



Intergroup District 17 Ocala, Marion County, Florida

The Hand of AA
24-Hour Hotline
365 Days a Year

352-867-0660

The Voice

Volume 36, Number 9

www.aocalamarion.org

September 2013

**OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY
MON. SEPT. 2**

Intergroup District 17

3666A NE 25th Street
Ocala, FL 34470

~ in the N.E. 36th Ave
Industrial Park ~

Phone: 352-867-0660

Email: aaocalaintergroup@gmail.com

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 10 am to 5 pm
Saturday 10 am to 2 pm

Get Involved. Next Meeting at the Intergroup Office

Sunday, Sept. 8, 2013

Intergroup Reps 4:30 pm

Steering Committee to follow

Step Nine - "Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others."

This Step completes what I started in Step Eight. I make amends to those that I have harmed. I pay back debts I owe. I apologize. I write letters. I find time to do and say things that would help heal the damage that I have done. I try to bring goodness where previously I had brought discord and destruction. It takes insight, courage and dedication to make such amends, but now I have the help of my God to know what to do and how to do it. I learn to earnestly seek the right way to go about this process from my God. I start to live the kind of life that my God has meant for me to live all along. - Although these reparations take innumerable forms, there are some general principles which we find guiding. Reminding ourselves that we have decided to go to any lengths to find a spiritual experience, we ask that we be given strength and direction to do the right thing, no matter what the personal consequences may be. We may lose our position or reputation or face jail, but we are willing. We have to be. We must not shrink at anything. (A.A. Big Book p.79) - Above all, we should try to be absolutely sure that we are not delaying because we are afraid. For the readiness to take the full consequences of our past acts, and to take responsibility for the well-being of others at the same time, is the very spirit of Step Nine. (Twelve and Twelve p.87)



Food, Fun and Fellowship for friends and families!!!
Bring a lawn chair, bathing suit and a good attitude!!!
Please bring a dessert to pass!

Start time is 12pm.

Afternoon barbecue begins when the chicken is ready!

Special guest speaker meeting starts at 5!

This year's speaker James P, is joining us from
the original Heavy Hitters Mens Group out of
ATLANTA, GA!!!

[FREE!! DONATIONS ONLY!]

Sponsored by two local AA groups,
Heavy Hitters of Ocala Men's Group AND
the newly formed Heavy Hitters of Ocala Womens group!

www.postermywall.com

Steering Committee Members

Chair: Carson F.

Happy, Joyous, & Free

Co-Chair: Vacant

Secretary: Sallie C.

Ocala Group

Treasurer: Peggy N.

Shores of Sobriety

Members at Large:

Thom F. Last Call

Diane I. Living Sober

Rafael Q. Blichton Road

Tradition Nine - Long version Each A.A. Group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large Metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The Trustees of The Alcoholic Foundation are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office in New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our over-all public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, "The A.A. Grapevine." All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

The least possible organization, that's our universal ideal. No fees, no dues, no rules imposed on anybody, one alcoholic bringing recovery to the next; that's the substance of what we most desire, isn't it? But how shall this simple ideal best be realized? Often a question, that.

We have, for example, the kind of A.A. who is for simplicity. Terrified of anything organized, he tells us that A.A. is getting too complicated. He thinks money only makes trouble, committees only make dissension, elec-

tions only make politics, paid workers only make professionals and that clubs only coddle slipees. Says he, let's get back to coffee and cakes by cozy firesides. If any alcoholics stray our way, let's look after them. But that's enough. Simplicity is our answer.

Quite opposed to such halcyon simplicity is the A.A. promoter. Left to himself he would "bang the cannon and twang the lyre" at every crossroad of the world. Millions for drunks, great A.A. hospitals, batteries of paid

organizers and publicity experts wielding all the latest paraphernalia of sound and script; such would be our promoters dream. "Yes sir," he would bark "My two year plan calls for one million A.A. members by 1950!"

For one, I'm glad we have both conservatives and enthusiasts. They teach us much. The conservative will surely see to it that the A.A. movement never gets over organized. But the promoter will continue to remind us of our terrific obligation to the
Continued page 2—>

Congratulations September Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate a collective **292 years** — more than **106,579 days of sobriety**. One day at a time!

