

## THE SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES OF THE 12 TRADITIONS

The Twelve Traditions are often referred to as, "Why it works." They ensure the continuance of A.A. as a whole, by providing guidelines for groups to evaluate their activities and actions. In a practical vein they are, individually and collectively, humility builders for the group; they ask that the group consider its conduct from a broader perspective and, when necessary, give up something for the overall good of A.A.

The Traditions also contain spiritual principles. These principles, when applied in our lives, complement the Steps as a guide to personal recovery. Here, taken from Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, (with minor editorial modification) are the spiritual principles of the Traditions:

1. The A.A. member conforms to the principles of recovery; at first because he must, later because he discovers a way of life he really wants to live. **(Unity)**
2. When we come to understand the wisdom of the group decision and the necessity of patiently awaiting developments, the real and permanent leadership of A.A. can offer the quiet opinion, the sure knowledge and humble example that resolve a crisis, leading by example, rather than driving by mandate. **(Group Conscience)**
3. When confronted by the fear that is the true basis of intolerance, we need only ask, "What would the Master do?" **(Membership)**

Type of Change	Address	Day/Time	Meeting Type
New	Sober Sisters Scoops Ice Cream 8602 SW St.Rd. 200 Ste. C Ocala, FL 34481	Sat. 10:00 am	<b>Women's</b> Closed Discussion
Relocated	Sober Yankees South West Christian 9045 SW 60th Ave. Ocala, FL 34476	Tuesday 5:45 pm	1st Tues. Open Tradition 2nd Tues. Open Grapevine 3rd Tues. Open Step 4th Tuesday Open Speaker 5th Tuesday Open Discussion
Relocated	Alive and Well Silver Springs Shores Community <b>Youth</b> Center 590 Silver Rd. Silver Springs Shores, 34472	Monday 10:00 am	Open Discussion
Relocated	Shores of Sobriety Silver Springs Shores Community Center 590 Silver Rd. Silver Springs Shores, 34472	Tuesday 7:00 pm	Open Step
Relocated	Shores of Sobriety Silver Springs Shores Community <b>Youth</b> Center 590 Silver Rd. Silver Springs Shores, 34472	Thursday 7:00 pm	Open Discussion
Relocated	If you spot it - you've got it Silver Springs Shores Community <b>Youth</b> Center 590 Silver Rd. Silver Springs Shores, 34472	Saturday 7:00 pm	Open Discussion

The primary purpose of Intergroup District 17 is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to those who suffer from alcoholism, and to operate and maintain the Intergroup District 17 office, to participate in other AA activities in the territory covered by Intergroup District 17, all in accordance with The Twelve Traditions, and such future suggestions as may hereafter be issued by the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous in New York.

*Constitution and By-Laws of Intergroup District 17, Inc. Article 1 Section 3*

## Congratulations Jan., Feb., & March Birthdays!

<b>January 2017</b>	Deborah V.	27	Tim W.	32	
Christopher	1	Bill L.	27	Janice W.	35
Brian Y.	1	Wes H.	27	Don C.	36
Robert C.	1	Sue H.	32	<b>March</b>	
Bobbi S.	1	Joureene P.	36	Robin L.	1
Joe V.	2	June C.	40	James N.	2
Shannon H.	2	Joe S.	40	Jason G.	2
Caroline	2	Barbara T.	41	Brenda F.	3
Betty P.	3	Jim G.	26	Michelle D.	3
Dane J.	3	<b>February</b>		Joe M.	4
Josh R.	3	Amanda M.	1	Danny B.	4
Mystie G.	3	Jenn G.	2	Bob H.	5
Naren	3	Kristen D.	2	Jennifer F.	5
Rene G.	3	David B.	3	Howard B.	8
Rich E.	3	Lonnie G.	3	Mich H.	9
Megan R.	5	Joe R.	4	Diane W.	8
Misty A.	5	Jonathan S.	4	Lydia N.	10
Ron H.	5	Tristan Z.	4	George C.	10
Sisco L.	5	Corey D.	4	Linda H.	16
Paula F.	6	Laurie J.	5	Mary K.	18
Glenna	7	Ken D.	5	Brenda Mc.	19
Jim S.	7	JeniLou L.	6	Craig M.	19
Sue P.	7	Sue Ellen W.	8	Billy D.	23
John H.	9	Frank S.	8	Tom I.	28
Richie M.	13	Theresa S.	9	George N.	29
Ron K.	17	William M.	11	Carson F.	30
Benjamin O.	18	Andy L.	11	Frank B.	32
Bob L.	18	Doug L.	12	Judy Q.	32
Patrick P.	18	Nancee B.	12	Mary D.	34
Larry B.	20	Carol St. P.	14	John J.	37
Juan O.	21	Bob P.	15	Willie A.	38
John D.	23	Tracy C.	27	Larry S.	42
Donna R.	24	Diane B.	29		

