

# 1998 Voice Issues

# ◇ Intergroup Voice ◇

PO Box 1192 Ocala, FL 34478 352-867-0660

February 1998

## Birthdays

Hans F.	34yrs
Pat S.	29yrs
George H.	26yrs
Kenny S.	24yrs
Dave A.	20yrs
Bonnie H.	17yrs
John G.	16yrs
Carol W.	16yrs
Stephen S.	13yrs
Bill V.	13yrs
Charlie B.	13yrs
Jerry Mc.	12yrs
George B.	12yrs
Jeff C.	12yrs
Ricardo R.	11yrs
Bill A.	9yrs
Carol H.S.	8yrs
Al B.	6yrs
Joe O.L.	6yrs
Patty T.	6yrs
James R.	4yrs
Steve H.	4yrs
Tammy	4yrs
Robert H.	3yrs
Ali R.	3yrs
Jeanie T.	2yrs
Travis J.	2yrs
Kris G.	2yrs
Marie E.	2yrs
Linda D.	2yrs
Kathy W.	1yr
Brian Y.	1yr
Ginny P.	1yr
January Birthdays	
Den D.	32yrs
June C.	21yrs
Darryl H.	12yrs
Terry H.	12yrs
Charlie T.	6yrs
Dale W.	1yr

## Step Two

*"Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."*

What can we believe in? A.A. does not demand belief. Twelve Steps are only suggestions. Importance of an open mind. Variety of ways to faith. Substitution of A.A. as Higher Power. Plight of the disillusioned. Roadblocks of indifference and prejudice. Lost faith found in A.A. Problems of intellectuality and self-sufficiency. Negative and positive thinking. Self-righteousness. Defiance is an outstanding characteristic of alcoholics. Step Two is a rallying point to sanity. Right relation to God.

*reprinted with permission from 12&12 page 5*



Our condolences to the family and friends of Harrison D from the Shores of Sobriety Group.

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

If you choose not to decide, you still have made a choice.

## Who's in Charge?

Then who's in charge around here? A.A. is a spiritual movement, and so the "ultimate authority" is the spiritual concept of the "group conscience." Its voice is heard when a well-informed group gathers to arrive at a decision. The result rests on more than arithmetic, a "yes" and "no" count. Minority ideas get thoughtful attention. What about that annoying character who's always sure she's right? Better listen maybe, just this once, she is right. If she's wrong, then she will-if she remembers the First Tradition as well as the Second-go along with the decision of the group conscience. Does this notion seem too cloudy? Let's think back to our first meetings. The presence we newcomers felt in those rooms was the same as the group conscience. And it was *real*-welcoming us in, setting up no barriers of rules...

*reprinted with permission from The Twelve Tradition illustrated*





# valentine



# Dance

50/50  
Raffle

At: St. Marks Methodist Church 1839 NE 8th Ave  
When: Saturday February 14 9pm-12am  
How Much: \$4.00 Admission  
Sponsored by Intergoup

## A Prayer for a Good Day

Just for today I will be happy.  
I am going to need your help.  
I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me.  
I will replace them with happy thought.

Just for today I will make a big effort to be agreeable.  
I will be cheerful, Lord. I will not be crabby.  
I will lift my face in a smile instead of a frown.

I will remember fondly the warmth of hugging another.  
I will hug someone today.  
I will even hug my dog or my cat.

Today, Lord, I will do something good for someone else.  
I will not count the cost.  
I will not ask the price.

Dear Lord, thanks for listening to my grand plans.  
Above all, just give me a smile,  
And a helping hand to get through my day.

## Mr. Drink and

Each day I see him,  
there on the street.  
I respect him and he respects me. (because)  
I choose to walk on the other side of the street.  
While on his side, he hopes for people to meet.  
Daily he knocks them off their feet, (with)  
His elixir that tempts so sweet,  
All who take it, drink defeat.  
His motive, to get you to lie, rob, and cheat.  
Yourself out of future flat broke on your seat.  
Each day I see him, there on the street.  
Acknowledging each other as we pass by,  
I keep my distance with a watchful eye.  
Over here on my spiritual HIGH!



Dear Lord,  
So far today, God, I have done all right. I haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or over indulgent. I'm very thankful for that.  
But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed and from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot more help.

Amen.

Victor E.



# Attitude

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life.

Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one thing we have, and that is our attitude...I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our Attitudes."

*Charles Swindoll*

Reprinted from: *How the Indian River Intergroup Assoc newsletter.*

## When Someone Reaches Out For Help Intergroup Is There

You can insure that it stays that way by becoming a Faithful Fiver. Faithful Fivers provide financial support needed to keep our Intergroup Services Office running. Regular contributions of \$5.00 or more a moth help to insure that when someone calls Alcoholics Anonymous for help, AA is there to answer.

"Voluntary contributions or pledges of AA members should be our principal, and eventually, our sole support."

*-Language of theHeart, p28, copyright 1988 The AA Grapevine*

### Please sign me up as a Faithful Fiver!

I would like to contribute:

Monthly \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly \_\_\_\_\_

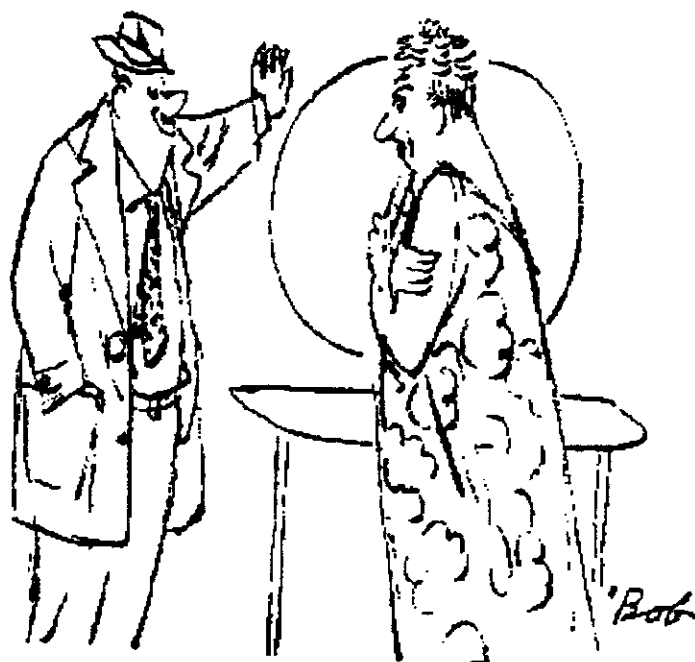
Semi-annually \_\_\_\_\_ Annually \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



"Since when did Alcoholics Anonymous start holding meetings in the Old Chelsea Bar and Grill?"

## Don't Quit

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,  
When the funds are low, and the debts are high,  
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit- Rest if you must,  
but don't you quit.

Success is failure turned inside out. The silver tint of the clouds of doubt. And you never can tell how close your are. It may be near when it seems afar. So, stick to the fight when you're hardest hit- It's when things go wrong that you mustn't quit.

## Free HUG

Redeem this card for one  
Free Hug from any  
consenting human being

GROUP ACTIVITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 6-1-97  
TO 5-31-98  
FOR THE MONTH OF January

GROUP NAME	MONTH CONT'BN	YTD CONT'BN	AMOUNT OWED
Alive & Well		\$20.00	
All You Need		\$100.00	
Anthony			
Jackwoods		\$3.34	
Jetview	\$350.00	\$826.50	
Daytimers	\$75.00	\$75.00	
Donnellon		\$30.00	
Exp. Strength Hope	\$8.51	\$160.21	
Eye Opener		\$71.20	
Fellowship	\$100.00	\$720.00	
Foot Print	\$30.00	\$150.00	
Forest		\$60.00	
St. McCoy			
Mountain of Gratitude		\$72.00	
God's Way	\$15.00	\$155.00	
Grace			
Happy, Joyous and Free	\$33.14	\$202.30	
Happy, Joyous and Gay		\$40.50	
Head Start		\$228.99	(\$0.54)
Is in the Book			(\$5.00)
Living Sober	\$72.87	\$905.98	
Lunch Bunch	\$127.11	\$207.39	
Marion Oaks 12 Step			
McIntosh		\$50.00	
Men's Group		\$251.34	
New Attitudes	\$71.48	\$175.70	
Ocala	\$219.72	\$1,285.78	
Peace of Mind			
Primary Purpose		\$100.00	
Rainbow		\$314.90	
Serenity		\$30.00	
Shores of Sobriety		\$180.00	
We Give Thanks	\$42.00	\$113.25	
SUB TOTAL	\$1,144.81	\$6,529.38	(\$5.54)
Janon	\$120.00	\$360.00	
Treatment			
Corrections			\$10.60
IPC/PI			
LC Treatment			\$124.56
Artful Fivers	\$33.00	\$145.29	
Lost and Found			\$77.65
SUB TOTAL	\$153.00	\$505.29	\$212.81
TOTAL	\$1,297.81	\$7,034.67	\$207.27

# Deeper Than Words

"Everyone must agree that we AA's are unbelievable fortunate people; fortunate that we have suffered so much; fortunate that we can know, understand, and love each other so supremely well - these attributes and virtues are scarcely of the earned variety. Indeed, most of us are well aware that these are rare gifts which have their true origin in our kinship born of a common suffering and a common deliverance by the grace of God. Thereby we are privileged to communicate with each other to a degree and in a manner not very often surpassed among our nonalcoholic friends in the world around us.

From AA's very beginning our success with each new prospect has always rested squarely on our ability to identify with him or her in experience, in language, and especially in feeling - that profound feeling for each other that goes deeper than words. This is what we really mean when we say 'on alcoholic talking to another.'"

-Bill W., *The Language of the Heart*, p. 292



# Intergroup Voice

PO Box 1194 Ocala FL 34478

352-867-0660

April 1998

## Birthdays



Mary B.	35yrs
Joanne A.	23yrs
Mildred B.	19yrs
Gene S.	17yrs
Pat O.	16yrs
Bob P.	13yrs
Curly K.	11yrs
John B.	8yrs
David K.	8yrs
Tom C.	6yrs
Brian W.	3yrs
Frank F.	2yrs
Bud C.	2yrs
John H.	2yrs
Jim H.	2yrs
T.J.G.	2yrs
Theresa K.	2yrs
Brian R.	2yrs
Bo E.	1yr
Gene F.	1yr
Bobby F.	1yr
Tom H.	1yr

## Fourth Step Fourth Tradition

Alcoholics especially should be able to see that instinct run wild in themselves is the underlying cause of their destructive drinking. We have drunk to drown feelings of fear, frustration, and depression. We have drunk to escape the guilt of passions, and then have drunk again to make more passions possible. We have drunk for vain-glory - that we might the more enjoy foolish dreams of pomp and power. This perverse soul-sickness is not pleasant to look upon. Instincts on rampage balk at investigation. The minute we make a serious attempt to probe them, we are liable to suffer severe reactions.

But in A.A. we slowly learned that something had to be done about our vengeful resentments, self-pity, and unwarranted pride. We had to see that every time we played the big shot, we turned people against us. We had to see that when we harbored grudges and planned revenge for such defeats, we were really beating ourselves with the club of anger we had intended to use on others. We learned that if we were seriously disturbed, our *first* need was to quiet that disturbance, regardless of who or what we thought caused it.

reprinted with permission 12 & 12 pgs 44:47

As always, freedom brings responsibility. Because each group is autonomous, it's up to each group to avoid any action that might harm A. A. And there have been such actions - or this Tradition would be unnecessary.

"Implicit throughout A.A.'s Traditions," Bill W. wrote, "is the confession that our Fellowship has its sins. We admit that we have character defects as a society and these defects threaten us continually."

In a way, the Fourth Tradition is like the Fourth Step: It suggests that the A.A. group should take honest inventory of itself, asking about each of its independently planned actions, "Would this break any Tradition?" Like the individual member who chooses to make the Steps his or her guide toward happy sobriety, the wise group recognizes that the Traditions are not hindering technicalities - they are proved guides toward the chief objective of all A.A. groups.

reprinted with permission Twelve Traditions Illustrated.