New Attitudes

Jim B. 45 yrs
Dave M. 4 yrs
Justin C. 2 yrs

Ocala Group

Carol G. 31 yrs
Diane G. 3 yrs

One Day at a Time

Fred S. 48 yrs
Hugh 32 yrs
Dave G. 4 yrs

Happy, Joyous, & Free

Judy K. 41 yrs
Ruth T. 27 yrs
George 21 yrs
Kelly M. 6 yrs

James M. 6 yrs
Matt B. 4 yrs
Jeremy H. 4 yrs
Greg M. 4 yrs
Brian K. 4 yrs
Keith 2 yrs
Jason A. 2 yrs
Robert D. 1 yr
David F. 1 yr

August

Simone S. 36 yrs
Caroline 21 yrs
Mike S. 15 yrs
Faith V. 15 yrs

Bob M. 5 yrs
Carey C. 3 yrs
Patti R. 1 yr

Join the Birthday Plan

In grateful celebration of their sobriety birthdays, many A.A. members contribute one dollar or more for each year of sobriety to any or all of our four service entities; the local Intergroup, District, Area Assembly, and General Service Office. Every A.A. service is designed to help carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Your Birthday Plan contributions

help make our vital services possible. Some members attribute their birthday contribution to their home group. If you make note of your home group's name along with your Birthday contribution, Intergroup District 17 will list your group in this monthly newsletter. Also, a receipt and 'thank you' letter will be sent to your group.

Deadline for birthdays is the 20th of the preceding month.

Email: thevoice@aaocalamarion.org
Or call: 352.867.0660

Mark Your AA Calendar Upcoming Events

INTERGROUP OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY, SEPT. 2ND

- **Intergroup Monthly Meeting**
Sept. 8, Sun. Intergroup Reps
4:30 pm 3666A NE 25th St., Ocala 34470
Steering Committee follows
3666A NE 25th St., Ocala 34470
- **Living Sober Group**
Sept. 8, Sun. 7:30pm Speaker: Deanne L. of the New Attitudes group
- **2nd Annual "Hitnic"**
Sept. 14, Sat., Pardee lake house, 12653 SE 141st Ave. Rd., Ocklawaha, FL 32179
Begins at Noon, Speaker at 5pm James P. from the AA Heavy Hitters Men's group Atlanta, GA **Desserts welcomed.**
- **Lost & Found Club Poker Night**
Sept. 14, Sat., 9pm - Cards & Games
2315 NE 29th Terr., Ocala 34470
- **District 17 Monthly Meeting**
Sept 26, Thurs. 6:45 pm, St. Mark's United Methodist, 1839 NE 8th Rd.
- **Annual FL Corrections Workshop**
Sept. 29, Sun., Noon-3pm Sahara Club, 2587 Sanford Ave., Sanford, FL 32773
- **North Florida Area Conference**
Area 14 Assembly Oct. 4-6, Fri.-Sun.
Orlando Lake Mary Marriott, 1501 International Pkwy., Lake Mary 32746 For special rate mention NFAC, 800-380-7724 Register online at: http://www.aanorthflorida.org/assembly_agenda.asp

Groups. Are you planning a event?

Send your information to *The Voice* for publication. Reach our nearly 400 subscribers. Deadline for each issue is the 20th of the preceding month. Send to: thevoice@aaocalamarion.org

Tradition Nine From page 1

hundreds of thousands of alcoholics still waiting all over the world to hear of A.A. We shall, naturally, take the firm and safe middle course. A.A. has always violently resisted the idea of any general organization. Yet, paradoxically, we have ever stoutly insisted upon organizing certain *special services*; mostly those absolutely necessary to effective and plentiful 12th Step work.

If, for instance, an A.A. group elects a secretary or rotating committee, if an area forms an intergroup committee, if we set up a Foundation, a General Office or a *Grapevine*, then we are organized for service. The A.A. book and pamphlets, our meeting places and clubs, our dinners and regional assemblies--these are services too. Nor can we secure good hospital connections, properly sponsor new prospects and obtain good public relations just by chance. People have to be appointed to look after these things, sometimes paid people. Special services are performed.

But by none of these special services, has our spiritual or social activity, the great current of A.A. ever been really organized or professionalized. Yet our recovery program has been enormously aided. While important, these service activities, are very small by contrast with our main effort.

As such facts and distinctions become clear, we shall easily lay aside our fears of blighting organization or hazardous wealth. As a movement, we shall remain comfortably poor; for our service expenses are trifling.

With such assurances, we shall without doubt, continue to improve and extend our vital lifelines of special service; to better carry out our A.A. message to others; to make for ourselves a finer greater society, and, God willing, to assure Alcoholics Anonymous a long life and perfect unity.

Bill W.
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Tradition Nine Checklist

1. Do I still try to boss things in AA?
2. Do I resist formal aspects of AA because I fear them as authoritative?
3. Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the AA program—even if no one makes me do so—with a sense of personal responsibility?
4. Do I exercise patience and humility in any AA job I take?
5. Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any AA job?
6. Why doesn't every AA group need a constitution and bylaws?
7. Have I learned to step out of an AA job gracefully—and profit thereby—when the time comes?
8. What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?

Want more information about AA and the local fellowship? Meetings? Service?

