

# 1999 Voice Issues

## (12 Months)

# INTERGROUP VOICE

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

January 1999



Volume 6, Issue 1

## BIRTHDAYS



January 1999	
Verne B.	42 yrs.
Jack D.	40 yrs.
Arnold H.	38 yrs.
Don C.	33 yrs.
Don D.	33 yrs.
Chester S.	23 yrs.
Paul H.	22 yrs.
Judy S.	17 yrs.
Jerry J.	15 yrs.
Ernie P.	15 yrs.
Dawn C.	15 yrs.
Bob T.	13 yrs.
Willie Mc.	12 yrs.
Vicki Y.	8 yrs.
Richard W.	7 yrs.
Billy B.	6 yrs.
Thad B.	6 yrs.
Steve J.	6 yrs.
Jack S.	5 yrs.
Jim R.	5 yrs.
Becky L.	5 yrs.
Ed S.	4 yrs.
Bruce Y.	3 yrs.
Nancy W.	3 yrs.
Mary B.	3 yrs.
Joe W.	3 yrs.
Joy C.	3 yrs.
Dale W.	2 yrs.
Gary C.	2 yrs.
Larry B.	2 yrs.
Iris R.	2 yrs.
Billy	2 yrs.
Richard C.	2 yrs.
Terry S.	1 yr.
Candy S.	1 yr.
Nolan G.	1 yr.

Friday Nights @ 11 P.M.  
Young People in AA  
Candlelight Meeting at  
the Lost & Found Club.



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



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



Need volunteers for  
the beeper. Please call Intergroup.  
Need at least one year of sobriety to  
be on list.

From the Lunch Bunch  
Thanks to Betty J. from Alachua  
for speaking in Nov. Thank you  
to Willie Mc. for speaking in  
Dec. Speaker for January is  
"George, hey you bid daddy."



Next month is Valentine's  
Day. Is your group doing  
something special? Want  
to get involved? Is there  
going to be a dance? Call  
your intergroup to volunteer!

## 12 Proven Techniques to Help You Become Depressed

1. Dwell on past mistakes and failures: This is most effective when you focus on things which cannot be changed.
2. Set unrealistic expectations for yourself & others: Expect perfection now!! This way you can guarantee failure.
3. Continually compare yourself with others: To get the absolute most from this technique, compare your worst traits with their best.
4. Avoid all involvement and responsibility: It would be unwise to try something new and risk success or satisfaction.
5. Remain negative & problem oriented: Spend all your energy and effort criticizing and judging yourself & others. There are always faults to be found if you look long enough.

6. Allow yourself to be controlled by people & circumstances: This way you can dislike yourself for being weak and others for controlling you.
7. Internalize & personalize the problems of others: Believe that you are to blame, & should have the responsibility to make things right.
8. Don't forgive yourself for anything: You deserve to be unhappy. To really suffer, hold long and deep grudges against yourself as proof of your unworthiness.
9. Seek Isolation & avoid contact with those who care about you: Be cautious & reject any help offered.
10. Do everything you can to please others: Believe that your personal values depends on their acceptance of you. You might find that comparing your standards & values for someone else will help you feel even worse.
11. Base your worth as a person on external things: View such things as appearance, performance, and possessions as a measure of your personal value. In other words, love yourself unconditionally (with pictures of how you should be) just keep shouldering on yourself.
12. Seek lower companions: Find some real losers & immerse yourself with self-pity and gloom.

Author Unknown



Office Calls	2
12 Step	2
Office	54
Alanon	24
A.A. Info.	61
Mtg. Info.	88
Visitors	99
Misc.	19
Ans. Serv.	177
Total	524

**Traditon One**  
**Our common welfare should**  
**come first; personal**  
**recovery depends upon**  
**AA unity.**

If the first words I heard in AA eased me into the First Step, it was the second statement that gave me instant hope, making feel better right away. Now, thirty-one years later, I believe that second sentence I heard contained the healing idea of our then-unwritten First Tradition. The first words were: "Are you having trouble with your drinking?"

Totally unprepared for that question, before I knew what I was doing I had nodded a truthful "Yes." It was a wobbly lurch toward Step One. (Later, I slipped off, but finally climbed back.)

My new friend smiled and said calmly, "Well, I'm a drunk myself; come on in, and let's talk it over." In effect she invited me to participate in Tradition One: "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity."

Her description of herself struck me dumb with amazement, even relief. So I mutely followed that wonderful woman into another room, to talk it over. At that moment, I would have followed her to Hades, of course, hooked by her unashamed revelation that she was a ... well, what she said. "Drunk" was a word I resented, as adjective or noun. It had always disgusted me, until she said it about herself as simply as she might have said she was a woman or citizen or on a diet. She said, "There are lots of us who have alcoholism, and we're not getting over it."

I was not alone! A sob of relief welled up.

My friend then told me, unemotionally, about her drinking, and carefully asked no questions about me or mine.

In that wonderful book Thirst of Freedom, David Stewart points out the tremendous helping power of empathy. I wonder why it is not talked about more, either by professional observers of AA or by us. The empathy of those first AAs I met certainly struck a mighty blow against my drinking and gave me huge shove toward recovery. It is, I believe, a manifestation of our First Tradition, and it goes considerably deeper than simply identifying. We go on to imitate good examples of sobriety. And in twelfth-stepping, we put ourselves in another person's place in order to help.

The empathy around me seemed to elicit some in me, which was the first genuine concern for someone else's welfare I had ever felt. And it had another benign effect on me. Like some other alcoholics, I had felt the most outcasts, lonely person on the earth a long time before I came to AA. In the rosy glow of first drinks, I had felt apart, above others, Special. Better. Unique. That's an isolated spot, with room for only one. Maudlin hours later, sloppy drunk or trying to sober up, I had felt just as alone. A special bastard, worse than anyone else, uniquely loathsome and not worth caring about. Alone again - ostracized, undesired, and undesirable.

Now, surely it takes an acrobatic, if not an alcoholic, egotism to flip-flop continually in order to retain a distinction like that - to be either an unappreciated, Christlike genius or a uniquely horrible specimen. But practice had made me good at it,

and I was almost never as conscious of anyone or anything else as I was continuously aware of me and my specialness. Even when I was not conscious of it, it permeated all I did and said. My first AA greeter's second statement, "I'm a drunk myself," shattered a lot my claim to being so specially different. It was exactly what my sick ego needed to hear. Then her tale of alcoholism and recovery in the company of other alcoholics quickly demonstrated that I was far less powerful than the AAs staying sober together. Thus, it seems to me that the principle of anonymity is rooted in these words: "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity." Does this mean I must put the welfare of AA before my own? To answer, I ask myself another question: Would I have any welfare of my own at all if it were not for AA?

B.L., Manhattan, N.Y.  
reprinted Grapevine 1976

**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\***



**"Only mutual trust can be the foundation for great love -- each of us for the other, and all of us for God"**

Bill W. November 1960 Grapevine

Step 1  
We admitted we were powerless  
over alcohol - that our lives  
had become unmanageable.

## 100 Percent

I have wanted to take the First Step for almost two years now. In Step meetings some of you said that the First Step was the only one which could be taken 100 percent. I could not take it that fully, though, and I envied you for your DUIs and jail sentences and DTs. You had gone so low you had taken the First Step before your first AA meeting. You weren't fighting alcohol any longer.

For me, however, I thought about drinking a lot. It was still an option. I used to plan on going to a bar, but one of our chips says, "Call your sponsor BEFORE, not after." So I would call, and each time she would suggest not drinking for the next twenty-four hours only. And so it was.

Recently, after my sponsor moved, the struggle with Step One resurfaced. I asked God to help as I could not go on much longer resenting being in AA. The next day I went to my home group where one of our members was telling his story for the first time. Toward the end he began to share that he had struggled with the First Step for his first two years, and the point he made was how glad he is now that he never decided to give up during those two years, because the obsession finally did pass. He said that he knew he was an alcoholic when he came into Alcoholics Anonymous, but he didn't quite believe it, he fought it. Well, in

time he not only believed it, but he accepted it. It was then that the obsession passed. I'm glad he stuck it out because I needed to hear his story. If anyone reading this is still struggling with the First Step, I pray this gives you hope that there will be freedom for you, too.

