May Birthdays.....	2
By the Books.....	2
How to support Intergroup.....	4
Group Contributions.....	5
District 17 Corner.....	5
Archives Reflections.....	6
Tradition Five. Freeing us all.....	6
Hope behind the walls.....	7
Meetings/Announcements.....	8
Service Opportunities.....	10
Contact Intergroup.....	10

One member's voice

A springboard into a new life

A story of experience, strength, and hope

"Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs."

When the pain of living deep within "self," driven by selfishness and consumed by a history of shame, regret, and pain became too much for me, I finally looked back, seeking out the "hope" that was handed to me years before when I had my first glimpse of Alcoholics Anonymous.

What at first had seemed like a fair enough way to keep from drinking one day at a time, now seemed like the very thing that would keep me from jumping off of the planet or back into the destructive and empty pit of self. Having attempted the "fake it till you make it" method, the "just don't drink" method, and the "take what you want and leave the rest" method, I finally admitted complete defeat and came to understand that "half measures" would avail me nothing!

I was blessed with a wonderful sponsor

who followed the example of AA's first 100, by welcoming me back after my last drink, helping to guide me to a true understanding of Step One, and then guiding me back through the work of the first three steps.

At this turning point, asking for help from the spirit of the universe and plunging into the action and discovery of Step Four, I began to see some deep and personal truths about myself. These truths were the things that had been keeping me perpetually blocked off from the sunlight of the spirit. I was ready for a change.

But here I came to a great barrier of concern. Step Five tells me I had to share these truths, not only with God and myself, but with another human being. This struck a chord of anxiety and rebellion in with me.

The thought of sharing the exact nature of my wrongs—the nasty stuff of both my present and my past—brought me back to the idea that there might be some other easier way to get sober. However, my

Continued page 6

No reason to be hungry in AA in May.

- Spaghetti 'n Speak, May 8
- Weir Crazy Miracles in May, May 12
- Recovery House Annual Cook-out, May 15

Details inside.
Chow down and stay sober!

A quote for May

Relief never came by confessing the sins of other people. Everybody had to confess his own.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Tradition, page 56

Spaghetti 'n Speak to benefit Intergroup 17.

Saturday, May 8. 6:30 pm. Church of Christ, 2730 SE Maricamp Rd
Featuring free spaghetti dinner, speakers, raffles & a bake sale.

Local members are in for a special treat on Saturday, May 8, when the fellowship gathers at Church of Christ on Maricamp Road for an all-out celebration of the joy of service work.

Free spaghetti dinner

The evening begins with a free spaghetti dinner prepared and served by local volunteers. The meeting that follows features three speakers, each of whom will present a short story about how

Intergroup 17 has affected their lives or the lives of others they have known.

Recovery Quilt Raffle

The evening also features a raffle for the "Recovery Quilt," hand-crafted and donated by a local member. Advance ticket sales for the raffle have already been brisk, so make sure you ask your Intergroup Rep about how to get yours or call Intergroup 17 for more information. There will also be a 50/50 raffles with numerous prizes for the winners.

Bake sale and more

Another highlight is the Bake Sale, where the sweetest culinary arts of the local fellowship will be sold with proceeds going to Intergroup. So bring a treat to donate to the bake sale.

Remember, the dinner is free and all are welcome. So mark your calendar now. See page 3 for more details.



Congratulations May Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate anniversaries that add up to a collective 296 years in May, 81 years in April, and 31 years in March. That's more than 148,920 days of sobriety. One day at a time!

MAY

Jean M	33 years
Bill H	29 years
Andy H	28 years
Jack M	27 years
Rich F	27 years
Steve P.	25 years
Dan E	25 years
Priscilla P	23 years
Pam E	22 years
Tony E	19 years
John B	19 years
Kevin L	9 years
Dolores C.	8 years
David S	7 years
Michelle Y.	4 years
Phil S.	4 years
Sam S.	2 years
Henry M.	2 years
Shammer M.	2 years
Tom B	2 years
Andrea H	1 year
Bonnie S	1 year

Harry P	1 year
Heather A	1 year
John	1 year
Zach G	1 year

APRIL

Joanne A	33 years
Sherry R	21 years
Charlie M	12 years
Caroline	5 years
Esther	4 years
Audra	1 year
Brent M	1 year
Harry	1 year
Pearl	1 year
Seth R	1 year
Stephanie A	1 year

MARCH

Dave A	31 years
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Please share your AA birthday with all.
 Deadline for June birthdays is May 20.
 E-mail to: thevoice@aaocalamarion.org

Join the Birthday Club!