### Join the Birthday Club

The Birthday Club is a tangible way to celebrate an AA anniversary—yours or another member's. To join, complete the form below and enclose a donation—suggested is \$1 for each year of sobriety. The money is used to help Intergroup 17 carry the message to other alcoholics in Ocala and Marion County.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sobriety date: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable and mail with this form to:  
Intergroup District 17  
1815 NE 19th Ave. Suite B  
Ocala, Florida 34470**

**Announcements!** Intergroup Representative and Intergroup Steering Committee meeting will meet Sunday, Jan. 29th, 2017, 3:00 pm at St. Mark's United Methodist. Elections for the Steering Committee will take place. Send your IGR to cast the voice of your group.

Living Sober group meets at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, 7171 SW State Rd. 200, Ocala, FL 34476. Speakers for Sunday, Jan. 8th are Dianne R. and Sunday, Feb. 12th Benjamin O.

**Rule 62:** Two drunks are driving down the highway drinking beer. All of a sudden they see a police car's lights flashing in the rear view mirror. "What are we going to do?" asks the drunk passenger. "Don't worry, I know what do to." Peel the label off your bottle and stick it to your forehead. "Let me do the talking." They pull over and the cop gets out. "May I see your registration?" he asks. The guy gives him his license. "Have you been drinking?" "No officer, we haven't had a sip." "Well, why do you have beer labels on your foreheads?" The man answers, "These aren't labels. We are alcoholics, and we're on the patch."

**Contributions Fiscal Year June 1, 2016-May 31, 2017**

Group	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	YTD Total
11th Step Group			100.00		100.00
All In		1.20		5.23	6.43
All You Need		46.82			46.82
Bellevue Group				58.58	58.58
Birthday Club		48.75		100.00	148.75
Breakfast Club		650.00			650.00
By the Book		0.16			0.16
Came to Believe	1.00				1.00
Carry the Message 4th Dimension				150.00	150.00
District 17	2.00				2.00
Experience Strength & Hope			100.00		100.00
Fort McCoy		0.64	2.67		3.31
Forest Men's Group				40.87	40.87
Grace Group				2.00	2.00
Grupo Mano Abierto	25.00				25.00
Happy, Joyous, & Free	275.00	228.00	9.00	259.00	771.00
Headstart	173.30	122.54	124.19	118.05	538.08
Heavy Hitters			10.78		10.78
Individual	17.53	39.78	21.71	30.47	109.49
Last Call	4.42			0.41	4.83
Living Sober	1.00	1.00		25.00	27.00
Lunch Bunch	3.00				3.00
New Attitudes	5.00				5.00
No Name Group	20.00				20.00
Ocala Group	2.28		35.93	5.99	44.20
Ocala Men's Group		700.00			700.00
One Day at a Time	111.32	128.66		161.68	401.66
Perspective II		100.00			100.00
Primary Purpose	51.50	1.75		65.00	118.25
Shores of Sobriety			1.00		1.00
Step Right Up	1.00		1.16		2.16
Thursday Night Step			100.00		100.00
Unity Place		2.81			2.81
Unity, Service, & Recovery				0.10	0.10
We Give Up		162.86			162.86
Weir Crazy		100.00			100.00
Women's Heavy Hitters				0.23	0.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>693.35</b>	<b>2334.97</b>	<b>506.44</b>	<b>1022.61</b>	<b>4557.37</b>

**SELF—SUPPORT:** The 7th Tradition states: “ Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.” While contributions cover each group's rent and other expenses, the 7th Tradition is essential at every level of A.A. service. It is both a privilege and a responsibility for groups and members to ensure that not only their group, but also their intergroup/central office, local services, district, area, and the General Service Office remain self-supporting. This keeps A.A. free of outside influences that might divert us from our primary purpose—to help the alcoholic who still suffers. The amount of our contribution is secondary to the spiritual connection that unites all groups around the world.