## Quote of the Month

If at first you don't succeed,  
don't go skydiving.

# The Third Step Prayer

**God,**

**I offer myself to Thee-  
to build with me  
and 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.**

# The Seventh Step Prayer

**My Creator,**

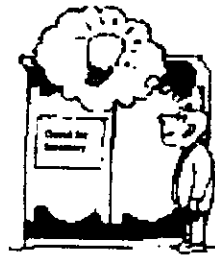
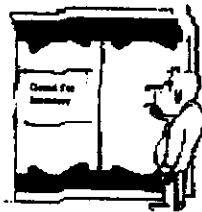
**I am now willing that You  
should have all of me,  
good and bad.**

**I pray that You now  
remove from me every  
single defect of character  
which stands in the way  
of my usefulness to You  
and my fellows.**

**Grant me strength,  
as I go out from here,  
to do your bidding.**

**Amen**

VICTOR E.



The Lunch Bunch Group would like to thank Bashful Jerry for being march's speaker.

The Lunch Bunch Group would like to announce that Smokey from Dunnellon will be speaking on the last Saturday of April, the 25th.

**I can only  
please one  
person a day  
and today  
ain't your day!**

THUNDERBOLT AIN'T LOOKING TOO GOOD EITHER!



*Use what talents you possess.  
The woods would be very  
silent if no birds sang*

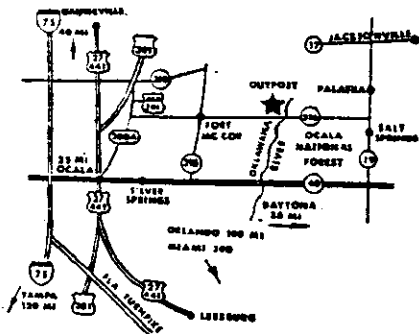
April's Intergroup meeting has been moved to April 19, please tell your Intergroup rep.

May's Intergroup meeting will be May 3rd at 5:15

# The Canoe Trip



15260 N.E. 152nd Place / Ft. McCoy, FL 32134  
352/236-4606



On Saturday May 2nd Intergroup will sponsor our annual canoe trip down the Oklawaha river. Come join us for hours of fun. The cost is only \$13.50, which covers the cost of the canoe rental. We need for you to pay in advance at the Intergroup office if you are planning on going. We'll be stopping on the way down river for a lunch meeting, so if you want to eat, please bring your own lunch.



Are you an active member,  
The kind that would be missed,  
Or are you just contented that  
Your name is on the list?  
Do you attend the meetings,  
And mingle with the flock,  
Or do you stay at home and  
Criticize and knock?  
Do you take an active part  
To help the work along,  
Or are you satisfied to be the  
Kind that "just belong"?  
Do you ever go to visit a member  
Who is sick,  
Or leave the work to just a few  
And talk about the clique?  
There's Quite a program scheduled  
That I'm sure you've heard about,  
And we'll appreciate it if you  
Too will come and help us out.  
So come to the meeting often  
And help with hand and heart,  
Don't be just a member,  
But take an active part.

*If you give a man a  
fish, he has food for  
a day....*

*If you teach a man  
how to fish he has  
food for life.*



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Donnellon		\$30.00	
Exp. Strength Hope		\$207.71	
Eye Opener	\$25.00	\$120.20	
Fellowship	\$100.00	\$970.00	\$21.20
Foot Print	\$60.00	\$240.00	
Forest		\$80.00	
Ft. McCoy	\$25.00	\$100.00	
Fountain of Gratitude		\$72.00	
God's Way	\$15.00	\$170.00	
Grace		\$10.00	
Happy, Joyous and Free		\$251.17	
Happy, Joyous and Gay		\$40.50	
Happy Hour		\$58.00	
Head Start	\$30.50	\$327.54	(\$0.54)
Its in the Book			(\$5.00)
Living Sober	\$100.00	\$1,097.98	
Lunch Bunch		\$286.09	
Marion Oaks 12 Step			
MCI Faith	\$1.00	\$1.00	
McIntosh		\$100.00	
Men's Group		\$301.34	
New Attitudes	\$146.68	\$322.38	
Ocala		\$1,770.86	
Peace of Mind	\$327.01		
Primary Purpose		\$277.00	
Rainbow	\$50.00	\$314.90	
Serenity		\$40.00	
Shores of Sobriety		\$180.00	
We Give Thanks	\$35.00	\$148.25	
SUB TOTAL	\$915.19	\$8,541.76	\$15.66
Alanon		\$360.00	
Treatment			\$19.08
Corrections			\$50.18
CPC/PI			
TLC Treatment			
Faithful Fivers	\$12.50	\$182.79	
Lost and Found			\$152.69
District 17			5.73
SUB TOTAL	\$12.50	\$542.79	\$221.95
TOTAL	\$927.69	\$9,084.55	\$237.61

# District 17 Info

Public Information and Cooperating with the Professional Community Committee Report from 12/1/97 to 3/31/98:

Restocked A.A. literature 44 times, Mail-outs 160 to Church youth groups.

Presentations about A.A.: 8 at the West FL Driver improvement School, 3 at Marion County Schools, 1 at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church Teen Life program, 3 at the Dept Salvation Army Probation, 2 at the Victim Impact Panel, 2 Charter Springs Counseling Center.

Table Displays: Malls 1, Forest High School 2

Civic Meetings: 6

Donations from District 17 to : Interfaith 1 literature rack

Distributed 850 envelopes containing information on A.A.



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Semi-annually \_\_\_\_\_ Annually \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

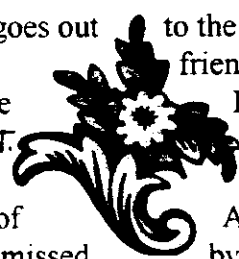
Faith is walking in  
the Rain,  
knowing the Sun  
will shine  
again



"I've been doing this for thirty years and you're my first Serenity Prayer."



ur sincerest condolences goes out to the family and friends of both Joe B. and Jeanie T. Both passed in the month of April and will be missed by all who knew them.



The Lunch Bunch would like to thank Smokey from Dunnelon for speaking in April. Patty T. will be the speaker on the last Saturday in May.

The first Monday of every month at the Fort McCoy group is a 12 and 12 meeting.

## At Day's End

Is anybody happier because you passed his way?  
Does anyone remember that you spoke to him today?  
The day is almost over, and its toiling time is through;  
Is there anyone to utter now a kindly word of you?  
Can you say tonight, in parting with the day that's slipping fast,  
That you helped a single brother of the many that you passed  
Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said;  
Does the man whose hopes were fading, now with courage look ahead?  
Did you wast the day, or lost it? Was it well or sorely spent?  
Did you leave a trail of kindness, or a scar discontent?  
As you close your eyes in slumber, do you thing God will say  
"You have earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today"?

When a problem seems to grow  
And the answer you don't know,  
Sit down and take things slow,  
Let go, let God  
When the world seems to go all wrong  
And there is no joy, no song,  
Any you feel you don't belong,  
Let go, let God  
For God is always there  
And he has lots of time to pare,  
And with you His love will share,  
Let go, let God

A negative  
mentality is  
the seed of  
negative re-  
ality.



# ◊ Intergroup Voice ◊

PO Box 1192 Ocala, FL 34478

352-867-0660

May 1998

## Birthdays

Dan S.	39yrs
George S.	32yrs
Bill H.	17yrs
Marilyn N.	17yrs
Dan J.	15yrs
Jack M.	15yrs
Ron M.	14yrs
Jerry T.	12yrs
Fran P.	12yrs
Kathy B.	12yrs
Linda N.	10yrs
Pam E.	10yrs
Linda M.	9yrs
Charlie S.	8yrs
Lee S.	7yrs
Jim C.	7yrs
Tony E.	7yrs
Big Red	5yrs
Shorty R.	5yrs
Eric A.	3yrs
Neil Q.	3yrs
Georgia G.	3yrs
Rick W.	3yrs
Brenda P.	2yrs
Tami S.	2yrs
Bob S.	2yrs
Lloyd F.	1yr
Paul B.	1yr
Richard B.	1yr

## April Birthdays

Geri Ann	2yrs
Mel W.	1yr

## Step Five

All of A.A.s Twelve Steps ask us to go contrary to our natural desires...they all deflate our egos. When it comes to ego deflations, few Steps are harder to take than Five. But scarcely any Step is more necessary to longtime sobriety and peace of mind than this one.

A.A. experience has taught us we cannot live alone with our pressing problems and the character defects which cause or aggravate them. If we have swept the searchlight of Step Four back and forth over our careers, and it has revealed in stark relief those experiences we'd rather not remember, if we have come to know how wrong thinking and action have hurt us and others, then the need to quit living by ourselves with those tormenting ghosts of yesterday gets more urgent than ever. We have to talk to somebody about them.

So intense, though, is our fear and reluctance to do this, that many A.A.'s at first try to bypass Step Five. We search for an easier way-which usually consists of the general and fairly painless admission that when drinking we were sometimes bad actors.

*reprinted with permission 12&12 page 55*

## Quote of the Month

Everywhere is walking distance if you have the time.

Steven Wright

## Fifth Tradition

...better do one thing supremely well than many badly. That is the central theme of this Tradition. Around it our Society gathers in unity. The very life of our Fellowship requires the preservation of this principle. Alcoholics Anonymous can be likened to a group of physicians who might find a cure for cancer, and upon whose concerted work would depend the answer for sufferers of this disease. True, each physician in such a group might have his own specialty. Every doctor concerned would at times wish he could devote himself to his chosen field rather than work only with the group. But once these men had hit upon a cure, once it became apparent that only by their united effort could this be accomplished, then all of them would feel bound to devote themselves solely to the relief of cancer. In the radiance of such a miraculous discovery, any doctor would set his other ambitions aside, at whatever personal cost.

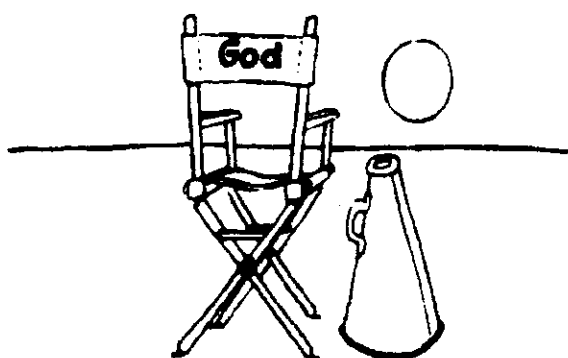
*reprinted with permission 12&12 pg 150*

# Bingo

- ⇒ Every Friday at 9:30pm
- ⇒ Join the Winners Circle Club  
for Bingo
- ⇒ Guaranteed \$100 jackpot every  
week!
- ⇒ no kids under 18 years of age will be allowed in building  
during bingo



## Come And Have Some Fun



**RELAX!**  
*God Is In Charge.*

If  
Gratitude is contagious  
And  
Alcoholism is a disease  
Then  
A grateful alcoholic has a  
contagious disease

**If you find mistakes**  
in this publication, please consider  
that they are there for a purpose.  
We publish something for every-  
one, and some people are always  
looking for mistakes.