Carol B., Atlanta, Ga.  
reprinted from the Grapevine  
August 1988

**Practice These Principles**  
Tradition One: Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on AA unity.

1. Am I in my group a healing, mending, integrating person, or am I divisive? What about gossip and taking other members' inventories?
2. Am I am peacemaker? Or do I, with pious preludes such as "just for the sake of discussion," plunge into arguments?
3. Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I abrasive?
4. Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting AA in one place with AA in another?
5. Do I put down some AA activities as if I were superior for not participating in this or that aspect of AA?
6. Am I informed about AA as a whole? Do I support, in every way I can, AA as a whole or just the parts I understand and approve of?
7. Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?
8. Do I spout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behavior that

bristles with hostility?

9. Do I go to enough AA meetings or read enough AA literature to really keep in touch?
10. Do I share with AA all of me, the bad and the good, accepting the help of the fellowship?

Traditions checklist reprinted from the November 1969 Grapevine.



## Quote of the Month

Quit Horing Around  
"You can't make a horse drink water if he still prefers beer or is too crazy to know what he does want. Set a pail of water beside him, tell him how good it is and why, and leave him alone.

"If people really want to get drunk, there is, so far as I know, no way of stopping this -- so leave them alone and let them get drunk. But don't exclude them from the water pail, either."

- As Bill Sees It



### Some AA Definitions:

Meditation: Inner-calm system  
Ego Trip: stumbling over your own feet  
Tear: remorse code  
Sarcasm: Barbed ire  
Neurotic: self-taut person  
Apathy: vigor mortis  
Temper tantrum: call of the riled

reprinted from Jan. 90 Grapevine



### 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???



The deadline for the next Voice will be Friday, January 29th. Thank you!

January 3

### POWERLESS

We admitted we were powerless over alcohol — that our lives had become unmanageable.

Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions, p. 21

It is no coincidence that the very first Step mentions powerlessness: An admission of personal powerlessness over alcohol is a cornerstone of the foundation of recovery. I've learned that I do not have the power and control I once thought I had. I am powerless over what people think about me. I am powerless over having just missed the bus. I am powerless over how other people work (or don't work) the Steps. But I've also learned that I am not powerless over some things. I am not powerless over negativity. I am not powerless over assuming responsibility for my own recovery. I have the power to exert a positive influence on myself, my loved ones, and the world in which I live.

### DAILY REFLECTIONS

GROUP NAME	MONTH CONT'BN	YTD CONT'BN	NOV AMOUNT OWED	1998
Alive & Well				
All You Need				
Anthony				
Belleview	\$140.00	\$760.00		
Daytimers			\$34.75	
Donnellon				
Exp. Strength Hope	\$56.85	\$247.60		
Eye Opener				
Fellowship	\$100.00	\$700.00		
Foot Print			\$24.00	
Forest			\$70.00	
Ft. McCoy			\$85.00	
Fountain of Gratitude			\$66.00	
God's Way	\$20.00	\$135.00		
Grace			\$20.00	
Happy, Joyous and Free	\$23.39	\$112.93		
Happy, Joyous and Gay	\$45.00	\$45.00		
Happy Hour			\$154.00	
Head Start	\$37.50	\$283.75	(\$0.54)	
Its in the Book			(\$5.00)	
Living Sober	\$75.00	\$460.00		
Lunch Bunch			\$204.51	
Marion Oaks 12 Step			\$50.00	
<del>McCallum</del>				
McIntosh	\$92.50	\$167.50		
Men's Group	\$75.00	\$265.00		
New Attitudes			\$17.30	
Ocala	\$277.57	\$1,756.56	\$19.87	
Orange Lake			\$2.00	
Primary Purpose			\$175.00	
Rainbow			\$38.34	
Serenity			\$10.00	
Shores of Sobriety			\$202.00	
We Give Thanks	\$30.00	\$130.00		
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$972.81</b>	<b>\$6,198.94</b>	<b>\$31.63</b>	
Treatment			\$145.04	
Corrections			\$28.94	
CPC/PI			\$163.21	
TLC Treatment			\$73.15	
Faithful Fivers	\$24.00	\$170.49		
Lost and Found			\$104.94	
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$24.00</b>	<b>\$170.49</b>	<b>\$515.28</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$996.81</b>	<b>\$6,369.43</b>	<b>\$546.91</b>	

# INTERGROUP VOICE

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

February 1999



Volume 2, Issue 1



February 1999	
Verne B.	43 yrs.
Jerry W. and or H.	39 yrs.
Hans F.	35 yrs.
Cortez W.	32 yrs.
Pat S.	30 yrs.
George H.	27 yrs.
Kenny S.	25 yrs.
Barbara T.	23 yrs.
June C.	22 yrs.
Dave A.	21 yrs.
Burke J. and or S.	20 yrs.
Bud S.	19 yrs.
Bonnie H.	18 yrs.
John G.	17 yrs.
Carol W.	17 yrs.
Mary W.	16 yrs.
Jerry J.	16 yrs.
Bill V.	14 yrs.
Stephen S.	14 yrs.
Jerry Mc.	13 yrs.
George B.	13 yrs.
Morgen C.	9 yrs.
Carol B.	9 yrs.
Monte B.	8 yrs.
Joel Y.	7 yrs.
Al B.	7 yrs.
Ricky	6 yrs.
Billy B.	6 yrs.
Jim S.	5 yrs.
Nick H.	4 yrs
Ali R.	4 yrs.
Robert H.	4 yrs.
Mary P.	3 yrs.
Gary W.	3 yrs.
Danny C.	3 yrs.
Kris G.	3 yrs.
Brian Y.	3 yrs.
Marie E.	3 yrs.
Kathy W.	2 yrs.
Bonnie P.	2 yrs.
Judy K.	1 yr.
Margaret	1 yr.
Lenny	1 yr.
Laura	1 yr.
Verna C.	1 yr.
Donna P.	1 yr.
Eddie R.	1 yr.
Elaine H.	1 yr.
Robert T.	1 yr.
Bill H.	1 yr.
Michelle M.	1 yr.

Intergroup 17 - con't.

In the mid 1980's it was recognized that an AA central office - an Intergroup- was needed in Ocala to provide services, communications and coordination which no group could provide singly. Accordingly, representatives from several groups prepared Articles of Incorporation. They were submitted to the state of Florida. On October 17th, 1986 the state granted a corporate charter. Intergroup district 17 was born. By-Laws were written.

The By-Laws specified the manner in which the new organization would operate. Each group in the District 17 area would have a rep. The reps. would elect a steering committee composed of a chairman, vice chairman, secretary and members at large. Additionally the committee reps. would elect trustees to oversee the financial affairs of the Intergroup. The steering committee was authorized to select a treasurer and an office manager. The By-Laws have been amended once and approved by the group reps. to reflect needed changes in operations and organization and to clarify language.

It was recognized that to provide the needed services Intergroup would require financial support from the groups in accordance with the ability of each group to contribute. This is true today as it was in 1986. While Intergroup earns a profit from sales of AA literature and other appropriate merchandise and occasional social events, the majority of the expenses must be covered by contributions from outside sources:

The average monthly operating expenses for the recent 18 months are  
\$1450.00

The average monthly income are

contributions	\$870.00
activities	\$275.00
sales profits	\$280.00
misc.	\$ 34.00
Total	\$1,090.00

At the monthly reps. meeting each rep. receives a detailed financial statement.

It is evident that the amount of the groups' contributions is the minimum needed. While Intergroup currently has a modest prudent reserve, if each of the 40 groups would increase its contribution by \$1.00 per week, that money would provide added safety against some unforeseen event and would allow for further expanding the services.

The election of the new officers occurs on May 1st of each year. The nominating committee is always seeking AA persons who are interested in serving. Additionally a new treasurer will be needed. The financial records of Intergroup are maintained either using an Excell spread sheet program or a Quicken program. Anyone with knowledge of either and who is interested in serving may contact the office.



## Office Calls

12 Step	
Office	16
Alanon	40
A.A. Info.	69
Mtg. Info.	73
Visitors	111
Misc.	26
Ans. Serv.	144
Total	539



VALENTINES DANCE  
LOST & FOUND CLUB  
FEBRUARY 12TH - FRIDAY  
9 P.M. - 12 MIDNIGHT  
\$2 FOR MEMBERS, \$3 FOR NON



## BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR LUNCH BUNCH

The last Saturday of February  
the Lunch Bunch Group will  
celebrate its 14th birthday with  
food & fellowship. Dave B.,  
John D., & Ruth T., will share  
the history of how the L & F  
Club and the Lunch Bunch  
group started. Come join us and  
help celebrate sobriety Feb. 27th  
at 12:00 noon.