Visit www.aocalamarion.org

2ND ANNUAL SERENITY SCRAMBLE

to be held at

THE LINKS AT SPRUCE CREEK SOUTH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2013

8:30 AM SHOTGUN START

\$45 per player includes Continental breakfast buffet, lunch, prizes, and gift bag. Lunch-Only Option available.

Entry forms available at Intergroup or at aaocalaintergroup.org.

Intergroup Insights

Service Positions Open

Intergroup Steering Committee Co-Chair
Two years continuous sobriety required.
After Hours Volunteer Tues. 5pm—10pm
One year sobriety required.

New meetings. Please support.

Rising Above Group, Friday, 8:00pm,
Phoenix House, 15681 N. Hwy. 301, Citra,
FL 32113, Open Speaker,

Bellevue Noon Group, Monday, Noon,
St. Paul Parish National, 5245 SE 112th St.,
Bellevue, FL 34420

New Attitudes, Tuesday & Thursday,
6:00pm Lost & Found Club, 2315 NE 29th
Terr., Ocala, FL 34470

A.A. History in Sept.

Sept 1, 1939 - First AA group founded in Chicago.

Sept 11, 2001 - 30 Vesey St, New York. Location of AA's first office is destroyed during the World Trade Center attack.

Sept 12, 1942 - U.S. Assist. Surgeon General Kolb speaks at dinner for Bill and Dr Bob.

Sept 13, 1937 - Florence R, first female in AA in NY.

Sept 13, 1941 - WHJP in Jacksonville, FL airs Spotlight on AA.

Sept 17, 1954 - Bill D, AA #3 dies.

Sept 18, 1947 - Dallas Central Office opens its doors.

Sept 19, 1965 - The Saturday Evening Post publishes "Alcoholics Can Be Cured Despite AA"

Sept 19, 1975 - Jack Alexander, author of original Saturday Evening Post article, dies.

Sept 21, 1938 - Bill W. & Hank P. form

Works Publishing Co.

Sept 24, 1940 - Bill 12th steps Bobbie V. who later replaced Ruth Hock as his secretary in NY.

Sept 30, 1939 - article in *Liberty* magazine, "Alcoholics and God" by Morris Markey.

Other significant events which occurred in September, but for which there is no specific date:

1930 - Bill wrote 4th (last) promise in family Bible to quit drinking.

1939 - Group started by Earl T. in Chicago.

1940 - AA group started in Toledo by Duke P. & others.

1940 - *Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases* gives Big Book unfavorable review.

1946 - Bill & Dr. Bob both publicly endorsed National Committee Education Alcoholism founded by Marty M.

1946 - First A.A. group in Mexico.

1948 - Bob writes article for *Grapevine* on AA, "Fundamentals In Retrospect".

1949 - First issue of A.A. *Grapevine* published in "pocketbook" size.



Serenity by the Sea in Naples, FL Oct. 25-27, Fri.-Sun.

A weekend of Food, Fun, & Fellowship.
Featuring Meetings, Workshops., Speakers,
and a Sat. night Banquet!

Clancy I., Venice, CA, Mari G. Ontario,
Canada, Phil H. Largo, FL Beverly B. (AFG)
Lewiston, TX <http://serenityclubswfl.org>

District 17 Corner

From the District 17 DCM

What does it take?

Our last NFAC Area Assembly was held July 13 – 14 in Lake Mary. Doug L, Alt. DCM attended in my absence. One of the discussion topics was low turnout for District and Area meetings. What does it take to motivate Alcoholics Anonymous members to participate in Service? For me, it was strong sponsorship that got me involved.

It started with "little" things, like setting up and cleaning up after meeting. If you have never involved yourself in Service to AA you are missing out on a rewarding aspect of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Service is our third Legacy. It follows after Recovery and Unity. Service keeps Alcoholics Anonymous alive as an organization. I encour-

age you to attend our District 17 meetings on the last Thursday of every month. We meet at the Ocala Group (St. Mark's) at 6:45 PM. Find out what goes on at the District level. For an added treat, attend NFAC Area Assembly, Oct. All are welcome to both. If you think Service at the District and Area level is all about politics, talk to me. I will happily share my experience, strength and hope on both of those levels. I can also be contacted through Intergroup.

Carson F.

District 17 Committee Chairs

DCM Carson F.
Alt. DCM Doug L.
Secretary Vacant
Treasurer Peter G.
Registrar Rick D.
Archives Kim Mc.
Treatment James M.
Women's Corrections Lori M.
Men's Corrections Frank B.
Literature Ken W.
CPC/PI Max R.
Accessibilities Ginger H.
Bridging the Gap Diane I.
Grapevine Donna B.

NEEDS SUPPORT !!

Experience, Strength, & Hope
Friday 8pm, Open Big Book, First Fri.
Church of Christ 2750 SE Maricamp
Rd., Ocala, 34471

Help carry the message to women inside looking out.