GROUP NAME	MONTH CONT'BN	YTD CONT'BN	AMOUNT OWED
Alive & Well		\$20.00	
All You Need	\$24.00	\$124.00	
Anthony			
Backwoods		\$3.34	
Bellevue		\$826.50	
Daytimers	\$42.00	\$117.00	
Donnellon		\$30.00	
Exp. Strength Hope	\$70.00	\$277.71	
Eye Opener	\$25.00	\$145.20	
Fellowship	\$150.00	\$1,120.00	\$192.39
Foot Print		\$240.00	\$0.02
Forest		\$80.00	
Ft. McCoy		\$100.00	
Fountain of Gratitude		\$72.00	
God's Way		\$170.00	
Grace		\$10.00	
Happy, Joyous and Free	\$18.00	\$269.17	
Happy, Joyous and Gay		\$40.50	
Happy Hour		\$58.00	
Head Start	\$42.12	\$369.66	(\$0.54)
Its in the Book			(\$5.00)
Living Sober	\$190.00	\$1,287.98	
Lunch Bunch	\$18.61	\$304.70	
Marion Oaks 12 Step			
MCI Faith		\$1.00	
McIntosh		\$100.00	
Men's Group	\$70.00	\$371.34	
New Attitudes		\$322.38	
Ocala	\$276.70	\$2,047.56	
Peace of Mind			
Primary Purpose	\$75.00	\$352.00	
Rainbow		\$314.90	
Serenity		\$40.00	
Shores of Sobriety		\$180.00	\$0.40
We Give Thanks	\$30.00	\$178.25	
SUB TOTAL	\$1,031.43	\$9,573.19	\$187.27
OCSC			\$199.81
Alanon		\$360.00	
Treatment			
Corrections			
CPC/PI			\$19.62
TLC Treatment			\$109.98
Faithful Fivers	\$48.00	\$230.79	
Lost and Found			\$142.58
District 17		\$183.00	
SUB TOTAL	\$48.00	\$773.79	\$471.99
TOTAL	\$1,079.43	\$10,346.98	\$659.26

## District Info

Public Information and Cooperating with the Professional Community Committee Report from 12/1/97 to 04/28/98:

Restocked A.A. literature 47 times, Mail-outs 160 to Church youth groups  
 Presentations about A.A.: 9 at the West FL Driver Improvement School, 3 at Marion County Schools, 1 at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church Teen Life program, 1 at Ocala Christian Academy, 4 at the Dept Salvation Army Probation, 3 at the Victim Impact Panel, 2 Charter Springs Counseling Center, 1 at the Traffic Safety Awareness Day Van Guard H.S., 1 at Marion Citrus Mental Health DUI school.  
 Public Service Announcements, Radio 3, TV FOX 51 1

Table Displays: Malls 1, Forest High School 2  
 Civic meetings: 6

Donations for District 17 to: Interfaith 1 literature rack

Distributed 850 envelopes containing information on A.A., 450 message to Teen-agers given to Bellevue High School Seniors, 500 Message to Teen-agers to Van Guard H.S.

## Calls to Intergroup



Visitors 91  
 Meeting Info 84  
 AA Infor 66  
 Office 54  
 Misc 38  
 Alanon 35  
 12th step 4  
*Ans. Service 155*

## Important

May's Intergroup meeting has been moved to May 17th. Groups please make sure you reps know of the change so they can be there.

June's Intergroup meeting will be June 7 at 5:15 pm.

WCTOW IL



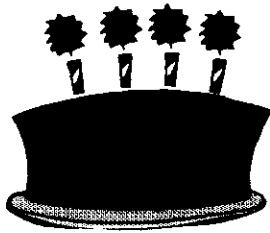
# Intergroup Voice

PO Box 1192 Ocala, FL 34478

352-867-0660

June 1998

## Birthdays



Everett E.	36yrs
Virgal A.	35yrs
Jim K.	28yrs
Ann K.	27yrs
Jack W.	11yrs
Henry P.	11yrs
Bea A.	10yrs
Elizabeth W.	9yrs
Chip H.	9yrs
David L.	8yrs
Cindy C.	7yrs
Mike W.	7yrs
Roseanna B.	5yrs
Mike O.	3yrs
Bill D.	2yrs
Beth H.	2yrs
JoAnn J.	2yrs
Don S.	2yrs
Fred W.	2yrs
Gordy C.	

## Quote of the Month

Yesterday is gone.  
Tomorrow is a mystery  
Today is a gift, that's why it's  
called the Present.

## Step Six Sixth Tradition

"WERE ENTIRELY READY TO HAVE  
GOD REMOVE ALL THESE DEFECTS OF  
CHARACTER."

"This is the Step that separates the men from the boys." So declares a well-loved clergyman who happens to be one of A.A.'s greatest friends. He goes on to explain that any person capable of enough willingness and honesty to try repeatedly Step Six on all his faults- *Without any reservations whatever*- has indeed come a long way spiritually, and is therefore entitled to be called a man who is sincerely trying to grow in the image and likeness of his own Creator.

Of course, the often disputed question of whether God can - and will, under certain conditions - remove defects of character will be answered with a prompt affirmative by almost any A.A. member. To him, this proposition will be no theory at all; it will be just about the largest fact in his life.

In A.A. meetings all over the world, statements just like this are heard daily. It is plain for everybody to see that each sober A.A. member has been granted a release from this very obstinate and potentially fatal obsession.

*reprinted with permission 12&12 pages 63-64*

*An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.*

The "related facility" may be an outside group combating alcoholism - or an enterprise that A.A.'s want to start. It was the latter that most often confronted the young Fellowship. Outside agencies were pretty scarce in those days, and some members thought A.A. should cover the whole alcoholism field. Led by a "super-promoter" (as the "Twelve and Twelve" describes him), one group built an all-purpose center, including a section for drying-out treatment. Picture any group tackling such a project! Argument over cost, architecture, staff, fees, medication, and rules might even make the local paper. (And pity the poor newcomer straying into the group- "We'll get around to you in a minute.")

Though that ambitious center failed, some individual members have since founded successful clubhouses, rest farms, halfway houses, etc. The enterprises are run by these A.A.'s and patronized by other members or prospective members. But money and property *are* involved. Therefore, it has proved wise to keep the operation of the facility completely separate from that of any A.A. group, and to keep "A.A." or terms like "Twelfth Step" out of the name.

*reprinted with permission "The Twelve Traditions illustrated"*

### When Someone Reaches Out For Help Intergroup Is There

You can insure that it stays that way by becoming a Faithful Fiver. Faithful Fivers provide financial support needed to keep our Intergroup Services Office running. Regular contributions of \$5.00 or more a moth help to insure that when someone calls Alcoholics Anonymous for help, AA is there to answer.

"Voluntary contributions or pledges of AA members should be our principal, and eventually, our sole support."

-Language of the Heart, p28, copyright 1988 The AA Grapevine

#### Please sign me up as a Faithful Fiver!

I would like to contribute:

Monthly \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly \_\_\_\_\_

Semi-annually \_\_\_\_\_ Annually \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

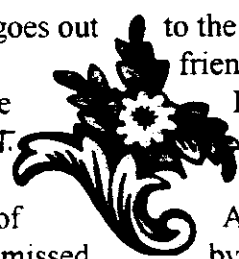
Faith is walking in  
the Rain,  
knowing the Sun  
will shine  
again



"I've been doing this for thirty years and you're my first Serenity Prayer."



Our sincerest condolences goes out to the family and friends of both Joe B. and Jeanie T. Both passed in the month of April and will be missed by all who knew them.



The Lunch Bunch would like to thank Smokey from Dunnelon for speaking in April. Patty T. will be the speaker on the last Saturday in May.

The first Monday of every month at the Fort McCoy group is a 12 and 12 meeting.

## At Day's End

Is anybody happier because you passed his way?  
Does anyone remember that you spoke to him today?  
The day is almost over, and its toiling time is through;  
Is there anyone to utter now a kindly word of you?  
Can you say tonight, in parting with the day that's slipping fast,  
That you helped a single brother of the many that you passed  
Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said;  
Does the man whose hopes were fading, now with courage look ahead?  
Did you wast the day, or lost it? Was it well or sorely spent?  
Did you leave a trail of kindness, or a scar discontent?  
As you close your eyes in slumber, do you thing God will say  
"You have earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today"?

When a problem seems to grow  
And the answer you don't know,  
Sit down and take things slow,  
Let go, let God  
When the world seems to go all wrong  
And there is no joy, no song,  
Any you feel you don't belong,  
Let go, let God  
For God is always there  
And he has lots of time to pare,  
And with you His love will share,  
Let go, let God

A negative  
mentality is  
the seed of  
negative re-  
ality.



*"To Be is To Do": Aristotle*

*"To Do is To Be": Socrates*

*"Do Be Do Be Do": Sinatra*



## **BORED WITH AA?**

I once heard an AAer who was a master at one-liners say "boredom is lack of involvement." Get yourself involved.

1. MAKE ALL THE 12-STEP CALLS YOU CAN. CALL INTERGROUP. LET THEM KNOW YOU'RE AVAILABLE.

2. TALK TO NEWCOMERS AT MEETINGS AND GET THEIR PHONE NUMBERS. THEN CALL THEM - DON'T WAIT FOR THEM TO CALL YOU.

3. GO TO MEETINGS TO GIVE RATHER THAN GET AND YOU'LL SOON FIND YOU HAVE MANY REASONS FOR GOING TO MEETINGS.

4. GET INVOLVED IN "LIVINGROOM AA"- SOCIAL ACTIVITIES. INVITE FRIENDS FOR A PARTY & IN THE MIDDLE OF A PARTY, HAVE A MEETING. THIS CAN BE SOME OF AA AT ITS BEST!

5. KEEP A LIST OF NUMBERS BY YOUR PHONE & WHENEVER YOU HAVE FIVE MINUTES - CALL - SOMEONE IN AA. YOU DON'T NEED ANY REASON OTHER THAN TO SAY HI!

6. ATTEND AS LARGE A VARIETY OF AA FUNCTIONS AS YOU CAN - CONVENTIONS, ROUND-UPS, WORKSHOPS, ANYTHING HAVING TO DO WITH SERVICE, EVERYTHING HAVING TO DO WITH AA.

7. APPLY RULE 62 AT ALL TIMES (SEE TRADITION FOUR IN THE 12 & 12)!!!

8. GET A HOME GROUP & GET YOURSELF ELECTED SECRETARY, ROOM MANAGER OR SOMETHING.

9. START A NEW MEETING. DECIDE WHAT KIND OF MEETING WOULD EXCITE YOU, WRITE UP A FORMAT, FIND A LOCATION & GET STARTED. IF IT'S A GOOD IDEA - IT WILL PROSPER. IF NOT - IT WILL SIMPLY FOLD OR CHANGE. EITHER WAY, IT'S NO PROBLEM AND MEANTIME YOU HAVE BEEN BUSY. **EXERPTED FROM THE FRESNO PIPELINE**

**A R E Y O U ?**

**TIRED OF BEING TOLD LIKE IT IS? STILL LOOKING FOR THAT EASIER, SOFTER WAY? HAD ENOUGH OF THAT SAME OLD, TIME-TESTED DIRECTION?????**

**THEN YOU ARE READY FOR:**

## **RENT-A-SPONSOR**

**NO READING! NO WRITING! NO DEADLINES!  
MANY MODELS TO CHOOSE FROM!**

**STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE:**

- ◆ LISTENING TO ALL YOUR COMPLAINING WITHOUT CONSTANT REFERENCE TO THE STEPS
- ◆ CO-SIGNING YOUR EXCUSES & RATIONALIZATIONS
- ◆ WORKING ONLY WITH THE STEPS YOU WANT, IN THE ORDER YOU CHOOSE

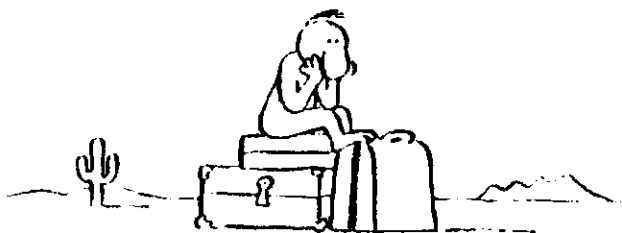
**Yes, at Rent-A-Sponsor we know how unique you are. Learn the secret of giving it away before you even have it. Why walk the walk - when you can just talk the talk instead? Remember, it's much better to look good than to feel good. Why save your fanny at the cost of saving your face?? Half measures are our specialty!**