The next deadline for the  
Voice will be Feb. 26th.  
Thanks for all the contributions.  
Need articles on steps &  
traditions. Thanks again!!!  
Lucy 867-0409



**Step 2**  
**Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.**

## *Beyond Sanity*

"There are those, too, who suffer from grave emotional and mental disorders, but many of them do recover if they have the capacity to be honest." That quote from the Big Book describes me. I have a mental disorder - severe clinical and chronic depression - but I am in recovery. The program works.

When I first came into the Fellowship, I was in a depressive state, and a few days later was hospitalized for the fifth time. In the hospital, I learned about the illness of alcoholism: the mental obsession and the physical compulsion. When I was released from the hospital a month later, I began attending AA meetings in earnest.

At first, staying sober was not as difficult as I had envisioned. The physical compulsion had left me while I was in the hospital, and though I was left with an occasional thought or desire for a drink, there was nothing upon which I had to act. Within a short time, I began to notice some benefits of sobriety that were special to me and became self-reinforcing. Without ingesting alcohol, which was a depressant, my depression finally had a chance to improve. It wasn't over yet, but through the grace of God, I could see change. More than that, sobriety seemed to coincide with freedom from the hospital. I had stopped attempting suicide (something I'd only done while drinking). And now, thirtyseven months into sobriety,

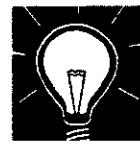
I haven't been back in the hospital.

Taking the First Step was easy. Hospitalizations and drunk driving citations had clearly made my life unmanageable, and I knew I was powerless: that the first drink would get me drunk. It was the Second Step that I eyed with intense interest: "Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity." Did that mean that my Higher Power would eradicate my mental illness? That is what I believed and prayed for. If the God of my understanding could offer me recovery from alcoholism, could he not offer me recovery from this other illness as well?

As I continued to attend AA meetings and listen carefully, I heard experiences with the Second Step that didn't quite apply to me. One common definition of insanity was "doing the same thing (i.e. drinking) over and over, expecting different results." That definition fit me as far as my alcoholism went, but was too narrow to help with my mental illness. I resigned myself to a continuing mental illness. However, I also continued my journey with the Steps. Doing each to the best of my ability, with painstaking care, I completed all twelve, until in the end I found a new definition of sanity. It was bigger than any definition I had heard concerning Step Two, but it was also bigger and better than my wildest imaginations. This sanity offered serenity, a feeling of wellness of well-being, possession of a center of balance from which to operate, and a feeling that my place in this world was just right. The sanity I've received through work on the Steps is far more than I could have hoped for.

Now I'm not only a recovering alcoholic but have truly been "restored to sanity," and am forever grateful.

Doreen C., Bowie, Maryland  
reprinted from the Feb. 1999 Grapevine.



### **Practice These Principles...**

**Tradition Two: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.**

1. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?
2. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other responsibilities?
3. Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?
4. Do I have to save face in group discussions, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with?
5. Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn in AA chores?
6. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

Traditions Checklist from the Grapevine



**Traditon Two**  
**For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.**

### One Among Many

When I first came into the Fellowship, I fell in love not only with AA, but with the business meetings. I loved to sit there and watch the members arguing back and forth, hashing and rehashing the tiniest bit of trivia and expounding on why and why not something should change or stay the same. I heard some members say they didn't like business meetings and didn't like to see the members disagreeing. I couldn't identify with this. Why I thought, it added and exciting dimension to meetings!

In the beginning I was made aware of my inflated alcoholic ego by working the Steps. What I didn't know at the time was that I would get in touch with other defects I didn't even know I had - little things like power driving, tunnel vision, and numerous other lovable traits. Humility, self-sacrifice, principles before personalities, and anonymity were not my favorite words. To begin with, I didn't really know what they meant.

After my first Fourth Step, I thought I had discovered all there was to know about me - oh boy! With each additional Fourth Step, I found I was only scratching the surface. The Twelfth Step told me that after having a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, I would try to carry this message to alcoholics and I was to practice these principles in all my affairs. So far, so good. Little did I know, when I started out in service,

that these principles would become a reality I couldn't have imagined.

It happened that I moved from my old group, which had nurtured me for five years, to a group that was entirely different in the way they did things (of so I thought). No one told me to grab a club when I started telling this group about the Traditions and how they were breaking them all, but I did. God help the alcoholics who discovers a bit of truth and needs to tell others about it, come hell or high water. I became the groups' watch dog, making sure they did everything "according to Traditions." Without even realizing it, I was breaking our First Tradition. Unity went out the door when I walked in. This was the beginning of the realization of just how deep my defects of character went.

As I trudged this happy road of service, many challenges surfaced. Could I become one among many who are also in service positions? Could I see there is no "chief" drunk, and no "peon" positions, either? That we are all important part of the whole - that any position I might hold is direct relationship with the positions others hold? Could I realize, when needing to voice my opinions and make sure all hear, that I have lost my ability to listen? Could I see that tunnel vision isn't practical when I need to see the whole?

Could I do what I was trusted to do and let others do what they were trusted to do without making sure it was done and self-righteously picking up the slack (all for the good of AA, don't you know)? Could I put any position I might hold in proper perspective to its relationship with AA as a whole. If I don't do

these things, my job either gets escalated in my mind and I end up with an overrated ego, or I see my job as not that big a deal and do half a job or none at all.

After a while, I began not to take myself so seriously. I am developing the ability to laugh at myself when I get off the beam in these areas. Like I said, AA is a journey that takes a lifetime.

Anonymous, Winthrop, Maine  
reprinted from the Feb. 1994  
Grapevine



### Getting Out of Self

*My serenity level seems to be inextricably linked to how much importance I attach to self. The more I worry about me and my petty wants, the more uptight I am. That interrelationship is impervious to any changes or perversions of it I may attempt. Thus, it is obvious, and logical, that to live well I have to get out of self.*

**Randall C., Gresham, Ore.**  
**Feb. 1993 Grapevine**



**I had to realize, admit, accept that the only change I could make was inward.**  
**Helena, Montana**





### 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???

**ARE YOU A SUCCESSFUL GRADUATE OF A LONG-TERM TREATMENT FACILITY OR A FORMER GUEST OF THE STATE? Remember how isolated it felt? Want to give back a little of what AA gave to you? Attend the ALL YOU NEED GROUP meetings on Wed. nights at 8:30 and meet some of our many weekly guest from OCSC. They could REALLY use your support. Non-smoking. 50/50 raffle on birthday night.**  
**Our Lady of the Springs Catholic Church, 4047 NE 21st Ave. ( go East on NW 21st St. off 36th Ave)**

The Winners Circle Club is no longer playing Bingo on Friday nights.

The McIntosh Group held an "AA film festival" in Dec. From the benefit they made a donation to Intergroup in the amount of \$92.50.

Thank you!

Thanks to Dave H. for his generous contribution to Intergroup.  
 Thank you, Thank you!



*HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!*

### GSO says Thanks to Inter-groups

Excerpt from letter from General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., to all Central/Intergroup Office Management and Staff:  
 "So often it is said that local central and intergroup offices are the front line of AA and your work is very much appreciated by the many who make that first call for help and receive a warm response and encouragement to go to that first meeting."

"The General Service Board and its two corporations, AA World Service and AA Grapevine, thanks you for all you do to help the alcoholic find the help he or she needs to get sober, to come out of the darkness into the light of Alcoholics Anonymous, and to stay in a new way of life of sharing experience, strength and hope with others. We know that our new GSO Manager Greg Muth, who is replacing George Dorsey, also looks forward to continuing our close relationship with you."

### THANK YOU

Thanks to all the individuals and groups that have supported the Intergroup Office this past year. Without your monetary and/or time contributions the Intergroup Office would be unable to operate. We do our best to give you and your group support in "carrying the message". If you have any questions or suggestions, please ask your Intergroup Representative, or come to the next Intergroup meeting on Feb. 7th at 5:15 p.m.  
 Ruth T.