Celebrate an AA anniversary—yours or another member's—with a contribution to help Intergroup 17 carry the message to other alcoholics in Ocala and Marion County.

To join, send name, sobriety date, years of sobriety, and a donation—suggested is \$1, \$5, or \$10 for each year of sobriety to:

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

May by the Books

STEP FIVE

“Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

Somehow, being alone with God doesn't seem as embarrassing as facing up to another person. Until we actually sit down and talk about what we have so long hidden, our willingness to clean house is still largely theoretical. When we are honest with another person, it confirms that we have been honest with ourselves and with God.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 60



TRADITION FIVE

“Each group has but one primary purpose, to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers”

A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.

The A.A. Service Manual, page 5

Faith is more than our greatest gift; its sharing with others is our greatest responsibility. May we of A.A. continually seek the wisdom and the willingness by which we may well fulfill that immense trust which the Giver of all perfect gifts has placed in our hands.

AA Grapevine, April 1961

CONCEPT FIVE

“Throughout our world services structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, thus assuring us that the minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.”

The “Right of Appeal” recognizes that minorities frequently can be right; that even when they are in error they still perform a valuable service when they compel a thorough-going debate on important issues. The well-heard minority, therefore is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry minority.

Twelve Concepts for World Service, page 8



Free. All Welcome.
Spaghetti 'n Speak
 To benefit Intergroup 17 Ocala Marion County

Saturday, May 8, 2010
Free spaghetti dinner 6:30pm
Meeting 7:30 pm

Fun & Fellowship

- Recovery Quilt Raffle
- 50/50 Prize Raffle
- Bake Sale

Three Speakers

- Sherry R
- Bill J
- James N

Quilt Raffle Tickets

\$2 each
 \$5 for three

Need not be present to win. Ask your home group's Intergroup Representative for tickets or call Intergroup 17 for more information. 352 867-0660



Bake Sale

Donate your favorite sweet treats—cakes, pies, cookies, candy, and more—to be sold at the event. Proceeds go to support the work of Intergroup 17.



Dinner is free. Fellowship is priceless!

Donate your favorite dessert to be sold at the Bake Sale

Raffle and Bake Sale proceeds go to support the work of Intergroup 17 Ocala/Marion County

NEW EVENT LOCATION
LOOK FOR SIGNS WITH BALLOONS

Church of Christ
 2730 SE Maricamp Rd (off 17th St. & 25th Ave)
 Ocala, FL 34472



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

NFACAA
P.O. Box 567
Melbourne, FL 32902

District 17
P.O. Box 3081
Ocala, FL 3447

Individual contributions

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

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

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

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 March 2010

Intergroup 17 Call Center February 2009

**Figures below reflect total contributions for fiscal year 2009-10.
Report below is from June 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010 only. If there is an
error, please contact Intergroup 17.**

Meeting info requests	72
Twelfth Step Calls	6
Office transactions	49
Visitors	43
Al-Anon	12
Miscellaneous	24