**CALL 1-800-POUR-1-4-ME**

**Call NOW and receive a FREE copy:  
"Staying Sober on War Stories  
Alone"**

***A drunk is someone who goes  
into a bar optimistically and  
leaves it misty optically.***

***If You Feel  
Far Away From God  
Guess Who Moved?***





GROUP NAME	MONTH CONT'BN	YTD CONT'BN	AMOUNT OWED
Alive & Well	\$10.00	\$30.00	
All You Need		\$124.00	
Anthony			
Bellevue		\$826.50	
Daytimers	\$21.50	\$138.50	
Donnellon		\$30.00	
Exp. Strength Hope		\$277.71	
Eye Opener		\$145.20	
Fellowship	\$150.00	\$1,270.00	\$172.25
Foot Print	\$25.00	\$265.00	
Forest		\$80.00	
Ft. McCoy		\$100.00	
Fountain of Gratitude		\$72.00	
God's Way	\$1.80	\$171.80	
Grace		\$10.00	
Happy, Joyous and Free		\$269.17	
Happy, Joyous and Gay		\$40.50	
Happy Hour		\$58.00	
Head Start	\$35.00	\$404.66	(\$0.54)
Its in the Book	\$36.11	\$36.11	(\$5.00)
Living Sober		\$1,287.98	
Lunch Bunch	\$73.54	\$378.24	
Marion Oaks 12 Step			
MCI Faith		\$1.00	
McIntosh		\$100.00	
Men's Group		\$371.34	
New Attitudes		\$322.38	
Ocala	\$355.17	\$2,402.73	\$6.89
Peace of Mind			
Primary Purpose		\$352.00	
Rainbow		\$314.90	
Serenity		\$40.00	
Shores of Sobriety		\$180.00	
We Give Thanks		\$178.25	
SUB TOTAL	\$708.12	\$10,277.97	\$173.60
Alanon	\$120.00	\$480.00	
Treatment			\$7.95
Corrections			
CPC/PI			\$34.62
TLC Treatment			
Faithful Fivers	\$5.00	\$235.79	
Lost and Found			\$258.12
District 17		\$183.00	
SUB TOTAL	\$125.00	\$898.79	\$300.69
TOTAL	\$833.12	\$11,176.76	\$474.29

# District Info

From District 17

Public Information and Cooperating with the Professional Community Committee Report from 12/1/97 to 5/31/98:

Restocked A.A. literature 61 times, Mail-outs 160 to Church youth groups.

Presentations about A.A.: 11 at the West FL Driver Improvement School, 3 at Marion County Schools, 1 at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church Teen Life program, 1 at Ocala Christian Academy, 4 at the Dept Salvation Army Probation, 3 at the Victim Impact Panel, 2 Charter Springs Counseling Center, 1 at the Traffic Safety Awareness Day Van Guard H.S., 1 at Marion Citrus Mental Health DUI school, 1 at Ki-Ke Academy, 1 at the FL Dept Children and Families, 1 at WinCo Company.

Public Service Announcements: Radio 3, TV Fox 51 1

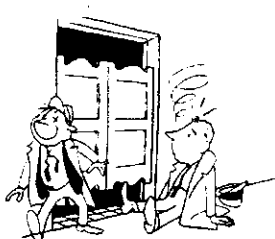
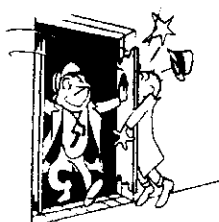
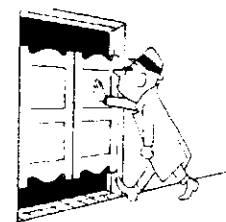
Table Displays: Malls 1, Forest High School 2

Civic Meetings: 6

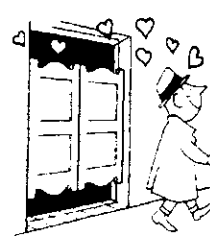
Donations from District 17 to: Interfaith 1 literature rack.

Distributed 1470 Envelopes containing information on A.A. 450 Message to Teen-agers given to Bellevue High School Seniors, 500 Message to Teen-agers to Van Guard H.S., 1 Big Book and A A video Rap and AA to Ki-Ke Academy.

Victor E.



February 1963



# INTERGROUP VOICE

P.O. Box 1192 Ocala, FL 34478 352-867-0660

September 1998

Volume 2, Issue 1

## Office Calls

12 Step	4
Office	87
Alanon	46
A.A. Info.	44
Mtg. Info.	82
Visitors	71
Beeper	55
Ans. Serv.	236
Total	625

## BIRTHDAYS



## UPCOMING EVENTS

August	
Victor M.	13 yrs.
Ed G.	11 yrs.
Cindy S.	1 yr.
Jimmy G.	6 yrs.
Maurice C.	6 yrs.
Randy A.	4 yrs.
Charley M.	2 yrs.
Rock H.	2 yrs.
Dennis K.	9 yrs.
Arylis J.	16 yrs.
September	
Joe S.	2 yrs.
Reggie D.	4 yrs.
Mike M.	8 yrs.
Gravel	9 yrs.
Margot L.	12 yrs.
Carol P.	16 yrs.
Dave H.	2 yrs.
Bob K.	3 yrs.
Terry	3 yrs.
John O.C.	10 yrs.
Tom T.	23 yrs.
Fred F.	33 yrs.
Tel O.B.	1 yr.
October	
Henderson	9 yrs.
Mike M.	13 yrs.



Annual Intergroup Picnic  
October 18th at the Boat Basin.  
Chicken, baked beans, slaw & drinks.  
\$3 per adult and \$2 per child. Please  
bring a desert.

\*\*\*\*\*

### WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE THIS EVENT SPECTACULAR!!!

This is a great time to get involved. It's  
lots of fun. If you are interested call  
Intergroup. We are planning on having  
games for the kids. If you have any  
ideas or would like to get involved call  
Lucy C. at 867-0409 or Intergroup. We  
also need some prizes to give to the  
children for the games.



**HALLOWEEN DANCE  
OCTOBER 31ST AT GRACE  
\$3 PER PERSON  
WEAR A COSTUME OR COME  
AS YOU ARE. STAY SOBER &  
HAVE SOME FUN!!!**

## What's in a Name?

Second in a series of tributes to those  
A.A. groups around the country who've  
shown that a sense of humor goes well  
with sobriety.

Got a case of the "poor-mes"? you might  
want to join the "Whiners & Moaners  
Group of Chicago. A bit of identity cri-  
sis? Try the No-name Group of Las Ve-  
gas. Not to sure about a complete return  
to sanity? How about joining the "Chock  
full-o-nuts Group of Boston or the "Out  
to Lunch Bunch" of Gainesville, FL. I  
promise I'm not making these up. The  
motor city gives us the "Sisters of the  
Yam Group" and El Cajon, CA. hosts  
"J.U.G.S. - Just us girls group". In Hol-  
land, Mich. if you were to ask for direc-  
tions to the "Outhouse Group", I'm not  
sure where you'd end up.  
submitted anonymously by an A.A.  
member.



Thank you to all who put something  
in the Voice. Next deadline Sept. 25.  
Lucy C. 867-0409



### Canoe Trip

Sept. 19th at Juniper Springs. Trip will start  
at 10 a.m. It will last 3-5 hours. Cost \$15 per  
person. If you have your own canoe, the cost  
is \$3 to get into the park. There is also a \$5  
shuttle service. This is included in the \$15.  
Bring your own lunch. All food and drink must be  
in tupperware type containers. For more  
information call Brian Y. at 629-6481 or  
Intergroup.

Intergroup has the '98-'99  
Directories for sale at  
\$4 each.

Lunch Bunch would like to thank B.J.  
for being the speaker for August.  
"They call me Gravel" will speak the  
last Sat. at noon.

Ocala Group  
The Ocala Group has a dinner the  
last Thursday of every month for  
their birthday celebration. The  
dinner starts at 7 p.m. and cost  
\$3 in advance or \$4 at the door.  
At 8 p.m. there is a speaker  
meeting. As always the  
meeting is free.



*The Ninth Tradition  
A.A., as such ought never  
be organized; but we may  
create service boards or  
committees directly  
responsible to those they serve.*

The words "Let's keep it simple" were the last Bill W. heard from his fellow founder of A.A., shortly before Dr. Bob's death in 1950. Aware that "it" meant our recover program, Bill later wrote, "We need to distinguish sharply between spiritual simplicity and functional simplicity. When we get into questions of action by groups, by areas, and by A.A. as a whole, we find that we must to some extent organize to carry the message - or else face chaos. And chaos is not simplicity."

When Tradition Nine speaks of "A.A. as such," it goes to the heart of A.A. experience, to the "spiritual simplicity" of one alcoholic's saying, silently perhaps, "Help!" and another alcoholic's answering, "I know how you feel. We're here to help you." Such a relationship couldn't be organized. Or could it?

A nonmember familiar with modern business procedures might examine the A.A. practice of sponsorship and see it as a haphazard operation. How about computerizing it? Then an A.A. behind an intergroup desk might say, "So you want help? First, you need the right sponsor. We have personality profiles of all our sponsors fed into our computer. We'll match you up to the best one for you if you'll just fill out this questionnaire..... Where are you going? Come back!"

reprinted from  
The Twelve Traditions  
Illustrated

But in "action by groups" we find that we do need some degree of organization. If everybody thinks somebody else is going to make coffee, what's the result? No coffee! To avoid such a disaster, one or more members agree to be responsible for preparing meeting refreshments. All the way from coffee-brewers to trustees on the General Service Board, those who take part in A.A. service work are assuming responsibility - not taking on authority. (Here, Traditions Two and Nine interlock.) Group officers are responsible to the members of the group; intergroup committees, to the groups in one locality; institutions committees, to A.A. groups in treatment facilities and correctional facilities; area committees, to all groups in their areas; Conference delegates and committees, to all groups in the U.S. and Canada; the General Service Office and Board and the board's committees, to all groups and members everywhere.

In an average business corporation, the board has final power to determine company plans and policy. Our board of trustees serves in a custodial capacity; trustees vote at the Conference - but as individuals, with one vote apiece. In industry, branch offices jump when the home office speaks. Our G.S.O. is just a clearinghouse of A.A. information, offering suggestions based on experience reported to it by groups.

And yet, with so small a degree of organization, A.A. miracu-

From District 17  
Public Information and Cooperating With The Professional Community Committee Report from 21/1/97 - 7/31/98  
Restocked A.A. literature 79 times, Mail-outs 160 to Church youth groups.  
Presentations about Alcoholics Anonymous: 14 at the West Fla. Driver Improvement School, 3 at Marion County Schools, 1 at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church Teen Life Program, 1 at Ocala Christian Academy, 6 at the Dept. Salvation Army Probation, 3 at the Victim Impact Panel, 2 Charter Springs Counseling Center, 1 at the Traffic Safety Awareness Day Vanguard H.S., 2 at Marion Citrus Mental Health D.U.I. School, 1 at Ki-Ke Academy, 1 at the Fla. Dept. of Children and Families, 1 at Winco Company, 1 at the Woman's Juvenile Detention Center.  
Public Service Announcements Radio-3, TV: Fox 51 - 1, Table Displays: Malls 1, Forest High School 2  
Civic Meetings 6  
Donations from District 17 to Interfaith 1 literature rack. Distributed 1720 envelopes containing information on Alcoholics Anonymous, 450 messages to teen-agers given to Belleview High School Seniors, 500 messages to teen-agers to VanGuard H.S., 1 Big Book and A.A. video rap and A.A. to Ki-ke Academy.



Florida Conference of Young People in AA  
Sept. 25-27th Hollywood Beach, FL  
Clarion Hotel for RSVP 1-800-329-9019  
Registration \$10 call (954) 456-8969 or  
for more information. Flyers at Intergroup.



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

### *'Fear Gave Way to Faith'*

"Good judgment, a careful sense of timing, courage, and prudence - these are the qualities we shall need when we take Step Nine." So says the opening paragraph on Step Nine from the "Twelve and Twelve."

Because I am a "normal" alcoholic my first response to Step Nine was to postpone doing it until tomorrow. Not only did I want to postpone it but I also had a tendency to turn the rest of the program into an obstacle course. However, despite having to negotiate this obstacle course of my own making, I had already experienced some of the miracle that is Alcoholics Anonymous. Had I not somehow managed the impossible - stopped drinking "one day at a time"? I had been around long enough to know that perhaps I was not hopeless. I knew that I was committed. In fact, I was prepared to go to any length to get what the program had to offer. Eventually I found myself facing the very real challenge of making direct amends.