## Group Donations January 1999

Daytimers	\$ 64.85
Dunnellon	\$ 25.00
Fellowship	\$100.00
Foot Print	\$ 25.00
God's Way	\$ 15.00
Head Start	\$ 40.60
Lunch Bunch	\$ 56.54
Ocala	\$349.75
Rainbow	\$ 34.60
Serenity	\$ 10.00
Faithful Fivers	\$100.00

**Total Cont. \$821.34**

### WET DRUNK WORKSHOP

Handling a 12 Step Call, being a Hotline Volunteer & More.

Sponsored by District 28  
 February 27th at 10 am - 12:30 p.m.  
 Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church  
 Hwy 41, Inverness, FL  
 Workshop host Dan E.  
 Orange Lake, FL  
 Refreshments will be served.  
 For more info call 344-3402



### 12th UNITY WEEKEND

A Celebration of Sobriety  
 Holiday Inn Beach Resort  
 Jekyll Island, Georgia

March 5,6,7, 1999

Registration \$25 per person  
 Rooms \$69 (1-4 persons)  
 Campground \$12 RV \$15  
 Holiday Inn RSVP 1-800-753-5955  
 Campground RSVP 912-635-3021  
 Seating Limited to first 600  
 Go to Intergroup to get your Registration Form.



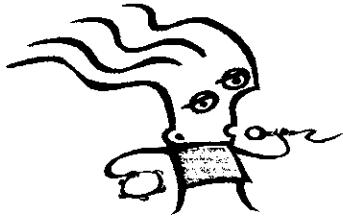
There are so many events coming up that it is impossible to list them all. Go by Intergroup to see all the flyers and get your registration forms.

# INTERGROUP VOICE

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

March 1999

Volume 3, Issue 1



## BIRTHDAYS

Al C.	35 yrs.
Margaret C.	33 yrs.
Larry	24 yrs.
Ernie M.	20 yrs.
Jake J.	20 yrs.
Ann S.	17 yrs.
Linda C.	16 yrs.
Charlic B.	14 yrs.
Bob B.	13 yrs.
Verne R.	12 yrs.
Ricardo R.	12 yrs.
Ken B.	10 yrs.
Ann G.	9 yrs.
Carol H.	9 yrs.
John M.	9 yrs.
Penny B.	8 yrs.
Patty T.	7 yrs.
Joel Y.	7 yrs.
Norm H.	6 yrs.
Don M.	4 yrs.
Phillip W.	4 yrs.
Gail C.	4 yrs.
Eileen C.	4 yrs.
Owen V.	4 yrs.
Millie O.	3 yrs.
Brian W.	3 yrs.
Phillip W.	3 yrs.
Dan S.	3 yrs.
Tom D.	3 yrs.
Gary C.	3 yrs.
Andy L.	3 yrs.
George W.	3 yrs.
Nina H.	3 yrs.
Paul F.	2 yrs.
Don C.	2 yrs.
Chip G.	2 yrs.
Theresa M.	2 yrs.
Denena G.	2 yrs.
Jennifer W.	2 yrs.
Dale P.	2 yrs.
Wyatt	2 yrs.
Verner H.	1 yr.
Chuck L.	1 yr.
Brenda E.	1 yr.
Kim T.	1 yr.
Karen W.	1 yr.
Jim M.	10 yrs.

## OOOPS!!!

Last month I made a mistake.

Here is the correction:

The average mo. income is:  
 Contributions \$870.00  
 Activities \$275.00  
 Sales Profits \$280.00  
 Misc. \$ 34.00  
 Total \$1,459.00

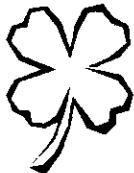


12 Step	0
Office	66
Alanon	33
AA Info.	68
Meeting Info.	75
Visitors	78
Misc.	15
Answering Sv.	175
Total	510



## Upcoming Activities & Events

Lost & Found Club  
 St. Patrick's Day Dance  
 March 12th 9 p.m. - 12  
 \$2 for members  
 \$3 for non-members  
 Door prizes & 50/50 Raffle



8th Annual Recovery House  
 Barbecue  
 Saturday, April 17th  
 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
 Feast on Recovery  
 243 N.W. 4th Terrace  
 Behind Interfaith - \$5 donation  
 door prize - 25" Color T.V.  
 Rob 732-7858 for tickets



Truckers Eatin' Meetin' of  
 Alcoholics Anonymous  
 (All AA's invited)  
 6:30 p.m. at Jim's Pit Bar B Q  
 Open Discussion Meeting  
 Take I-75 to Exit 72 (Rt. 318 -  
 Irvine/Orange Lake exit) Jim's  
 restaurant is located across  
 the street from the Petro truck  
 stop.

Ordering a meal is necessary  
 for us to be welcomed back.  
 Sponsored by the McIntosh,  
 Micanopy & Orange Lake Groups.

Quote of the Month  
**Everlasting Ignorance**  
 "There is a principle which  
 is a bar against all information,  
 which is proof against all  
 arguments and which can not  
 fail to keep a man in ever-  
 lasting ignorance - that  
 principle is contempt prior  
 to investigation."  
 Herbert Spencer  
 Alcoholics Anonymous p. 570

**OVERCOMING SELF-WILL**  
 So our troubles we think, are  
 basically of our own making.  
 They arise out of ourselves,  
 and the alcoholic is an extreme  
 example of self-will run riot,  
 though he usually doesn't think  
 so. Above everything, we  
 alcoholics must be rid of this  
 selfishness. We must, or it  
 kills us!  
 Alcoholics Anonymous p. 62

For so many years my life  
 revolved solely around myself.  
 I was consumed with self in all  
 forms - self-centeredness, self-  
 pity, self-seeking, all of which  
 stemmed from pride. Today  
 I have been given the gift,  
 through the Fellowship of  
 Alcoholics Anonymous, of  
 practicing the Steps &  
 Traditions in my daily life, of  
 my group and my sponsor, and  
 the capacity - if I so choose - to  
 put my pride aside in all  
 situations which arise in my  
 life.

Until I could honestly look at  
 myself and see that I was the  
 problem in many situations and  
 react appropriately inside and  
 out, until I could discard my  
 expectations and understand  
 that my serenity was directly  
 proportional to them, I could  
 not experience serenity and  
 sound sobriety.

March 3rd - Daily Reflections



#### 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

"In Memory"  
Our A.A. friend Frank McCormick from the Oxford Group died recently. Frank had 51 years in the fellowship.

#### TIME

How successful is A.A.? The latest survey (U.S./Canada) indicates that an alcoholic with less than one year sobriety in A.A. has a 41% chance of making it through the next year without a drink; with one to five years, an 86% chance; with more than five years, a 92% chance.

Subscribe to the  
**Grapevine**  
12 issues: \$15.00  
Send your name, address, city, state & zip code to:

Box 1980  
Grand Central Station  
PO Box 1980  
New York, NY 10164-3139

This is also an excellent gift for someone celebrating their one year anniversary.

Flint River Roundup  
March 26-28, 1999  
Bainbridge, Georgia  
"Happy, Joyous & Free"  
Registration \$18.00  
call 385-3409 Duffy or  
Kathy S. 893-1989

Several hotels available for  
\$45.00 per night or camping  
for \$9.00 per night.  
Cookout Saturday afternoon  
& dance Saturday night.  
Limited to 400



Country Round-Up '99  
"...Thy power, Thy Love, and  
thy way of life."  
April 23, 24, & 25  
Chipley, Florida  
Ag Center - 800 W. Hwy. 90  
Registration \$15.00 per person  
for more info call Charles G.  
850-683-0101 or Rosie L.  
850-638-0453



43rd Florida State Convention  
Daytona Beach 1999  
July 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11, 1999  
Adams Mark Hotel  
Look for more info soon!!!



There are so many events coming up that it is impossible to list them all. Go by Intergroup to see all the flyers and get your registration forms.