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

GROUP NAME	\$ Mar '10 Contri- butions	Contri- butions 6/1/09- YTD	GROUP NAME	\$ Mar '10 Contribu- tions	Contri- butions 6/1/09- YTD
164 Pages Group	\$ 66.90	\$ 136.09	Living Sober Group	15.00	547.22
17th Street Group			Lunch Bunch Group		249.96
Acceptance	100.00	250.00	Marion Oaks	0.23	0.23
Alive and Well		80.00	McIntosh Group		
All You Need Group	.76	34.17	Men's Group Ocala		502.00
Anonymity Group			New Attitudes Group		92.09
As Bill Sees It		391.65	New Beginnings Group		
Belleview Eye Opener			New Life Group		
Belleview God's Way		15.77	No Name Group		124.50
Belleview Group		288.99	Ocala Group	38.75	1,993.64
Bonfire Group			Ocklawaha AM Group		
Breakfast Club	450.00	2,490.79	One Page At A Time		
Came To Believe		20.00	Primary Purpose Group		69.00
Charity Group			Resentment Too Group		
Citra Group		56.69	Second Step Group		
Come As You Are		25.00	Shores of Sobriety		110.00
Conscious Contact		84.41	Sisters of Serenity		
Day by Day			Start A New Life		400.00
Dunnellon Group			Steps and Promises		
Dunnellon Rainbow			Stop Whining & Sober Up		150.00
Eleventh Step Group			Strength In Numbers		0.70
Experience, Strength & Hope			Summerfield Group		32.00
First Impressions			Summerfield New Green		
Forest Group	40.39	250.46	Sm'field Living in Today		
Fountain of Gratitude		144.00	Sundae Social Group		
Free To Be	40.00	130.00	TLC Group, The Centers	0.02	8.72
Ft. McCoy Group		40.00	Thursday Night Step Gp.		
Grace Group			We Give Thanks	30.00	110.00
Grateful Gals			We Give Up	100.25	142.75
Green Group			Weir Crazy		440.00
Grupo Mano Abierta		75.00	Williston Winners		
Grupo Nueva Vida			Won Rebos Group		
Happy Hour Group	20.00	120.00	Young People's Group		
Happy, Joyous & Free	967.03	2,469.78	District 17	300.00	555.00
Headstart Group	78.65	364.60	Birthday Club (personal)	88.00	190.00
It's In The Book			Double Nickel (personal)		10.00
Keep It Simple	57.75	465.75	Faithful 5-ers (personal)	20.00	90.00
Last Call Group		125.00	Individuals (other)	132.34	456.90
Last House on the Block			Total	\$2,546.07	\$14,433.01
Life is Good Sober Group					
Life Saver Group		100.15			

District 17 Corner

DCM Nancy D welcomed three new GSRs: Patti B, Head Start group, Rick, Ocala Group alternate, and John F, Summerfield. **Treasurer's Report** Motion to reimburse travel expenses from general service fund passed. CPC/CI budget increased to \$500. 2010 budget approved.

Archives: Kathy P presented design of new bookmark to encourage donation of AA books to the Archives.

CPC/PI: Michelle Y. reported on presentation and literature distribution at recent local judges luncheon.

Corrections: Sherry R will coordinate with John J to speed up processing for men's corrections meetings.

Grapevine: Rob G starting a drive to collect back issues for distribution in corrections facilities.

Intergroup: John P and Priscilla P reported on need for more office volunteers; sign up sheets for TheVoice by email subscriptions were distributed.

Literature: Max R. nominated and approved as new Literature Committee chair.

Workshop Subcommittee: Nancy D asked for volunteers to explore workshops possibilities, including. Traditions, AA Jeopardy, and District Inventory.

Want to get involved.

Attend the next
District 17 meeting.
Thursday, May 29, 6 pm
St. Marks UMC, Ocala
All Welcome

Archives Reflections

Building blocks of sobriety. And a can of paint in case of slip.

In April, Archives Reflections “reflected” on the beginnings of the Serenity House, Ocala’s first AA clubhouse. For some time, the Serenity House had stood at the corner of Magnolia and 10th Street, but then was relocated to a spot just behind the old Brahma Restaurant, a long-time Ocala landmark dating back to the early 1950s, at South Pine and 17th Street.

A tradition began in this new location, one that remained sacred to many Ocala AAs for years. When you joined the Serenity House group, your name—first name and last initial—and sobriety date were painted on one of the concrete blocks on the wall. Each member had his or her own block.

Several years later, the Serenity House moved again, down the street just off South Pine to the polling precinct. Before the move, one of the members, blessed with a bit of nostalgia mixed with foresight, snapped a picture of the block wall with all the names on it.

Later, after the move, all the blocks in the new building were painted to match our original wall exactly. Needless to say if you had a slip, your sobriety date was painted over and your new date painted in.



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.

Tradition Five: A regular reminder.

Each group has but one primary purpose--to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

I remember the first time I chaired a closed meeting. During the sharing, an uneasiness developed in the room.

One member expressed his disapproval of his daughter’s pierced ears, and another member got all upset over some gun control.

Thank God for another member who knew we had strayed from our primary purpose—sharing our recovery from

drinking on a daily basis.

Many may think the Fifth Tradition is directed to a suffering nonmember, but I consider it a message I need on a regular basis.