I would like at this point to share something with you which accurately illustrates some of what it was like for me. There was a period during my drinking when the family stopped talking directly to me and in fact addressed what they wanted to say to me to one another. Being a drunk is confusing enough without having to decide what comments were in fact meant for me. There was a clue however and that was that by now everyone referred to me as "it." The conversations were a little like this: "How does she put up with it?"

"How does it keep it's job?"  
"Never mind, it will kill itself in its motor car one of these days." When people from Alcoholic Anonymous came to our house one night they were met at the front door by my wife and informed, "It is in the third bedroom." By God's grace, "It" stumbled into Alcoholics Anonymous and now stood on the threshold of Step Nine. There could be no more evasion. The time had come to accept the full consequences of my past acts. What was the real fear? Rejection or maybe just embarrassment? Who would believe me anyhow? Had it not all happened before? I had said "I'm sorry" a thousand times and promised to change. Would I be able to effect this change? The Big Book says you have to live a spiritual program. If we are painstaking about this phase, we'll have a new peace and a new happiness - two commodities that had been absent from my life for many years. But the real stumbling block was my late mother. My father had died when I was seven years old - old enough to know that there was a problem in our home to do with drinking. My mother sacrificed all of her life for her three children and gave us all the love a mother can give. After eighteen years of sobriety I am still haunted by those last few months of her life. She had lived long enough to know that her eldest son had followed in his father's footsteps and that the problem was booze. I still vividly remember visiting my mother in various hospitals. I never managed a sober visit. I remember that most times I did not have the time to spend the whole of the visiting period with her.

I generally came late and left early. She died before I came to Alcoholics Anonymous. Over the years, I have come to terms with this. But in those quiet secret moments I share with God, the hurt remains.

The other amends sometimes seem not to matter as much. But I had to examine the real purpose of Step Nine, to try to do something about the relations in my life. The major portion of my amends was owed to my wife. She had stuck with me, suffered with and for me, through all of my worst times. There had been tears, disappointment, and unhappiness. The dreams of a young marriage had become a nightmare.

Disappointment and regret had made me self-pitying and stubbornly angry. The real risk might only be ridicule and dented pride. But Alcoholics Anonymous asks of me a manner of living which demands rigorous honesty: self-survey, confession and restitution, in that order.

What had begun as a venture into the unknown was soon to become a revelation for me. Fear gave way to faith and with God's help and guidance my dilemma was to become yet another wonderful experience in sobriety. Despite my own misgivings it was possible for me to practice humility and to say with sincerity and to mean it, "I was wrong and I am sorry." I know from my own experience that I have been able to acquire three personal attributes from the program that I did not have before - namely: self-control, self-discipline, and self-sacrifice. I know of no other Step which demands more of me, in terms of these three attributes, than Step

AA Grapevine Sept. 1989  
John H. , Benoni, South Africa

# 1999 Florida State Convention Entertainment Committee

Coffeehouse? Dance? Bungie  
Jumping? Singing? Comedy?  
Skits? Magic? Karoke?

"We Absolutely insist on enjoy-  
ing Life!"

Are you a magician?  
Are you a singer?  
Do you play a musical instru-  
ment?  
Are you horribly un-talented?

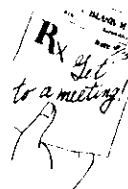
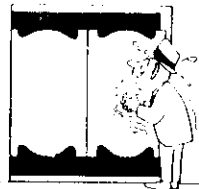
Does your sponsor keep bugging  
you about service work?

Contact the 1999 Florida State  
Convention Entertainment Com-  
mittee! We are not a glum lot!

Pat H. (904) 409-3167  
Janee M. (407) 331-8142  
Monique J. (407) 843-1011



VICTOR E.



GROUP NAME	FOR THE MONTH OF		August AMOUNT OWED	1998
	MONTH CONT'BN	YTD CONT'BN		
Alive & Well				
All You Need				
Anthony				
Belleview			\$270.00	
Daytimers				
Donnellon				
Exp. Strength Hope	\$27.00	\$110.00		
Five Opener				
Fellowship	\$100.00	\$350.00	\$172.50	
Foot Print	\$25.00	\$25.00		
Forest		\$50.00		
Fr. McCoy	\$45.00	\$45.00		
Fountain of Gratitude		\$66.00		
God's Way	\$15.00	\$65.00		
Grace	\$20.00	\$20.00		
Happy, Joyous and Free	\$15.00	\$39.00		

## FAITHFUL FIVERS

Faithful fivers are little angels  
who send \$5 to Intergroup  
monthly as an act of gratitude.  
Why not stop in at the Intergroup  
office once a month, drop a fiver  
on 'em and visit for a while over  
a cup of java???



Lord - so far today, I've done all  
right, I haven't been grumpy, greedy  
or nasty. I haven't gossiped, lost my  
temper, been rude or selfish  
and I'm really glad about that!  
But, Dear Lord, in a few minutes  
I'm going to get out of bed - and  
from then on, I'm going to need  
a lot more help!!!

from Sept. High & Dry  
Volusia Co. Newsletter

## PRACTICE THESE PRINCIPLES...

**Tradition Nine: AA as such  
ought never be organized;  
but we may create service  
boards or committees  
directly responsible to  
those they serve.**

1. Do I still try to boss things in  
A.A.?
2. Do I resist formal aspects of  
AA because I fear them as au-  
thoritative?
3. Am I mature enough to under-  
stand 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 try to 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?

reprinted from the Grapevine  
September 1994

## Happy, Joyous and Gay

Happy Hour	\$67.50		
Head Start	\$43.75	\$126.25	
It's in the Book			
Living Sober	\$85.00	\$275.00	
Lunch Bunch			
Marion Oaks 12 Step		\$50.00	
MCI Faith			
McIntosh			
Men's Group		\$70.00	
New Attitudes			
Orala	\$306.96	\$809.08	\$10.60
Orange Lake		\$2.00	
Peace of Mind			
Primary Purpose	\$50.00	\$125.00	
Rainbow			
Serenity		\$10.00	
Shores of Sobriety			
We Give Thanks		\$35.00	
SUB TOTAL	\$732.71	\$2,609.83	\$177.56

Treatment	\$7.95
Corrections	(\$16.17)
COCOA	(\$24.61)
TLC Treatment	\$139.39
Faithful Fivers	\$29.00
Lost and Found	\$267.53

SUB TOTAL	\$0.00	\$29.00	\$374.09
TOTAL	\$732.71	\$2,638.83	\$551.65

# INTERGROUP VOICE

P.O. Box 1192 Ocala, FL 34478 352-867-0660

October 1998

Volume 3, Issue 1



Office Calls	
12 Step	7
Office	67
Alanon	32
A.A. Info.	35
Mtg. Info.	82
Visitors	87
Misc.	15
Ans. Serv.	200
Total	525

## BIRTHDAYS



September 1998

Jim B.	30 yrs.
Bill G.	21 yrs.
Ruth T.	12 yrs.
Caroline C.	11 yrs.
Gary G.	10 yrs.
Mike P.	10 yrs.
Jeff S.	8 yrs.
Reggie	4 yrs.
Patti K.	3 yrs.
John E.	3 yrs.
Gregg T.	3 yrs.
Renee B.	2 yrs.
Andy M.	2 yrs.
Michael R.	2 yrs.
Joe S.	2 yrs.
Jim D.	1 yr.
Buddy B.	1 yr.

October 1998

Ellen S.	22 yrs.
Bill P.	18 yrs.
Kean R.	15 yrs.
Gary K.	15 yrs.
Fishin Jim B.	14 yrs.
Cheryl B.	9 yrs.
Tom J.	9 yrs.
Gail S.	7 yrs.
Patricia P.	7 yrs.
Laura W.	7 yrs.
Ronnie W.	7 yrs.
Fred M.	4 yrs.
Claire F.	3 yrs.
Gus G.	3 yrs.
Ann S.	3 yrs.
Pete S.	1 yr.
Terry B.	1 yr.
Linda S.	1 yr.
Brenda C.	1 yr.
Tom D.	1 yr.
Keith S.	1 yr.
Ben R.	1 yr.
Leslie M.	1 yr.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### AA Annual Picnic

Sponsored by Intergroup 17

WHERE: BOAT BASIN

WHEN: SUNDAY, 10/18

Activities from noon - ???

Food Served at 1 p.m.

Menu: 1/2 Chicken, camp beans & coleslaw

(Please bring a dessert)

Cost: \$3 adult \$2 children

(cost for food only, picnic free)

ACTIVITIES:

Games for Kids

Live Music

Cakewalk

Canoe Rides

Volleyball

50/50 Raffle

Beanie Babie Raffle

Auction

(Please bring items (no clothes) to be auctioned off)

#### Getting Involved

There is action and more action.

"Faith without works is dead."...

To be helpful is our only aim.

Alcoholics Anonymous pg. 88-89

I understand that service is a vital part of recovery but I often wonder, "What can I do?" Simply start with what I have today! I look around to see where there is need. Are the ashtrays full? Do I have hands and feet to empty them? Suddenly I'm involved! The best speaker may make the worst coffee; the member who's best with newcomers may be unable to read; the one willing to clean up may make a mess of the bank account - yet every one of these people and jobs is essential to an active group. The miracle of service is this: when I use what I have, I find there is more available to me than I realized before. (Daily Reflections pg.32)

## WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH GAMES & ACTIVITIES

We will be having a pie throw at the picnic. We need volunteers to be pried. Tickets will be raffles off for six pies. If your tickets is drawn then you choose which volunteer you want to pie. This is a lot of fun for everyone. This event will be held after all the other ones. We will have a pie throw board so only your face will be exposed.

### AGAIN, NEED VOLUTEERS!!!

There will be several games for the children at the picnic. We need volunteers to help run these games. Its not hard and lots of fun.

We will need baked items for the cake walk. (cookies, pies, etc.)

There will also be a new raffle this year for Ty Beanie Babies.

If you have any stuffed animals or small toys that we could use for prizes, please let us know.

And we need items for the auction.

This is going to be a spectacular event, please join in & help.

Call Intergroup or Lucy 867-0409 for more information.



**MORE INFORMATION ON  
UPCOMING EVENTS  
INSIDE.....**

Step 10  
Continued to take  
personal inventory  
and when we were  
wrong promptly  
admitted it.

## *Lost and Found*

Several years ago, prior to getting sober, I was deer hunting in west Tennessee with a friend of mine. During the course of the day's hunt, we got separated from each other and I suddenly realized I was lost. I had absolutely no idea of how to find my way back to my car. Panic set in and I began to wander aimlessly through the dense forest looking for a familiar landmark or a logging trail that would lead me to the highway. I was no longer interested in hunting for deer. I only wanted out of that forest. Several hours later - exhausted, scared, and hungry - I emerged from the trees onto the highway just a few feet from my car. The relief I felt was immense. One day while meditating, I happened to recall this dilemma in the forest and I realized that when I don't know where I'm going, it's usually because I don't know where I am. Consequently, I get diverted from the important things. Instead of building, creating, and working towards goals, I revert to merely coping. For me, it is necessary to maintain a constant spiritual point of reference. This means doing an honest daily inventory.

The first time I realized the importance of the Tenth Step, I was standing in front of a judge on a charge of driving while intoxicated. I had been found guilty in two lower courts but had appealed both decisions. I'd rationalized that I was innocent because I'd been a victim of entrapment. The judge proved to be no less wise than the others.

Not only was I found guilty, I was given extra jail time and fined an additional five hundred dollars. I'd been sober for over three months before this final trial took place and I had let fear and pride stop me from admitting my guilt. That painful experience took place over eight years ago and today I am still having trouble with Step Ten. The admissions today, however, are not quite as dramatic as the drunk driving issue. Today the issues are ego, resentments, control, and being judgmental. The prices I pay for neglecting my Tenth Step are anger, loss of serenity, and loss of spiritual direction. I know that if I am remiss in working this Step, I will eventually build a formidable wall of darkness around myself that shuts me off from the sunlight of the spirit of God.