**Service Material from the General Service**

**How Groups & Individuals Support A.A.**

**50% Intergroup District 17**  
**1815 NE 19th Ave., Ocala, FL 34470**

**30% General Service Office**  
**P.O. Box 459 Grand Central Station**  
**New York, NY 10163**

**10% North Florida Area Conference**  
**P.O. Box 291634**  
**Port Orange, FL 32129**

**10% to District 17**  
**P.O. Box 3081**  
**Ocala, Fl. 34474**

**Some individual members choose to provide financial support Intergroup District 17 in various ways such as...**

**Faithful Fivers: \$5 each month.**

**Double Nickel: \$10 each month.**

**Birthday Club Members: \$1 or more per year of sobriety on their AA “birthday.”**



<i>Intergroup Office Log</i>	<i>Oct.-Dec.</i>
12 Step	7
Meeting Info	211
Office Trans.	194
Miscellaneous	172
Visitor	106
Al-Anon	15

# The Voice



Intergroup District 17, Inc. 1815 NE 19th Ave. Ste. B, Ocala, FL 34470 ~ (352) 867-0660

Email: [aaocalaintergroup@gmail.com](mailto:aaocalaintergroup@gmail.com)

Website: [www.aaocalamarion.org](http://www.aaocalamarion.org)

Hours of operation

Mon.- Fri. 10 am to 5 pm

Saturday 10 am to 2 pm

## First three steps of AA define the problem, solution

In 1934, Bill W., cofounder of Alcoholics Anonymous, got a call from a former drinking buddy, Ebby T. "Rumor had it that he'd been committed for alcoholic insanity," Bill recalled. "I wondered how he had escaped."

In reality, Ebby was two months sober. This disappointed Bill, who wanted to recapture the spirit of their earlier drinking escapades. When Ebby came to visit, Bill pushed a drink across the table. Ebby refused it. "The door opened, and he stood there, fresh-skinned and glowing," Bill recalled. "He was inexplicably different. What had happened?" The answer to that question eventually brought Bill to sobriety, and to the Twelve Steps of AA.

Before Bill could formulate the Twelve Steps of AA, he had to make two discoveries. He had already gained the first one from Dr. William Silkworth, the attending physician during Bills first "detox." Silkworth said that Bill had a disease with both physical and mental dimensions. The physical part was an abnormal craving for alcohol, and the mental dimension was a delusion. It was Bills belief that, someday, he'd be able to control his drinking like nonalcoholics. Bill desperately clung to that belief, despite the contrary evidence: No matter how often he vowed never to drink again, every time he touched a drink, he ended up drunk.

Now Bill had a grasp of the problem. Like other alcoholics, he got drunk not because he was weak-willed or sinful. Instead, Bills body and mind worked differently from other peoples.

This idea suggested the next question: How could they give up their delusion of controlled drinking? And how could they avoid taking that first drink?

Ebby had an answer. One of Ebby's friends, also an alcoholic, had seen Carl Jung, the famous Swiss psychiatrist. Jung pointed out that since early times, some alcoholics had recovered through what he called a "vital spiritual experience", a complete change in thought and action. Short of such an experience, said Jung, the prognosis for alcoholics like Bill was death or insanity.

This "God talk" was tough for Bill to swallow. After his experiences as a soldier in World War I, Bill said that he "doubted whether the religions of mankind had done any good. Judging from what I'd seen in Europe and since, the power of God in human affairs was negligible, the Brotherhood of Man a grim jest."

Again, Ebby had a reply: Just choose your own concept of a higher power. That power can be anything that prompts a fundamental change in your thinking and action. For some, that might be a traditional concept of God. But for others, it could be a friend, a book, or even a breathtaking sunset.

This second discovery shook Bill to the core. "It was only a matter of being willing to believe in a power greater than myself," he wrote later in "Alcoholics Anonymous" (AA General Services, \$6). "Nothing more was required of me to make my beginning." In short, the next step was a simple desire to change, a willingness to accept help from someone or something else. After Bill accepted these ideas, he never took another drink.

Silkworth, who'd diagnosed Bill as an incurable alcoholic, was dumbfounded by Bills transformation. "Something has happened to you that I don't understand," Silkworth told Bill. "But you had better hang on to it."

In effect, Bill had discovered two core principles of recovery. First, admit the problem, powerlessness over alcohol (or other drugs). Second, open up to a solution, a "Higher Power," any source of help outside yourself. These principles are, in essence, the first three steps of AA: We admitted we were powerless over alcohol, that our lives had become unmanageable. to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him*.

Bill longed to carry this message to other alcoholics. But that presented another problem: Spiritual experiences can hardly be produced at will. How could he help other alcoholics clear a space in their minds and hearts for such change?