Nada B

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A springboard into a new life

Continued from page 1

experience of half-measures and relapse had already shown me that if I balked at this step, I would return to “self,” and ultimately return to the bottle.

So for me, the real alcoholic as described on page 21 of the *Big Book*, there was no choice: take the step, or life will continue to feel like the end is near until the end actually comes.

Sitting down at last, prepared for a long talk with that same man, I began to shed light on the dark past and expose the exact nature of my wrongs. I told this other human being exactly what had been dominating my life, and how self had manifested in many forms to drive me deeper and deeper into the depths of untreated alcoholism.

Having attempted Step Five in half measures in the past, I knew that this time meant life or death, and I took that seriously. I did not waste time with “story-telling,” and my sponsor did not let me drift off or lose focus from MY DEFECTS.

Having left some things out of my first unsuccessful inventory years before, I knew that this time there was not going to be anything left out. I told him about “that thing that had happened”... and those thoughts... and those insecurities... and that stuff that I did. I held nothing back.

Step Four told me that when I saw my faults, I was to list them and place them before me in black and white. Also, I was to ask myself whom had I hurt and list those people too. So, I walked away from the discussion with what was described to me as my Step

Six and Step Seven defects list, as well as the beginnings of my Step Eight list.

After our discussion, I went home where I would not be disturbed. I was told to take a good hard look at the first five steps and ensure that I have been solid in my efforts so far. When I was satisfied that the truth had been told, that there were no more reservations, I was then directed to look at Steps Six and Seven. It was then and there that I became ready to have God be my director and to take charge of all my defects of character. For me, that was when I said the Seventh Step Prayer.

Surprisingly, I was amazed at my new willingness to allow for change in my life. At first, the God concept was foreign, but now it felt like a welcome source of comfort. Step Five started out like a giant hurdle that threatened to hold me back from sobriety. It now feels more like a springboard into a new life of freedom and spiritual progress.

Step Five thus became a critical pivot point that helped facilitate a type of growth that I could never have come to by looking at myself alone. Sharing these truths with another human being has become one of the most powerful groundbreaking experiences of my life!

Kevin D.
Ocala, Florida
May 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.

A New Opportunity for Hope Behind the Walls

The Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous is filled with men and women who know very well that “A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in

action.” (The A.A. Service Manual, p. S1) They keep an eye peeled for anyone, anywhere, reaching out for help so that they may offer the hand of A.A. Of course, most remember when it was their own hand reaching out for assistance—and help was there.

The handiwork of these alcoholics is revealed in countless ways, from a simple invitation to coffee to standing for election to a position in general service. Indeed, whenever an A.A. is in action, helping other alcoholics, great rewards often follow: “Life will take on new meaning. . . . Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives.” (Alcoholics Anonymous, p.89)

Bob C. is one of those A.A.s in action. After being elected Area 14 (Northern Florida) corrections chairperson, he said that, other than helping to carry A.A.’s message to a still-suffering alcoholic, he “wasn’t sure what to expect.” One day, however, he received an e-mail from Keith S., an A.A. in California participating in the Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS) through the General Service Office. (CCS is a Twelfth Step opportunity which links A.A. members on the “outside” with A.A. members in correctional facilities to provide a source of experience as it relates to problems with alcohol. Men are linked with men and women with women.)

Keith S., an “outside” A.A., was corresponding with Greg M., an alcoholic on the “inside” at a state prison in Florida. In his correspondence, Greg shared that he’d like to attend an A.A. meeting, but there hadn’t been an A.A. meeting at that correctional facility for nearly ten years.

After receiving Greg’s letter, Keith tracked down the corrections area chair—Bob C.—in the region where the prison is located. He related Greg’s request for a meeting and asked Bob about the possibility of bringing an

A.A. meeting behind the walls of that facility. With a clear request for help in hand, Bob then emailed the warden of the prison, as well as the Area 14 Public Information service coordinator in Tallahassee, Florida. He spoke with prison officials and other A.A.s with experience in corrections and service. A few months later, after meeting with the warden, as well as with security and education personnel, A.A. was given permission to bring a meeting inside the walls. Since then, it has been a resounding success.

That meeting is now a new group called “Fresh Start Behind the Walls.” It has about 14 members, a G.S.R., and is a closed meeting format. It meets every Wednesday at 6:30 PM in the main unit of the prison. Bob C.’s voice is still tinged with awe and wonder as he relates the events around the creation of the meeting. “Prison officials have gone out of their way to be helpful. We have coffee at the meeting. They rescheduled a head count so that some of the men could attend the meeting without interruption.”