*Happy St. Patrick's Day*

## Group Donations February 1999

Exp. Strght. Hpe	\$ 36.00
Fellowship	\$100.00
Foot Print	\$ 20.00
Forest	\$ 50.00
Ft. McCoy	\$ 30.00
Happy J & Free	\$ 29.58
Head Start	\$ 38.75
Living Sober	\$ 90.00
Lunch Bunch	\$ 51.34
Men in Recovery	\$ 44.00
New Attitudes	\$138.00
Ocala	\$277.71
Orange Lake	\$ 40.00
Faithful Fivers	\$ 45.00

Total Cont. \$990.38

*One day at a time,  
with God,  
all things are possible.*



ABANDON YOURSELF TO GOD AS YOU UNDERSTAND GOD. ADMIT YOUR FAULTS TO HIM AND TO YOUR FELLOWS. CLEAR AWAY THE WRECKAGE OF YOUR PAST. GIVE FREELY OF WHAT YOU FIND AND JOIN US. WE SHALL BE WITH YOU IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE SPIRIT, AND YOU WILL SURELY MEET SOME OF US AS YOU TRUDGE THE ROAD TO HAPPY DESTINY.

*MAY GOD BLESS YOU -  
UNTIL THEN.*

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
PAGE 164

Step 3  
**Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him.**

*Letting Life Unfold*

Long before I came to Alcoholics Anonymous I had begun to lose faith in my own self-sufficiency. I knew that no matter how hard I tried, there were certain things I couldn't do, there were people I couldn't force to do what I wanted them to do, there were things I couldn't even will myself to do - like stop having blackouts when I drank. Yet, I continued to try again and again, hoping that this time was going to be different. This time the stranger I picked up in a bar was really going to turn out to be Prince Charming and fall in love with me. This time I wasn't going to humiliate myself by wetting the bed or my pants. This time I was really going to impress "them" instead of doing things that made people close to me cringe with embarrassment and make excuses for my behavior.

I vividly remember the night that I knew to my very core that I could no longer even hope that my self-sufficiency and self-will would carry me through. I attended a women's support group (nothing to do with alcoholism) where I shared that I was concerned about my abusing alcohol. Afterward, I went out with some of the women to a restaurant. They all looked up to me. They believed the phony image of "self-sufficiency" I projected. In an attempt to show their support of me, they all, one by one, ordered sodas. By the time the waitress got to me I had broken

out in a cold sweat. I wanted desperately to hold on to the respect that others had for me, even if it was based on a lie. But I couldn't. I had to order a drink.

By the time I started drinking my second drink, part of me left my body and was hovering close to the ceiling of the restaurant, looking down on the woman I had become. Seeing the truth - which was that I was drinking not because I wanted to but because I had to - was unbearable. In an instant I knew that my self-reliance had failed me and I no longer could even hold on to the hope that tomorrow would be different. There would be no tomorrow. I decided to kill myself before the world found out the truth about me.

However, the next morning instead of calling my doctor to get some sleeping pills to do myself in, I called Alcoholics Anonymous. Turning myself in to AA - "... as willing to listen as the dying can be ..." - was the beginning for me of trying to practice Step Three. But a lifetime of believing that if I didn't do it, it wouldn't get done, and that there was nobody I could trust except myself just couldn't be turned around all at once.

The key for me in Step Three lies in this passage of the "Twelve and Twelve": "...the effectiveness of the whole AA program will rest upon how well and earnestly we have tried to come to 'a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God'..." All it says is that I need to try. Before AA, whenever I tried something and didn't think I had done it right, I gave up. But AA has taught me that all I have to do is try, try, and try again. With each try I gain a little more experience, strength and hope that I

can share with my fellow AAs. Over the years I've tried a number of different ways (learned from other AA members) of working the Third Step, including: 1) Writing "turn-it-over" letters to God (I use a journal for this purpose and write God regularly about things that trouble or frighten me); 2) Using a God jar (when I start to obsess about something I have no control over, I write it on a piece of paper and put it in a container, so whenever I start to think about the problem, I remind myself that it's in my God jar); 3) Sharing problems with my sponsor and following her suggestions; 4) Sharing on the group level and being open to utilizing the experience, strength, and hope of others; 5) Using the "going to the hat" method of decision-making (for some very special situations that involve choosing between two alternatives, I write the alternatives on two separate pieces of paper, put the selections in the hat, pray for God to direct the outcome and give me courage to act on whatever way it comes out); 6) Praying. But it dawned on me the other day while reflecting on the Step that what's important isn't the outcome of applying any of these methods. What's important is knowing that in making the decision to try to turn my will and life over to the care of God as I understand him or her or it, I am affirming that no matter how it turns out, I don't have to pick up a drink.

This doesn't mean that life is always going to turn out the way I would like to nor that my life will be pain-free. It simply means that my life will unfold as God chooses it to and I don't have to drink either in celebration or despair. Because that's where the remaining Steps come in - to make it possible for me to obtain "permanent sobriety" one day at a time. And Step Three truly "opens the door."

Reprinted Grapevine Mar. 1993  
Dorothy H., Plainfield, N.J.

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

**THEY'LL RUIN AA**

It is becoming increasingly apparent the the "pure alcoholic" is a thing of the past. The 1977 AA survey showed decisively that newcomers to AA more and more are approaching this program with the problem of alcohol - and something else. This situation is not a novel one. Years ago, when ex-convicts began coming to AA, the cry was "Oh, we can't handle their problems. AA is only for alcoholics." Very effective AA hospital and institutions committees resulted from these newcomers. Later, when newcomers who still had jobs came to the program, the cry was "But they're not real alcoholics." The upshot of these persons' impact on AA was to raise the alcoholic's "bottom" so that future newcomers could identify earlier in the progression of the illness. More recently, newcomers began arriving at AA in their early twenties and even teens, and the cry was "I spilled more than you drank. You're too young to be an alcoholic." But these young people were somewhat different, and formed their own groups in AA. Then persons with different sexual preferences appeared, and the attitude was "They'll contaminate us. We don't need them." Again, separate groups have formed for these persons. Now, we're seeing alcoholics with dual drug problems, and once again the cry is "They'll ruin AA." It's time we bring to mind with some force the Third Tradition: "The only requirement for AA

membership is a desire to stop drinking." This Tradition is the direct result of mistakes AA members and groups made over the years in denying help to the suffering alcoholic who was "different." Fear, the difficult-to-remove character defect, reared its ugly head, along with false pride, which said, "They have to do it my way!" Each of us seeks sobriety and an understanding of the Power greater than ourselves, but the way can be devious and full of stumbling blocks for some. Are we deliberately creating another obstacle for the newcomer to AA by our judgemental attitudes? Over the years, the kinds of persons seeking out AA for help have changed, and this has caused a change in AA's approach, because we try to meet the newcomer "where he's at." So long as we maintain at the individual and group level the AA basics - the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, the view of alcoholism as a threefold disease, the spirituality of our program - AA will survive and readily absorb these AAs with "new" problems.

AA does change as the people in AA change - but the basic foundation remains firm and unchanging, providing a broad program to handle almost any new problem through the one-to-one sharing at the group level, and the more personal sharing of sponsorship.

Reprinted Grapevine March '94  
D.K., Oakland, Calif.

**PRACTICE THESE**  
**PRINCIPLES...**

Tradition Three: The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I overimpressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an exconvict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to AA before? What his other problems are?

Reprinted from the March 1994  
Grapevine - Traditions Checklist



"We found that each of us  
had to make willing  
sacrifices ... for the common  
welfare."

Bill W., January 1955  
Grapevine

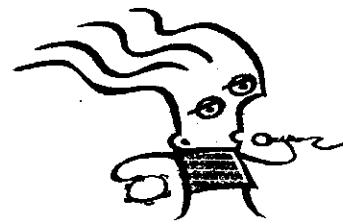
# INTERGROUP VOICE

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

April 1999



Volume 4, Issue 1



## BIRTHDAYS

Mary B.	36 yrs.
Margaret A.	33 yrs.
Joan M.	24 yrs.
JoAnne A.	24 yrs.
Ann E.	20 yrs.
Gene S.	18 yrs.
Bob P.	14 yrs.
Curley K..	12 yrs.
John B.	9 yrs.
Tom C.	7 yrs.
Fred H.	5 yrs.
Ed D.	4 yrs.
Brian J.	4 yrs.
Charmane	4 yrs.
Mike D.	4 yrs.
Tara D.	4 yrs.
Frank F.	3 yrs.
Bud C.	3 yrs.
Jim H.	3 yrs.
T. J. G.	3 yrs.
Theresa K.	3 yrs.
Brian R.	3 yrs.
Frank Y.	3 yrs.
Andrew K.	2 yrs.
Gene F.	2 yrs.
Bobby D.	2 yrs.
Tom H.	2 yrs.
Mel T.	2 yrs.
Val K.	1 yrs.
Richard B.	1 yrs.
Hunter B.	1 yrs.
Alan C.	1 yrs.
Linda P.	1 yrs.
Caroline C.	1 yrs.