The Tenth Step helps me remain in the present. By immediately dealing with my daily problems and avoiding a buildup of emotional trash, I avoid the anxiety and stinking thinking that can result from procrastination. One day at a time is still a way of life for me. I only have today. Yesterday is history and tomorrow is only an illusion, but if I am diligent and honest in my daily inventory, tomorrow will surely bring new opportunities for which I will be prepared. I have a goal which, I am sorry to say, I've only been able to achieve with varying degrees of success. That goal is unconditional love for my fellow man. I guess I am still carrying too much emotional garbage around to be able to accept others just as they are. I've made lots of progress in this area but my ego still keeps me as its mercy.

At least I have some idea of what the problem is and can use the Tenth Step as a powerful tool in my struggle toward spiritual progress. That - along with the help of a forgiving God, a loving wife, and a sponsor who seems to be able to accept me as I am - gives me hope. Without hope, I would surely drink again.

AA Grapevine October 1993  
Charles M., Murfreesboro, Tenn.

### **PRACTICE THESE PRINCIPLES**

Tradition Ten: Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

1. Do I ever give the impression that there really is an "AA opinion" on Antabuse? Tranquilizers? Doctors? Psychiatrists? Churches? Hospitals? Jails? Alcohol? The federal or state government? Legalizing marijuana? Vitamins? Al-Anon? Alateen?
2. Can I honestly share my own personal experience concerning any of those without giving the impression I am stating the "AA opinion"?
3. What in AA history gave rise to our Tenth Tradition?
4. Have I had a similar experience in my own AA life?
5. What would AA be without this Tradition? Where would I be?
6. Do I breach this or any of its surrounding Traditions in subtle, perhaps unconscious ways?
7. How can I manifest the spirit of this Tradition in my personal life outside AA? Inside AA?

**OCTOBER 1994**  
**GRAPEVINE**

**Tradition Ten**  
**Alcoholics Anonymous**  
 has no opinion on  
 outside issues; hence  
 the AA name ought  
 never be drawn into  
 public controversy.

To most of us, Alcoholics Anonymous has become as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar. We like to believe that it will soon be as well-known and just as enduring as that historic landmark. We enjoy this pleasant conviction because nothing has yet occurred to disturb it; we reason that we must hang together or die. Hence we take for granted our continued unity as a movement. But should we? Though God has bestowed upon us great favors, and though we are bound by stronger ties of love and necessity than most societies, is it prudent to suppose that automatically these great gifts and attributes shall be ours forever? If we are worthy, we shall probably continue to enjoy them. So the real question is, how shall we always be worthy of our present blessings?

Seen from this point of view, our AA Traditions are those attitudes and practices by which we may deserve, as a movement, a long life and a useful one. To this end, none could be more vital than our Tenth Tradition, for it deals with the subject of controversy - serious controversy.

On the other side of the world, millions of have died even recently in religious dissension. Other millions have died in political controversy. The end is not yet. Nearly everybody in the world has turned reformer. Each group, society and nation is saying to the other, "You must do as we say, or else." Political controversy and reform by compulsion have reached an all-time high.

And eternal, seemingly, are the flames of religious dissension. Being like other men and women, how can we expect to remain forever immune from these perils? Probably we shall not. At length, we must meet them all. We cannot flee from them, nor ought we try. If these challenges do come, we shall, I am sure, go out to meet them gladly and unafraid. That will be the acid test of our worth. Our best defense? This surely lies in the formation of a Tradition respecting serious controversy so powerful that neither the weakness of persons nor the strain and strife of our troubled times can harm Alcoholics Anonymous. We know that AA must continue to live, or else many of us and many of our fellow alcoholics throughout the world will surely resume the hopeless journey to oblivion. That must never be. As though by some deep and compelling instinct, we have thus far avoided serious controversies. Save minor and healthy growing pains, we are at peace among ourselves. And because we have thus far adhered to our sole aim, the whole world regards us favorably. May God grant us the wisdom and fortitude ever to sustain an unbreakable unity.

Bill W.  
 Sept. 1948  
 Grapevine



For the past month the  
 Lunch Bunch has had a  
 Big Book study on Fridays  
 at noon. Please bring your  
 book and join us!

#### 1998 District 17 Gratitude Dinner

Circle November 14, 1998 on your calendar

On that Saturday, our District 17 will be holding our Gratitude Dinner. This year it will be at the Silver Springs Moose Lodge at 7185 Maricamp Road in Ocala.

This year we will have a choice of two entrees, either prime rib or chicken coronado bleu. Fellowship starts at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

Our speaker will be Bernie F. of Ocala. Bernie has spoken at AA functions all over the county.

A dance will be held following the speaker meeting.

Tickets for the dinner cost \$12.00, and tickets are available from your GSN or from Intergroup. Dance only will be \$5.00.

Each AA group will be asked to donate a

#### ESSENTIAL ACRONYMS

<b>SPONSOR</b>	Sober person Offering Newcomers Suggestions on Recovery
<b>STEPS</b>	Solutions to Every Problem Sober
<b>NUTS</b>	Not using the Steps
<b>GOD</b>	Good Orderly Direction
<b>HOPE</b>	Happy Our Program Exists
<b>KISS</b>	Keep it Simple Stupid
<b>HOW</b>	Honesty, Open-mindedness, Willingness
<b>PROGRAM</b>	People Relying on God Relaying a Message
<b>BIG BOOK</b>	Believing in God Beat Our Old Knowledge
<b>SLIP</b>	Sobriety Losing Its Priority
<b>HALT</b>	Hugry, Angry, Lonely, Tired
<b>ASK</b>	Ass Saving Kit
<b>FEAR</b>	Face Everything & Recover
<b>EGO</b>	Edging God Out
<b>DENIAL</b>	Don't Even Notice I am Lying
<b>FINE</b>	Frustrated, Insecure, Neurotic, Emotional

Deadline for next Voice 10/30/98.  
 Thanks, Lucy 867-0409.





## INTERGROUPS

An Intergroup (or central office) is an A.A. service office that involves partnership among groups in a community - just as A.A. groups themselves are partnerships of individuals. It is established to carry out certain functions common to all groups - functions which are best handled by a centralized office - and it is usually maintained, supervised and supported by these groups in their general interest. It exists to aid the groups in their common purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

There are 500 intergroups world wide.

Intergroup 17 is the service area of the 40 Groups in Marion county. It satisfies the interests of the groups and carries out its A.A. mission in the following ways:

Publishes a quarterly directory of the more than 90 A.A. meeting held weekly in the service area.

Publishes the "VOICE", a newsletter of local, state and national A.A. activities and of items of specific interest to the A.A. community

Operates a 5 day, 8 hour office providing personal and telephone communications about A.A. activities and services.

Contracts a 24 hour 7 day A. A. inquiry answering service providing A.A. information for times when the Intergroup office is not attended.

Purchases stocks and sells specific A.A. literature and other appropriate merchandise.


Has committees which schedule and conduct various social activities such as dances, picnics, holiday parties and outdoor recreational events.

Cooperates with other related organizations to sponsor, conduct and promote training and informational seminars.

Cooperates with other A.A. organizations, the professional community, schools, correctional facilities, treatment centers and medical facilities to provide information about A.A.

Assists the press and other public media in development of articles and general publicity about A.A.

The VOICE will contain future articles about how Intergroup 17 is organized, how it functions, what are its supporting needs, how to take advantage of the many Intergroup 17 services, how Intergroup 17 relates to other AA organizations




**HALLOWEEN DANCE**

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
503 S. Broadway  
OCT 31ST  
7pm-1am  
\$3.00 per person

door prizes

**COSTUME CONTEST**



## 13th Anniversary Celebration



The *ALL YOU NEED* group is celebrating our 13th year anniversary.

PLACE: Our Lady of the Springs church  
Wednesday, October 28th, 1998

Snack or Desert Social 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Please bring something to share

Speaker meeting 8:30 to 9:30 pm



## District 17

### Gratitude Dinner

Saturday November 14th, 1998

Silver Springs Moose Lodge

7165 SE Manicamp Rd. Ocala

Fellowship 6:00pm

Dinner 6:30pm

Speaker Bernie F. 8:00pm

Dancing 9:00-12:00pm

Tickets available through your GSR or Intergroup #17 office

\$12.00 Dinner and Dance

\$5.00 Dance Only

Door Prizes and 50-50 Raffle



# INTERGROUP VOICE

P.O. Box 1192 Ocala, FL 34478 352-867-0660

November 1998

Volume 4, Issue



## Office Calls

12 Step	2
Office	73
Alanon	38
A.A. Info.	75
Mtg. Info.	77
Visitors	72
Misc.	35
Ans. Serv.	206
Total	578

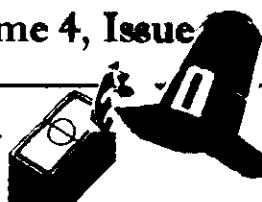
## BIRTHDAYS



November 1998

Fred S.	33 yrs.
Maggie M.	28 yrs.
Pat B.	23 yrs.
Bob J.	20 yrs.
Tom M.	20 yrs.
Monroe C.	20 yrs.
Sammy V.F.	19 yrs.
Jim F.	19 yrs.
Wayne C.	19 yrs.
Ernie N.	17 yrs.
Bill K.	17 yrs.
Kevin M.	16 yrs.
Larry P.	14 yrs.
Sue S.	14 yrs.
Cindy P.	13 yrs.
Jim E.	10 yrs.
Judy S.	9 yrs.
Irene F.	9 yrs.
Michele B.	9 yrs.
Joe C.	8 yrs.
Kevin M.	8 yrs.
Jim C.	6 yrs.
David W.	6 yrs.
Mark B.	3 yrs.

October Faithful Fiver  
Ed F. \$5.00



## INTERGROUP 17 - CONT

The September issue of the "VOICE" itemized 7 services or functions which Intergroup 17 undertakes.

This month is an introduction to the Intergroup office for those who have not visited it and a reminder to those who have been in the office to return often.

The office has two rooms, a small kitchen and rest room. You enter the main room which contains the desks of Ruth Thrift, the office manager, and of the office volunteers. There are shelves holding 15 World Service AA books. Included are the "Big Book", "12 and 12", "As Bill Sees It", and "Living Sober". There are 31 AA and 10 miscellaneous booklets and pamphlets on adjacent shelves. At any time there can be 20 publications on other shelves by Hazelden including the popular "One Day At a Time" and 12 by others all covering Alcoholism.

You may use catalogues to search for publications not in stock or to explore the variety of video and audio AA tapes which are offered. The office can place orders for you.

A small collection of Alanon publications and catalogues are maintained for those wanting Alanon information.

There is a supply of the schedules of the 40 group meeting held each week.

There is an International/National, a Local/State and an Intergroup bulletin board each containing publications about AA and AA activities within those areas.

If you are planning a trip, there is a catalog listing all North American Intergroup offices by locale and a section listing hundreds of group meeting and appropriate telephone numbers in these countries. Ask the office volunteer.

There is a display of special medallions and appropriate AA jewelry; a rack of AA message greeting cards. And, of course, there is a plentiful supply of monthly and yearly medallions.

The back room holds the treasurer's desk, the copy machine and a large bookcase with an average of 35 AA pamphlets. There are a few comfortable chairs, also.

Intergroup office is located in a multiple building directly behind the Subway sandwich shop on the south side of Silver Spring Blvd. E. in the 2200 block. The suite number is 13. Come in and visit. Have a cup of coffee. Chat with Ruth and the volunteer. Browse the selection of literature. You may take any one to the back room, relax with your coffee and get acquainted with these many publications.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**GRATITUDE DINNER**  
**NOVEMBER 14TH, 1998**  
**TICKETS \$12**  
**FELLOWSHIP STARTS AT 6 P.M.**  
**DINNER AT 6:30 P.M.**  
**SPEAKER & DANCE TO FOLLOW.**  
**DANCE ONLY WILL BE \$5.**  
**EACH AA GROUP WILL BE**  
**ASKED TO DONATE A DOOR**  
**PRIZE!**  
**GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!!!**

**OOOOOPPPSSS!!!**  
**Please help with the door**  
**prizes for the Gratitude**  
**Dinner, some how this was**  
**accidentally omitted in the**  
**last Voice. Sorry!**



**Tradition Eleven**  
Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.

Alcoholics who have recovered through our program are themselves the strongest attraction that A.A. has. When people are asked what led them to seek A.A. help, the answer given most often is "An A.A. member." Their chances would have been slim if all of us had remained completely in hiding. But many of us have chosen to tell our friends, neighbors, employers, co-workers, doctors, or spiritual advisers that we are in A.A. — and when we do so, we are not breaking our anonymity in the meaning of this Tradition.