Energized by the success of the meeting, he said, “I have made it my home group. I will be going there for years.” Bob also shares something that almost never fails to add a spark of excitement to an A.A.’s eye: “Calls are flooding in from other institutions—they all want A.A. I am organizing an event to get more volunteers to help fill all the requests.”

Box 4-5-9
Spring 2010

Reprinted by permission of AA World Services.

Learn how you can help carry the message to local correctional institutions.

Participation requires prior approval. Applications available at Intergroup 17 office. To learn more, call 352 867-0660 or attend the next District 17 meeting, May 27, 6 pm, St. Marks UMC, Ocala.

Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.)

A personal opportunity to send hope.

The General Service Office of AA is in need of male A.A. members on the “outside” to correspond with male A.A. members in correctional facilities and to share their experience, strength and hope. We also have a particular need for Spanish-speaking male correspondents.

Most correspondents use their home address, some use a P.O. Box and others receive permission to use the group, area, or Intergroup P.O. Box. G.S.O. Does Not Forward Mail. Linking is done in the order received.

To sign up for this service or for more information contact the Corrections Desk at: G.S.O., P.O. Box 459, New York, NY 10163; corrections@aa.org or 212-870-3400.



Stories Needed for New AA Corrections Brochure

Submissions of personal stories are being sought for a revision of the pamphlet “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell” from A.A. members who can briefly present their experience with the A.A. program of recovery while incarcerated.

Please send submissions to the Corrections desk at corrections@aa.org, or by mail to Corrections, PO Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. The deadline for submissions is June 15, 2010. Questions should be directed to the Corrections desk at G.S.O., either by e-mail or phone, 212-870-3400.

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.aocalamarion.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. New day, time, and location

Carry the Message Group

Big Book Study Meeting

Mondays, 6:00 to 7:30 pm

5850 Lillian Circle

Bellevue, Florida

(across from Lake Lillian)



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

730 SE Osceola Avenue, Ocala

Sober Yankees Group. New group.

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

Living Sober Group

Congregational Church, 7171 SW State

Rd 200, Ocala; **Speaker meeting** is on

the second Sunday of each month

Special Events, Celebrations, Notices

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

Looking for a local meeting?

Choose from more than 160 meetings a week.



When and Where online!
www.aaocalamarion.org

Mark Your Calendar

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

5/8, 2010 Spaghetti 'n Speak, to benefit Intergroup 17, free dinner, Druid Hills United Methodist Church, Ocala

5/15, 2010 Annual Recovery House Picnic and Cookout, Recovery House, Ocala.

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

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>

Everyone Invited

**Celebrate recovery
at the
Recovery House
Annual Cookout**

**Saturday, May 15th, 2010
2:00 to 4:00 pm**

243 NW 4th Terrace
Ocala, FL
(behind the Interfaith Building)

Food, Fun, & Fellowship

Ribs, Chicken, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs
Side dishes and desserts are welcome.



Donations will be gratefully accepted

We are a non-profit organization working towards our goal of rebuilding lives Your generous support will help us maintain the growth and healing that is flourishing within our community.

Hope to see you there!

May at the Lost and Found Club

339 NE Sanchez Avenue
(NE 4th St. & Tuscahill 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

**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**

Call Intergroup for
contact information: 352 867 0660
Email hdwildfire@gmail.com

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, May 9, 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, May 27, 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 that contributed to Intergroup 17 in March:

- 164 Pages Group
- Acceptance Group
- All You Need Group
- Breakfast Club
- Forest Group
- Free To Be Group
- Happy Hour Group
- Happy, Joyous, & Free
- Headstart Group
- Keep It Simple Group
- Living Sober Group
- Marion Oaks Group
- Ocala Group
- We Give Thanks Group
- We Give Up Group

Thanks also to District 17, Birthday Club members, Faithful Fivers, and individuals who contributed in March. 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 C, Diane M, Holly M, James N, Jason B, John P, Katie, Kelly T, Max R, Mike G, Pat H, Peggy N, Priscilla P, Rafael Q, Toni Marie C. If we've left anyone out, we sincerely apologize. Let us know, we'll make amends.