The Lunch Bunch Group wants to say thank you to Dave B. and Ruth T. for their history of the Lunch Bunch & The Lost & Found Club at their recent anniversary & birthday bash.

The Fellowship Group is starting a new meeting on Wed., April 7th at 8:30 p.m. that will be held at Charter Springs.

The article about Intergroup 17 in the February "VOICE" said that "the majority of expenses must be covered by contributions from outside sources."

That was incorrect and misleading. Intergroup 17 adheres to Tradition 7 by not accepting contributions from outside sources.

The majority of Intergroup's income is from contributions by the groups.

If you have any questions, my phone number is 854-6864.

Bob Wright



12 Step	1
Office	99
Alanon	36
AA Info.	79
Meeting Info.	106
Visitors	120
Misc. "	0
Answering Sv.	195
Total	636

## Practice These Principles...

Tradition Four: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.

1. Do I insist that there are only a few right ways of doing things in AA?

2. Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of Loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?

3. Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?

4. Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?

5. Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths - his lengths, not mine - to stay sober?

6. Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?

Grapevine Checklist  
April 1994



## Anthony Group Chili Dinner

April 14th, 1999 at 7 p.m.  
followed by 8 p.m. meeting  
at Winner's Circle Club.  
\$3.00 per bowl.

All proceeds go to Intergroup.



Deadline for the next  
Voice will be April 23rd.  
Thanks!!!



## Step 4

### Made a searching & fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

#### *'Act on the Decision'*

"Honesty, openness and willingness." These, I was told, are the keys to working each Step of the AA program.

The first three Steps of AA came pretty quickly for me, but when I got to Step Four I was so busy trying just to not drink that it took me a while to get it done. At twenty-eight days sober, I attended a convention and during a Big Book study I heard a speaker say that the way to complete Step Three is to do Step Four (act on the decision). So I took action. It was a few days before I could sit down with pen and paper in hand. In the meantime I thought about the many conflicts I had had with friends, family, employers, and enemies, trying to focus not on what they did to me, but what I did. I somehow had the idea that I was looking for all the things I had done wrong, and it puzzled me that in one particular instance there were hard feelings on my part while I could not see that I had done anything wrong. Nevertheless, I wrote.

One day I found myself in a university lounge at 7:00 a.m. as my oldest daughter began a five-hour battery of tests. I sat alone in that sunlit room, prayed, and started writing down names of the persons I had resentments against. From my earlier mental inventory I had a number of names, ranging from the first grade teacher who paddled me for sitting on my foot to a former sister-in-law who cussed me out in front of my new wife. My father, the workaholic spoilspot, was there, as well as the onetime

best friend who turned against me for reasons I still don't understand.

I looked at the list I had and briefly described the particular situations upsetting me regarding each person. I also looked at myself in relation to the situation to see in what area - financial, social or sexual - I felt threatened. It began to get a little squirrely, because (as I see it now) I was taking the entire process one name at a time and getting bogged down in all the personalities and interactions of each incident. More and more I found my resentment getting stirred up so it was hard to see where I was wrong. In addition to chapter five, I was using an inventory guide that psychobabbled something about looking for the seven deadly sins, and I found myself rationalizing, analyzing, and eliminating myself into confusion.

Nevertheless, I waded through. In five hours I had eleven pages of inventory - some of it quite irrelevant. While I knew there were still a few cesspools in me that needed to be cleaned out, I was certain I had hit on the grosser handicaps, and figured that where I was confused about me, my sponsor could shed some light when I took the Fifth Step. And he did - thanks to my Higher Power.

I may not have done my Fourth Step "right" the first time, but I did do it! Despite my confusion, most of my major character defects came to my attention. I can still recall my amazement when, sitting on a couch in that big sunlit room with my feet on a coffee table, I discovered that I, who thought I was a pretty humble guy, had a giant case of egomania manifest as self-pity, and that the opposite side of that self-centered coin was pride. And

the relief was almost comic when I realized how presumptuous I had been to be so upset with people who didn't live up to my expectations of them. That was when I understood the resentment I had against a person whom I had not harmed.

Since then, three charts based on the example on page 65 have begun to crop up in my area. You can simply fill in the blanks - one page each for fears, resentments, and wrongs done to others (including sex condmci) one column at a time. In this way, the inventory is laid out in organized form when it comes time for the Fifth Step. You don't have to ramble through an autobiography cluttered with side issues and room for rationalization.

I have done mini-Fourth Steps using those forms since that first time, and I encourage my pigeons to use the same method. They're simple to follow and straight out of the Big Book. And because there is not a lot of room to write in each line, I don't get so bogged down with in side issues dealing with persons other than myself.

One other thing: There is a phenomenon in AA that has not been addressed much - that of the alcoholic who cannot write. The Big Book maintains, as do I, that the inventory should be written - so how does the illiterate (or otherwise handicapped) alcoholic write it down?

Well, I volunteered to be a secretary for my illiterate sponsor, pledging that whatever he dictated would be held in strict confidence whether he chose to take the Fifth Step with me or not. In addition, being a Native American, his English vocabulary was also limited. I asked him for a list of persons he held a grudge against, and he named them. Going back I asked what had happened that caused him to resent each one, and he told me. Then I asked him what area of his life was affected: his wallet, his standing among his people, or his sex life. When he got to

**Traditon Four**  
**Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.**

**GROUP CONSCIENCE IN ACTION**

We would like to share our group's experience of transition in structure, because it has given us renewed strength and hope through our growth. It's sort of "what we used to be like, what happened, and we are like now" at a group level.

Our group was a long-standing, closed, speaker-discussion meeting that followed AA guidelines and Traditions. That is, we conducted it according to the pamphlet "The AA Group" with the approval of the group conscience. We had an able steering committee and rotating officers, including general service, Grapevine, H & I (hospital & institution), and intergroup representatives. Many regular members considered our group their home group, and we had a good mix quality and quantity of sobriety.

We seemed to be staying sober and carrying the message by bringing our recovery and sobriety to AA service through group unity. Those present felt they were attending meetings where the genuine hand of AA was extended. You might think we would be grateful as a group, given all this, and have serenity as officers and members.

Yet we were frustrated, especially those of us on our steering committee. We were everything an establishment should be - but we weren't autonomous! For a long time, our group had been a special-purpose group and had

been sponsored by our central office. It, in turn, paid our rent and gave us our literature. Yes, we felt uncomfortable. Though we had good sobriety and a sound group conscience and meeting conduct, we felt we were treated like a newcomer who still had to lean on a sponsor.

So our members and officers moved, though our group conscience, to become an autonomous group - much as a pigeon might tell his sponsor he was ready to stand on his own feet. We wanted our structure to reflect all of our Twelve Traditions, especially the Fourth and the Seventh Tradition. The way we achieved our autonomy was as important to us as our decision to try. It took a few months of putting our group conscience "into action" for us to receive the rewards of "how it works."

We put the autonomy question before the steering committee and the group for a vote, and received group conscience approval. We then took our proposal to our local service committee for recognition and approval, which we received.

Now that we're autonomous, we pay our own rent, as well as continuing to buy our own refreshments. We have a group number in the records of the GSO, and we order our own literature from AA and our own group Grapevine subscription.

We now feel we are truly a group and not just a meeting. Nothing has drastically changed in our meeting conduct or our ability to carry the AA message. But our group's new attitude - knowing just who we are - has made us feel very much a part of the sober structure of AA.

We've brought our individual recovery to sober action through group unity. We feel it helps the Fellowship as a whole each time a group matures this way. We've done a thorough housecleaning and taken a group inventory. Our informed group conscience is no longer frustrated, for it can now act autonomously on the decisions it reaches. We've put principles before personalities and the AA Traditions before local customs. Autonomy has made us feel more assured the door we hold open to the alcoholic who still suffers is the true door of AA recovery & fellowship.

H.A., J.M., San Francisco  
Grapevine Dec. 1977

**STEP 4 CONTINUED:**  
the point of determining the nature of his wrongs, I was shocked to discover that he thought "honesty" and "dishonesty" both meant "to be honest". But I learned, and he learned. And he just celebrated a year's sobriety this past month!