Our *Big Book* reminds us to "ask that we be given strength and direction to do the right thing no matter what the personal consequences maybe."

District 17 Corrections Committee needs women willing to chair, speak, and participate in AA meetings in local women's prison.

The institutions require volunteers to have three years of sobriety and be off probation, parole, and paper for three years.

Let's pull together and help these women who are on the "inside looking out." The *Big Book* says, "When we sincerely took such a position, all sorts of remarkable things followed." To learn more or volunteer, contact Lori M. at Intergroup.

Men Needed Too.

The corrections committee also seeks men for similar service in men's prisons. Contact Frank B. at Intergroup.

Service & Sobriety
District 17. Get Involved.
Open Service Position.

Secretary
Learn more.
Next Meeting. All Welcome.

Thursday, September 26, 6:45 pm
St. Mark's UMC, 1839 NE 8th Rd. 34470

Group Contributions to Intergroup September 2013

Fiscal year: June 1, 2013 through May 31, 2014

GROUP NAME	July '13	YTD	GROUP NAME	July '13	YTD
164 Pages Group			Keep It Green		
A Light in Citra Group			Keep It Simple		
Alive and Well			Last Call Group		
All You Need Group	45.00	45.00	Living Sober Group	140.00	140.00
Anonymity Group			Lunch Bunch Group		
Belleview Eye Opener			McIntosh Group		
Belleview God's Way	50.00	50.00	Mid-Afternoon Group		
Belleview Group			New Attitudes Group		
Blichton Road Group			Now What Group		
Breakfast Club	229.05	529.05	Ocala Group	69.09	185.56
Cabin in the Woods			Ocala Men's Group	175.00	175.00
Came To Believe			One Day at a Time		300.00
Conscious Contact			Primary Purpose Group		
Eleventh Step Group			Serenity Group		
Eureka Group	15.00	15.00	Shores of Sobriety		
Experience, Strength & Hope			Sisters of Serenity		
Forest Group			Sober Yankees		75.87
Forest Men's Group		40.00	Start A New Life		
Fort McCoy Group	20.00	20.00	Stop Whining & Sober Up		333.00
Fountain of Gratitude			Strength In Numbers		43.27
Freedom House			Summerfield Group		
Free To Be			Sundae Social Group		
Fresh Start			TLC Group		
Grace Group			Thursday Night Step Group		
Grateful Gals	15.50	15.50	Together We Can		
Grupo Mano Abierta			We Give Up		
Happy Hour Group			We Give Thanks		
Happy, Joyous & Free	350.93	807.49	Weir Crazy	31.00	61.00
Headstart Group		110.26	Young People's Group		
Healing Group			Blichton Road Group		
Heavy Hitters (Men's)			District 17		
Heavy Hitters (Women's)			Birthday Club	132.00	132.00
Into Action Group			Individuals members	7.01	41.67
It's In The Book			Total	1,279.58	3,329.67
It's Not Them Group					
Joy of Living		120.00			

How Groups and Individuals Support the Work of AA

Below is the example of allocation of group contributions provided by AA World Services in the information pamphlet:*

"SELF-SUPPORT: WHERE MONEY & SPIRITUALITY MIX"

- 50% Intergroup District 17 Inc.**
3666A NE 25th Street
Ocala, FL 34470
- 30% AA General Service Office**
P.O. Box 459
6035 E. Tudor St.
New York, NY 10164
- 10% North Florida Area Conference**
P.O. Box 360831
Melbourne, FL 32936-0831
- 10% District 17**
P.O. Box 3081
Ocala, FL 34478

*AA General Service Conference approved literature

Intergroup 17 Call Center July 2013

Meeting info requests	79
Office transactions	92
Twelfth Step Calls	1
Visitors	20
Al-Anon	5
Miscellaneous	90

Contribution or Tradition?

Alcoholics Anonymous was founded on the premise that it would be self-supported through member contributions. For the past 48 years, contributing a single dollar has been almost a tradition. Today's dollar has only 16 cents of the purchasing power of a 1960's dollar. Acknowledging these economic facts, why not responsibly compensate by dropping in 2 bucks for 2013??

For those who can't afford it, the important thing is to keep coming back.

The views, expressions, and opinions presented in these pages by individual members are those of the authors and not necessarily those of Alcoholics Anonymous.



**Live by the books?
Buy the books!**
Debit & Credit Cards accepted

Intergroup carries a great selection of AA conference approved literature and other recovery related items including a variety of medallions, pins, rings,

book covers, cards, bookmarks and gift items at affordable prices.

Bookstore Hours
Monday-Friday, 10 to 5
Saturday, 10 to 2

The Voice by email for free.

Send an e-mail with "Free Voice" in
the subject line to:
thevoice@aaocalamarion.org



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Print copies available at Intergroup office.