Suppose a sick alcoholic has the good fortune to meet an A.A. How is such a person going to find us? The search will be difficult if the local group thinks it should be anonymous, too. The Tradition is talking about "personal anonymity," remember? Alcoholics will not be to A.A. if they don't know that it exists or if they have distorted, unfavorable impressions of its members or its program. Giving the general public an accurate picture of A.A. is the chief job of our public information committees. In addition, they often carry the message to certain groups — from police officers to personnel directors — whose work includes contact with active alcoholics.

Reprinted from the Twelve Traditions Illustrated.



**New Soil New Roots Group**  
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Wednesday nights  
Open Discussion  
ARC Marion Cafeteria  
2800 SE Maricamp  
\*Non-Smoking\*

From the Lunch Bunch Group  
Thank you to B.J. for speaking in Sept. and Butch for Oct.  
Speaker for Nov. will be Betty R. from Alachua.

*Thank You, Thank You!!!  
To all who attended and  
volunteered for the Picnic.  
It was a huge success!  
Everyone had a good time  
and we raised \$717.41.  
Get prepared for next year,  
volunteer!!!*



Next deadline for the Voice is November 27th. Please if your group is doing something special for the upcoming holidays, let us know. Again, thank you for the items submitted for the Voice, please keep them coming. Also, short stories about a step or tradition would be great. We try to have these correspond with the month.  
Lucy 867-0409



**THE ONLY TIME YOU  
SHOULD  
LOOK DOWN AT AN  
ALCOHOLIC  
IS WHEN YOU LEAN OVER  
TO HELP THEM UP!**



"See, just like I said. George sure knows when to quit."

The Adventures of Clara



"My sponsor says I have to learn from the mistakes of others because I'll never have time to make them all myself."

**Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.**

**When you say "I'm sorry", look the person in the eye.**

**Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.**



Step 11  
Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for the knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

## *Conscious Contact*

When I first joined AA I was an atheist and unable to pray. After attending ninety meeting in ninety days, I knelt by my bed one morning and in tearful frustration pounded with my fists and cried, "If you are up there, if there is a God, help me!" In the days to follow I tried to meditate and pray but I really didn't know how. Like many newcomers, the idea of meditation or prayer seemed too esoteric to me, something only priests or pastors could do. Gradually I was able to learn through much practice, to "let go and let God." But it took some doing!

There are many techniques and methods of meditation, from saying the rosary to doing Yoga asana. Inward repetition of a prayer or a mantra is one way. There is always some self-discipline involved, but it does work. One way or another, one's emotional balance and stimulated intuition begin to stir. My way is consciously to relax each muscle in my body, one by one, sitting in a straight chair, breathing deeply while rolling my eyes back under closed lids and feeling my body heavy against the chair, my hands loose in my lap. I control my desire to look at the clock and I ignore "drunken monkey thoughts." I pay attention to how I am feeling. If I am angry or resentful, I

pay attention to that. If I don't know "what to do today," I look at that and I ask God to send me answers. Perhaps today I should do nothing but go to a meeting. If I empty myself and let God in it is working. Gradually a sense of freedom and light permeates my being. Clarity and love of God are there and fear departs. The process does not need to be understood to allow it to happen. Later, when I open my eyes, what a sensation it is to look around me and see that nothing has changed. I am still in the same body, the same room, the same house, the same world. But I have acquired conscious contact with God as I understand him. I can pause during the day for only a second, and ask for help, or say "Thank you!" God goes with me all day. Now I turn my life and will over to him every morning. (I have been sober thirteen years.)

Step Eleven is the maintenance I need to expand my awareness

**Jeanie N.  
Napa, Calif.  
Grapevine, Nov. 91**



*A* day  
hemmed in  
prayer is  
less likely to  
unravel.



### **PRACTICE THESE PRINCIPLES**

Tradition Eleven: Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.

1. Do I sometimes promote AA so fanatically that I make it seem unattractive?
2. Am I always careful to keep the confidences reposed in me as an AA member?
3. Am I careful about throwing AA names around — even within the Fellowship?
4. Am I ashamed of being recovered, or recovering, alcoholic?
5. What would AA be like if we were not guided by the ideas of Tradition Eleven? Where would I be?
6. Is my AA sobriety attractive enough that a sick drunk would want such a quality for himself?

**TRADITIONS CHECKLIST REPRINTED  
FROM THE JULY 1971 GRAPEVINE.**



GROUP NAME

 FOR THE MONTH OF OCT 1998  
 MONTH YTD AMOUNT  
 CONT'BN CONT'BN OWED

Alive & Well			
All You Need			
Anthony			
Bellevue	\$350.00	\$620.00	
Daytimers		\$34.75	
Donnellon			
Evp. Strength Hope		\$175.75	
Eye Opener			
Fellowship	\$150.00	\$500.00	\$129.51
Foot Print		\$25.00	
Forest	\$20.00	\$70.00	
Fr. McCoy		\$45.00	
Fountain of Gratitude		\$66.00	
God's Way	\$30.00	\$115.00	
Grace		\$20.00	
Happy, Joyous and Free	\$50.54	\$89.54	
Happy, Joyous and Gay			
Happy Hour	\$86.50	\$154.00	
Head Start	\$37.50	\$208.75	(\$0.54)
Its in the Book			(\$5.00)
Living Sober		\$320.00	
Lunch Bunch	\$50.20	\$221.43	
Marion Oaks 12 Step		\$50.00	
MCI Faith			
Melteshi		\$75.00	
Men's Group		\$190.00	
New Attitudes			\$5.30
Ocala	\$279.50	\$1,318.60	
Orange Lake		\$2.00	
Peace of Mind			
Primary Purpose		\$120.00	
Rainbow		\$38.34	
Serenity		\$10.00	
Shores of Sobriety			
We Give Thanks	\$30.00	\$100.00	
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,084.24</b>	<b>\$4,569.16</b>	<b>\$129.27</b>
Treatment			
Connections			\$17.42
COCVI			\$87.45
TLC Treatment			
Faithful Fivers	\$5.00	\$39.00	
Lost and Found			\$313.91
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>	<b>\$39.00</b>	<b>\$418.78</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,089.24</b>	<b>\$4,608.16</b>	<b>\$548.05</b>

## FROM DISTRICT 17-

 Public Information and Cooperating With The Professional  
 Community Committee Report from 12/1/97 to 10/31/98:

 Restocked A.A. literature 103 times, Mail-outs 160 to Church  
 youth groups

 Presentations about Alcoholics Anonymous : 20 at the West Fla.  
 Driver Improvement School, 04 at Marion County Schools, 1 at  
 Blessed Trinity Catholic Church Teen Life program, 1 at Ocala  
 Christian Academy, 8 at the Dept Salvation Army Probation, 3  
 at the Victim Impact Panel, 2 Charter Springs Counseling Center,  
 1 at the Traffic Safety Awareness Day Van Guard H.S., 3 at  
 Marion Citrus Mental Health DUI school, 1 at KI-KE Academy,  
 1 at the Fla. Dept. Children and Families, 1 at WinCo Company,  
 1 at the Womens Juvenile Detention Center, 1 at A.O.H. Community  
 Resource Center

Public Service Announcements, Radio- 3, TV Fox 51-1

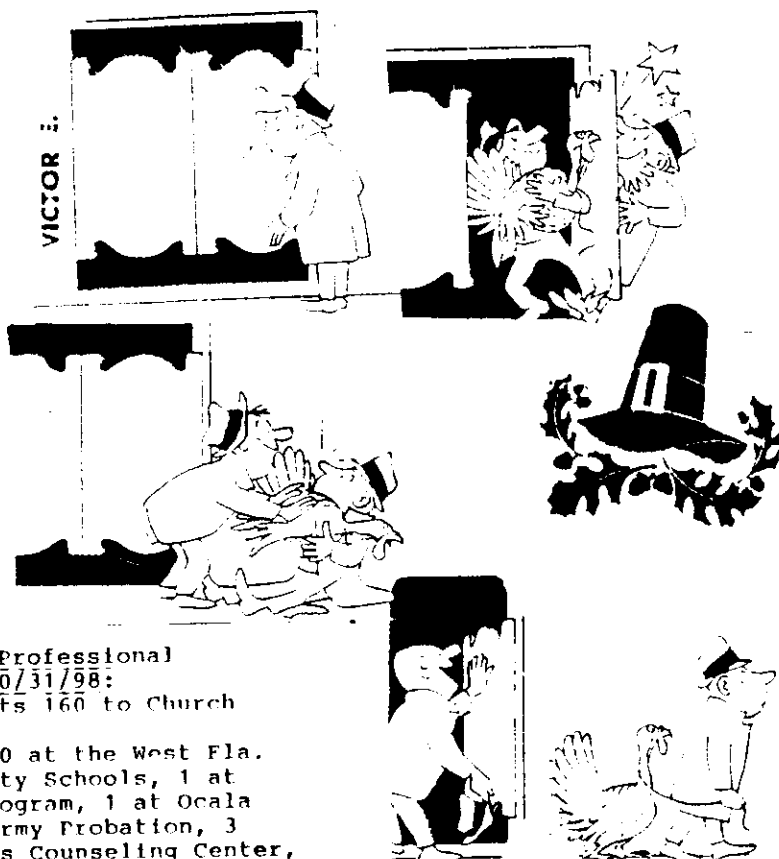
 Table Displays: Malls 1, Forest High School 2, Red Ribbon Kick  
 Off Campaign

Civic Meetings: 10

 Donations from District 17 to : Interfaith 1 literature rack  
 Distributed 2000 Envelopes containing information on Alcoholics  
 Anonymous, 450 Message to Teen-agers given to Bellevue High  
 School Seniors, 500 Message to Teen-agers to Van Guard H.S.,  
 1 Big Book and AA video Rap and AA to KI-KE Academy, 1 Big Book  
 and 1 Literature rack to A.O.H. Community Resource Center, 200  
 Message To Teen-agers Ocala Christian Academy SADD, 1000 Message  
 To Teen-agers to Van Guard H.S., also 1000 Message To Teen-agers  
 to Lake Weir H.S. SADD

"An Intergroup is an A.A. service office that involves partnership among groups in a community, just as A.A. groups themselves are partnerships of individuals. It is established to carry out certain functions common to all groups - functions which are best handled by a centralized office - and it is usually maintained, supervised and supported by these groups in their general interest. It exists to aid groups in carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

*Reprinted from the A.A. Guidelines on Intergroup Offices*



*If You Feel  
Far Away From God  
Guess Who Moved?*



# INTERGROUP VOICE

P.O. Box 1192 Ocala, FL 34478 352-867-0660

December 1998



Volume 5, Issue 1



Office Calls	
12 Step	
Office	53
Alanon	35
A.A. Info.	62
Mtg. Info.	88
Visitors	81
Misc.	21
Ans. Serv.	252
Total	592

## BIRTHDAYS



December 1998

Hermina D.	46 yrs.
Tom H.	28 yrs.
Bob S.	27 yrs.
Jim Z.	22 yrs.
Fanny V.H.	19 yrs.
Norma Jean B.	16 yrs.
Penny O'C.	14 yrs.
Adele P.	14 yrs.
Nancy M.	14 yrs.
Joe S.	13 yrs.
Paul B.	12 yrs.
Willie M.	12 yrs.
Kate E.	6 yrs.
Raymond V.	4 yrs.
Randy W.	3 yrs.
Margaret P.	3 yrs.
Deborah P.	3 yrs.
Steve H.	2 yrs.
Jim M.	2 yrs.
Pat M.	2 yrs.
Mike M.	2 yrs.
Steve P.	2 yrs.
Roger D.	2 yrs.
John W.	1 yr.
Mark B.	1 yr.
Skip H.	1 yr.
Bo E.	1 yr.