I'm sure this language barrier exists for alcoholics in addition to American Indians. I have known many who dropped out of school in the elementary or junior high school years. And there are amputees for whom writing is very difficult, if not impossible. I strongly suggest to AA members who know of such a person struggling with recovery to offer to serve as a secretary - promising to keep the information "secret," or "not to tell anyone" (those words are easier to understand than "confidential"). As for the idea of a person being "too dumb" to get the Step, I haven't met an alcoholic yet who doesn't know who he is mad at!

Alan L., Gentry, Ark.  
Grapevine April 1989



### 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???

Country Round-Up '99  
 "...Thy power, Thy Love, and thy way of life."  
 April 23, 24, & 25  
 Chipley, Florida  
 Ag Center - 800 W. Hwy. 90  
 Registration \$15.00 per person  
 for more info call Charles G.  
 850-683-0101 or Rosie L.  
 850-638-0453



## Sobriety is Fun!!!

GROUP NAME	FOR THE MONTH OF			1999
	MONTH	YTD	AMOUNT	
	CONTBN	CONTBN	OWED	

Alive & Well				
All You Need	\$25.00	\$25.00	3.18	
Anthony				
Belleview	\$325.00	\$1,085.00	\$81.09	
Daytimers		\$99.60		
Dunnellan		\$25.00		
Exp. Strength Hope	\$47.68	\$331.28		
Eye Opener				
Fellowship	\$100.00	\$1,000.00	\$14.84	
Foot Print	\$20.00	\$90.00		
Forest		\$120.00		
Ft. McCoy		\$115.00	\$21.10	
Fountain of Gratitude		\$66.00		
God's Way	\$20.00	\$170.00		
Grace		\$20.00	\$1.33	
Happy, Joyous and Free	\$22.08	\$164.59		
Happy, Joyous and Gay		\$45.00		
Happy Hour		\$154.00		
Head Start	\$38.75	\$401.85	(\$0.54)	
Its in the Book			(\$5.00)	
Living Sober	\$75.00	\$625.00		
Lunch Bunch	\$47.82	\$360.21		
Marion Oaks 12 Step		\$50.00		
MCI Faith				
McIntosh		\$167.50		
Men's Group	\$125.00	\$390.00		
Men In Recovery		\$44.00		
New Attitudes		\$138.00	\$17.30	
Ocala	\$267.95	\$2,651.97	\$124.55	
Orange Lake		\$42.00		
Primary Purpose		\$175.00		
Rainbow		\$72.94		
Serenity		\$20.00		
Shores of Sobriety		\$202.00		
We Give Thanks	\$30.00	\$160.00		
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,144.28</b>	<b>\$9,010.94</b>	<b>\$257.85</b>	

Treatment			\$51.04
Corrections			
CPC/PI			
TLC Treatment			\$11.66
Faithful Fivers	\$215.00	\$530.49	
Lost and Found			\$158.15

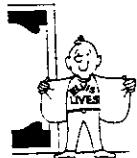
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$215.00</b>	<b>\$530.49</b>	<b>\$220.85</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,359.28</b>	<b>\$9,541.43</b>	<b>\$478.70</b>

43rd Florida State Convention  
 Daytona Beach 1999  
 July 7,8,9,10, & 11, 1999  
 Adams Mark Hotel  
 Look for more info soon!!!



Daytona 9th Spring Conference  
 May 13,14,15,16, 1999  
 Registration \$20 before 4/30  
 \$25 after- call Martha or Fred  
 904-253-3718  
 Rooms \$56 per nite up to 4  
 Call 1-800-654-6216 for room  
 For forms go to Intergroup.

VICTOR E.



# INTERGROUP VOICE

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

May 1999



Volume 5, Issue 1



## BIRTHDAYS

Danny S.	40 yrs.
John S.	34 yrs.
Andy F.	27 yrs.
May Y.	19 yrs.
Jack J.	19 yrs.
Helen P.	18 yrs.
Bill H.	18 yrs.
Jack M.	16 yrs.
Dan J.	16 yrs.
Ron M.	15 yrs.
Jerry B.	13 yrs.
Earl S.	13 yrs.
Kathy B.	13 yrs.
Fran P.	13 yrs.
Pam E.	11 yrs.
Linda M.	10 yrs.
Sherry R.	10 yrs.
Sean O'B.	10 yrs.
Roy F.	9 yrs.
John J.	9 yrs.
Charlie S.	9 yrs.
Tony E.	9 yrs.
Kathy B.	8 yrs.
Lee S.	8 yrs.
Big Red	6 yrs.
Shorty R.	6 yrs.
Neil Q.	4 yrs.
Georgia G.	4 yrs.
Rick W.	4 yrs.
Tami S.	3 yrs.
Brandon McC.	3 yrs.
Brenda P.	3 yrs.
Mike D.	2 yrs.
Andy F.	2 yrs.
Kenny A.	1 yr.
Heather	1 yr.
Debra S.	1 yr.

## HELLO EVERYONE!!!

I HAVE BEEN DOING THE VOICE FOR  
ONE YEAR NOW. IN KEEPING WITH  
THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE & ROTATION,  
IT IS TIME TO PASS IT ON.  
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, CONTACT  
RUTH AT INTERGROUP.  
THANKS!



## Upcoming Activities & Events

Thanks to the Anthony Group & Winner's Circle Club for their contribution of \$76, proceeds from their chili supper in April.

Their next dinner for Intergroup will be held at 6 p.m. on May 21st at the Winner's Circle Club. It's a spaghetti dinner. Dinner followed by a speaker meeting at 8 p.m. Price O. with 40 yrs. sobriety will be the speaker. The dinner is \$3. Hope to see you there! Price is affiliated with Act II Halfway House.

9th Spring Conference in Daytona Beach  
May 13, 14, 15, 16, 1999  
"A Weekend of Unity"  
for room RSVP's call  
1-800-654-6216 remember  
to mention the conf. to get  
special rates.  
For registration call Fred or  
Martha at (904) 253-3718.  
For flyers go to Intergroup!



The Lunch Bunch Group wants to say thank you to Pam K. for speaking in April. Speaker for May 29th is Dave N.

23rd Annual Lake Yale Spring Meetings  
June 4th - 6th, 1999  
For RSVP's call (813) 920-9100.

Space is limited. Go to Intergroup for flyers.

Deadline for the next Voice will be May 28th. Thanks!!!



## Practice These Principles...

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

1. Do I ever cop out by saying "I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me"?
2. Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the limitations of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
3. Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
4. Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?
5. Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose?
6. Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

Reprinted from the Grapevine

## LEAVING THE CITY OF REGRET

I had not planned on taking a trip this time of year, and yet I found myself packing rather hurriedly. This trip was going to be unpleasant and I knew in advance that no real good would come of it. I'm talking about my annual "Guilt Trip."

I got tickets to fly there on "WISHIHAD" airlines. It was an extremely short flight. I got my baggage, which I could not check. I chose to carry it myself all the way. It was weighted down with a thousand memories of what might have been. No one greeted me as I entered the terminal to the Regret City International Airport. I say international because people from all over the world come to this dismal town.

As I checked into the Last Resort Hotel, I noticed that they would be hosting this year's most important event, the Annual Pity Party. I wasn't going to miss that great social occasion. Many of the towns leading citizens would be there.

First, there would be the Done family, you know, Should Have, Would Have and Could Have. Then came the I Had family. You probable know ol' Wish and his clan. Of course, the Opportunities

would be present, Missed and Lost. The biggest family would be the Yesterday's. There are far too many of them to count, but each one would have a very sad story to share. Then Shattered Dreams would surely make an appearance. And It's Their Fault would regale us with stories (excuses) about how things had failed in his life, and each story would be loudly applauded by Don't Blame Me and I Couldn't Help It.