October Faithful Fiver.  
Earl S. \$20.00



All You Need Group's Wed.  
8:30 - 9:30 meeting at Our  
Lady of the Springs has  
**BECOME NON-SMOKING!**



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
MERRY CHRISTMAS &  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**



At this time, a dance is not  
scheduled for New Years Eve.  
The Halloween Dance lost  
\$104.39. If you are interested  
in helping with activities, call  
Intergroup and volunteer.



cool

**1999 STATE  
CONVENTION IS  
LOOKING FOR  
A FEW GOOD  
ENTERTAINERS!**

Are you a Magician? Are you a Singer? Dancer? Comedy  
Skits? The 1999 Florida State Convention Entertainment  
Committee wants to hear from you if you have any talent.  
Call Pat H. (904) 409-3167, Janee M. (407) 331-8142 or  
Monique J. (407) 843-1011 to sign on with the committee  
that claims to definitely not be a "glum lot".

\*\*\*\*\*

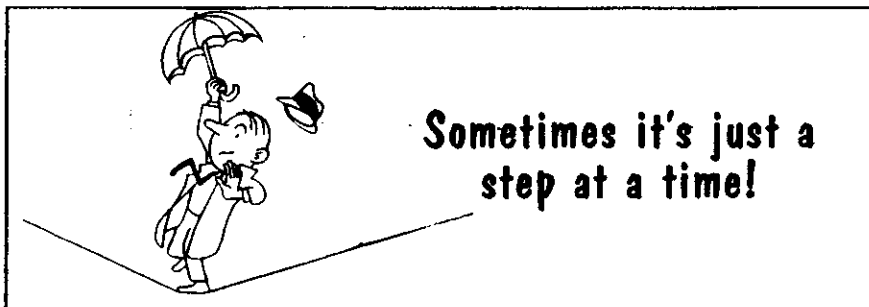
## UPCOMING EVENTS

**The Ocala Group will hold an  
alcaathon on Christmas & New  
Years Eve from 8 p.m. - 12 p.m.  
Please bring finger foods and  
come stay sober & have fun!!!**

The end of the month dinner  
and speaker meeting for  
Nov. & Dec. at the Ocala  
Group will be held Dec. 10th.  
Smoked Turkey & Ham are  
on the menu, please bring a  
covered dish. Tickets are  
\$4 at the door.



VICTOR E.



## Step 12

Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

### *'When Other Activities Fail'*

The Big Book devotes two chapters (five & six) to the first Eleven Steps. The Twelfth Step gets a chapter all its own - one whose fifteen pages, in comparison to the thirty-one pages that covered all the previous Steps, is deproportionately long. The significance of this imbalance is made clear at the start of that chapter: "...nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail."

This is the major reason for the strong emphasis on this Step; and in fact, many of the Big Book's personal stories tell us that Bill W. and Dr. Bob lost no time in having new recruits go out to spread the word. But what exactly constitutes Twelfth Step work? What might such work include?

Since the Big Book was written just a few short years after AA began, and at a time when most people had not even heard about us, its discussion of twelfth-stepping emphasized the importance of bringing our message of hope to those who were still actively suffering from the disease. The classic AA images of twelfth-stepping — going to hospitals and talking to alcoholics who are drying out, or going with another member to the home of a drinking person who calls for help —

were thereby formed. Some present-day AAs have these kinds of images in mind when they say that they are not yet ready to do Twelfth Step work or that they are not particularly suited for it.

Yet, to neglect Twelfth Step work is to ignore an important tool for one's own recovery — a tool that will not only work "when other activities fail," but also one through which "life will take on new meaning." For everyone in recovery — and not just those who have the talent for helping the active alcoholic — what the Twelfth Step mean needs to be carefully considered.

My sponsor recently said to me, "Recovery depends on being of loving service to other people." What better antidote for the alcoholic's self-will run riot that a life in which obsession with self is replaced by loving concern for others no less than for oneself? Sometimes, I have distorted the idea of ours being a "selfish program" and have made it instead into a self-obsessed program; though I may not be drinking, I am at those times as self-willed as I was during my drinking days. "Loving service" is my way of fighting self-will. It is, in the last analysis, what the Twelfth Step is all about.

Working effectively with still-drinking persons or those in very early recovery is not what all of us can do since it often requires a peculiar talent of a kind of strength which we don't all have. It can be a wise policy to leave that type of work to others more suited to it. Yet, even if that form of twelfth-stepping is not what I

can do, it is important for me to recognize that is only one form in which the Twelfth Step can be practiced; the spirit of loving service is not restricted to just one kind of service.

How can the Twelfth Step be practiced? Putting it simply, Twelfth Step work is any service to other alcoholics, and indeed to all who need such service (for the Twelfth Step reminds us to practice the principles in all our affairs). There is, however, one important qualification: the work must be primarily motivated by the love of others, rather than by gain, or by the desire to be admired, or by some other self-seeking and self-centered motive.

reprinted from the Dec. 91  
Grapevine  
Jamie C., Henrietta, N.Y.

Practice these Principles...  
Tradition Twelve: Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

1. Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to me if AA as a whole disappeared?
2. When I do not trust AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
3. In my opinion of and remarks about other AAs, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?
4. Do I ever try to get a certain AA group to conform to my standards, not its own?
5. Have I a personal responsibility in helping an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is my part?
6. Does my personal behavior reflect the Sixth Tradition - or belie it?

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**Tradition Twelve  
Anonymity is the spiritual  
foundation of all our  
Traditions, ever reminding  
us to place principles  
before personalities.**

In a recent professional training meeting, I had goosebump-raising emotions when I realized that of the six people in the room, three of us were members of Alcoholics Anonymous - but the other two AAs didn't know it. They know each other in the business world - but not in AA. As it happens, they go to different meetings and each man protects his anonymity at the public level.

That evening, as I was reviewing my day and feeling grateful, I decided to reflect on my personal experiences with anonymity and Traditions Eleven and Twelve. Early in my sobriety, my personal anonymity was very important. Even though my name had been in the paper a number of times for alcohol-related offenses, the fear of stigma and discrimination still worked in my mind, just as it works in newcomers' minds today - and as it did in the early years of Alcoholics Anonymous.

In my early years in AA, I read a lot. I read "Why Alcoholics Anonymous Is Anonymous" by Bill W. and Harry Tiebout's "When the Big I Becomes Nobody" from early Grapevines. Both articles helped me to see the need for "ego deflation at depth." I was aware of the dangers of egocentrism, the bondage of self. I began to feel the need to mix in, to be one among many. I was a schoolteacher when I came to AA. It didn't take long for my principal to see the beginning of a change in my life. He became curious, and when he

asked what I was doing, I told him I was going to AA. He was cautiously enthusiastic. He remembered how often he had given his "the-next-time-your-name-is-in-the-papers" warning. My professional career has improved as I have been restored to sanity, though it didn't happen without soul pain and ups and downs.

I have also felt the lash of stigma. My feelings were hurt when I lost out in the last stage of an interview process. I entered the room for my final interview with the school board and the chairman said, "Something has come up." I knew they had learned about my drinking career. Sixteen years of sobriety, excellent recommendations, and training to doctorate level did not convince the board to reconsider my application. I was still a drunk in their eyes. It hurt, but I tried to keep one foot in front of the other - spiritually.

Today, I am superintendent of schools in my community. During the interview with my present board, I tried to sell myself as a professional educator first. Thereafter, I revealed my history and my membership in AA. With this board, it worked to my credit, but I still remembered the sting of "Something has come up."

My anonymity continues to be an important check on my character defects. I share my sobriety willingly as my Higher Power leads me. I have enjoyed helping colleagues who have lost their licenses come to AA and regain their professional standing. (My help name got on a list of helpers through a break of my anonymity.)

I look forward to the day when my two business friends see each

other at a meeting and the three of us can enjoy coffee and laughter in the "meeting after the meeting."

It will come in their time, not mine, as the spiritual foundation allows.

Jim H., Coquille, Ore.

reprinted Grapevine Dec. 1992

**PRACTICE THESE PRINCIPLES  
CONTINUED**

7. Do I do all I can to support AA financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a Grapevine subscription?
8. Do I complain about certain AAs' behavior - especially if they are paid to work for AA? Who made me so smart?
9. Do I fulfill all AA responsibilities in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really?
10. Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give AA critics real ammunition?
11. Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of AA so attractive that other drunks want it?
12. What is the real importance of me among 500,000 AAs?

reprinted for the September 1971  
Grapevine

**New Soil New Roots Group  
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Wednesday nights  
Open Discussion  
ARC Marion Cafeteria  
2800 SE Maricamp  
\*Non-Smoking\***



### DO YOU JUST BELONG?

ARE YOU AN ACTIVE MEMBER,  
THE KIND THAT WOULD BE MISSED?  
OR ARE YOU JUST CONTENTED  
THAT YOUR NAME IS ON THE LIST?

DO YOU ATTEND THE MEETINGS  
AND MINGLE WITH THE FLOCK?  
OR DO YOU MEET IN PRIVATE  
AND CRITIZE AND KNOCK?

DO YOU TAKE AN ACTIVE PART  
TO HELP THE WORK ALONG?  
OR ARE YOU SATISFIED TO BE  
THE KIND THAT JUST BELONGS?

DO YOU WORK ON COMMITTEES?  
TO THIS THERE IS NO TRICK;  
OR LEAVE THE WORK TO JUST A FEW,  
AND TALK ABOUT THE CLIQUE?

PLEASE COME TO THE MEETING OFTEN,  
AND HELP WITH HAND AND HEART.  
DON'T BE JUST A MEMBER  
BUT TAKE AN ACTIVE PART.

THINK THIS OVER, MEMBERS,  
YOU KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT FROM WRONG.  
ARE YOU AN ACTIVE MEMBER,  
OR DO YOU JUST BELONG?

### ANONYMOUS



#### 12 Tips for Sober Holidays

1. Line up extra AA activities (help on the phones, speak, empty ashtrays).
2. Be host to friends, especially newcomers, at home or at a coffee shop.
3. Keep your AA telephone list with you at all times.
4. Find out about holiday meetings or celebrations in your local groups.
5. Skip any drinking occasions you're nervous about.
6. If there's one you can't skip, take an AA friend - or keep candy handy.
7. Don't think you have to stay late (plan an "important date" in advance).
8. Go to church. Any church. And don't forget about extra meetings.
9. Don't sit around brooding; catch up on reading, museums, walks, letters.
10. Don't project about holiday temptations: remember "One day at a time."
11. Even if you cannot give material gifts, enjoy the beauty of holiday love.
12. Carry the message. Give the joy away, and it will be yours to keep.

Adapted from Box 4-5-9



### FAITHFUL FIVERS

Faithful fivers are little angels who send \$5 to Intergroup monthly as an act of gratitude. Why not stop in at the Intergroup office once a month, drop a fiver on 'em and visit for a while over a cup of java???



Intergroup Office has a number of gift items for sale including necklaces, key tags, medallion holders, special medallions and lots more. Stop by and check it out!



Thanks again to everyone for contributing to the Voice.  
The next deadline will be  
December 23rd.  
Happy Holidays to all!



\* delivered a new note of serenity in the Hot Hot Hot  
I wish her off the scene.

we ARE NOT  
a GLUM LoT

A fellow and his new girl-  
friend were out riding in  
the country when the car  
stopped on a lonely road.  
"We're out of gas!"  
exclaimed the guy.

The girl opened her purse  
and brought out a large  
flask. "Wow! You've got  
a pint with you. What is  
it, scotch or bourbon?"  
he asked eagerly.  
"Gasoline," she replied.

AA has lots of willing  
Volunteers — 3% Volun-  
teer, and 97% are willing  
to let them.

Smooth seas never  
made a skillful sailor.

We have never seen a  
person fail who is mak-  
ing coffee.



Yes, Dear