Well, to make a long story shorty, I went to this depressing party knowing that there would be no real benefit in doing so. And, as usual, I became very depressed. But as I thought about all of the stories of failures brought back from the past, it occurred to me that all of this trip and subsequent "pity party" could be cancelled by ME! I started to truly realize that I did have to be there. I didn't have to be depressed. One thing kept going through my mind, I CAN'T CHANGE YESTERDAY, BUT I DO HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE TODAY A WONDERFUL DAY. I can be happy, joyous, fulfilled, encouraged, as well as encouraging. Knowing this I left the City of Regret immediately and left no forwarding address. Am I sorry for mistakes I've made in the past? YES! But there is no physical

way to undo them. So, if you're planning a trip back to the City of Regret, please cancell all your reservations now. Instead, take a trip to a place called, Starting Again. I liked it so much that I have now taken up permanent residence there. My neighbors, the I Forgive Myselfs and the New Starts are so very helpful. By the way, you don't have to carry around heavy baggage, because the load is lifted from your shoulders upon arrival.

God bless you in finding this great town. If you can find it - it's in your own heart - please look me up. I live on ICANDOIT street.

Submitted by Tim & Gigi



Truckers Eatin' Meetin' of AA  
6:30 pm, Sat. at Jim's Pit  
Bar B Q - open discussion  
ordering a meal is necessary.

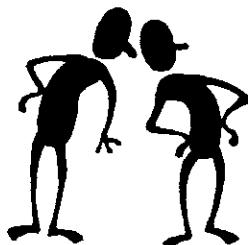
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Retreat Center - 3989 S. Moon  
Drive, Venice, FL 34292  
(941) 486-0233  
June 4 - 6, 1999  
for more info. in Ocala:  
call Charles 867-5265

### Step 5

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

Twelve Steps deflate ego. Step Five is difficult but necessary to sobriety and peace of mind. Confession is an ancient discipline. Without fearless admission of defects, few could stay sober. What do we receive from Step Five? Beginning of true kinship with man and God. Lose sense of isolation, receive forgiveness and give it; learn humility; gain honesty. Danger of rationalization. How to choose the person in whom to confide. Results are tranquility and consciousness of God. Oneness with God and man prepares us for the following Steps.

from the foreword of the 12 & 12.



A.A.'s Twelve Steps are a group of principles, spiritual in their nature, which, if practiced as a way of life, can expel the obsession to drink and enable the sufferer to become happily and usefully whole.

12 & 12

### PRINCIPLES

1. Honesty
2. Hope
3. Faith
4. Courage
5. Integrity
6. Willingness
7. Humility
8. Brotherly Love
9. Discipline
10. Perseverance
11. Awareness of God
12. Service

#### Quote of the Month Only One Reason

I believe we are all sober and alive for only one reason: God has a job for us to do. I have also come to believe that I must please God first, myself second, and everybody else third. When I can live and feel that way - and it isn't all day every day - things seem to work out. When I try to run the show, everything goes to hell.

Came to Believe, page 97

#### Tradition Five

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

Better do one thing well than many badly. The life of our Fellowship depends on this principle. The ability to each A.A. to identify himself with and bring recovery to the newcomer is a gift from God ... passing on this gift to others is our one aim. Sobriety can't be kept unless it is given away.

from the foreword of the 12 & 12

### An Alcoholic's Prayer

OH LORD, watch over this alcoholic. Be thou my Higher Power as I strive toward recovery. Permit me to lean on You for strength and guidance. Grant that I may become totally honest about my problem. Touch my soul and spark my spirit into awareness, Lord, that I may see the value of a sober life. Show me the glory of the Dawn and a new day and the reward of a sunset and a day well lived. Help me to deal with resentments, Lord, the real curse of the alcoholic. Take from me all hatred, anger and willfulness and persuade me to work toward emotional health and maturity that I may fully enjoy the blessing of respectability.

In Thy mercy, Lord, see fit to remove my craving for that which will destroy me - alcohol. Keep me ever mindful that alone, I am unable to maintain a happy sobriety. Bring me ever close to You and those who will help me along the way.

Most of all, prompt me to extend my hand to the alcoholic who still suffers, so that through him or her, I may find You and continued sobriety.

Amen

reprinted from the POST  
newsletter  
Not sure who submitted???





### 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???



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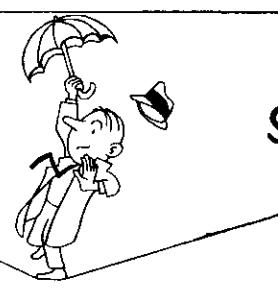
GROUP NAME	FOR THE MONTH OF April		
	MONTH	YTD	AMOUNT
CONT'BN	CONT'BN	OWED	

Alive & Well			
All You Need		\$25.00	
Anthony	\$76.00	\$76.00	
Bellevue		\$1,085.00	\$71.44
Came to Believe	\$14.00	\$14.00	
Daytimers	\$60.00	\$159.60	
Dunnellon		\$25.00	
Exp. Strength Hope		\$331.28	
Eye Opener			
Fellowship		\$1,000.00	
Foot Print		\$90.00	
Forest		\$120.00	
Ft. McCoy		\$115.00	\$21.10
Fountain of Gratitude		\$66.00	
God's Way	\$15.00	\$185.00	
Grace		\$20.00	\$1.33
Happy, Joyous and Free	\$44.18	\$208.77	
Happy, Joyous and Gay		\$45.00	
Happy Hour	\$87.50	\$241.50	
Head Start	\$37.75	\$439.60	\$0.54
Its in the Book			(\$5.00)
Living Sober		\$625.00	
Lunch Bunch	\$45.10	\$405.31	
Marion Oaks 12 Step		\$50.00	
MCI Faith			
McIntosh	\$62.50	\$230.00	
Men's Group		\$390.00	
Men In Recovery		\$44.00	
New Attitudes		\$138.00	\$33.20
Ocala	\$256.70	\$2,908.67	\$35.78
Orange Lake		\$42.00	
Primary Purpose	\$50.00	\$225.00	
Rainbow	\$62.00	\$134.94	
Serenity		\$20.00	
Shores of Sobriety		\$202.00	
We Give Thanks		\$160.00	
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$810.73</b>	<b>\$9,821.67</b>	<b>\$158.39</b>
Treatment			\$70.12
Corrections			\$48.76
CPC/PI			
TLC Treatment			\$11.66
Faithful Fivers	\$74.00	\$604.49	
Lost and Found			\$102.24
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$74.00</b>	<b>\$604.49</b>	<b>\$232.78</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$884.73</b>	<b>\$10,426.16</b>	<b>\$391.17</b>



*"Our 'Trusted Servant' really rammed that measure through."*

**Stupidity** is what gets me into trouble.  
**Pride** is what keeps me there.

  
**Sometimes it's just a step at a time!**

# INTERGROUP VOICE

P.O. Box 1192 Ocala, FL 34478 352-867-0660  
**June 1999** Fax 352-867-7819 **Volume 6, Issue**



## BIRTHDAYS

Virgil A.	36 yrs.
George C.	29 yrs.
Jim K.	29 yrs.
Ann K.	28 yrs.
Roger J.	27 yrs.
Brenda	22 yrs.
John G.	19 yrs.
Viny	19 yrs.
Bill H.	18 yrs.
Helen P.	18 yrs.
Carole K.	16 yrs.
James N.	15 yrs.
Jan C.	13 yrs.
Jack W.	12 yrs.
Henry P.	12 yrs.
Ben A.	11 yrs.
Tony S.	10 yrs.
Elizabeth	10 yrs.
Lynn	9 yrs.
Sue R.	9 yrs.
Cindy C.	8 yrs.
Erin C.	6 yrs.
Rosanna B.	6 yrs.
Kevin C.	5 yrs.
Mike O.	4 yrs.
Isish	4 yrs.
Rockie S.	4 yrs.
Al B.	3 yrs.
Bill D.	3 yrs.
Beth H.	3 yrs.
Fred W.	2 yrs.
Bob H.	2 yrs.
Mary B.	1 yr.
Jim J.	1 yr.
Irene H.	1 yr.
Rhonda W.	1 yr.

Lunch Bunch Speaker meeting June 26th will be James R. with 5 years.

All things are possible with God!

**HELLO EVERYONE!!!  
 WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR SOME-  
 ONE TO PASS THE VOICE ON TO.  
 IT IS A LOT OF FUN. PLEASE CALL  
 RUTH AT INTERGROUP IF YOU ARE  
 INTERESTED. THANKS!!!**



## Upcoming Activities & Events

Thanks to the Anthony Group & Winner's Circle Club for their contribution of \$80, proceeds from their spaghetti dinner in May.

Their next dinner for Intergroup will be held at 6 p.m. on June 18th. BBQ dinner will be served. Speaker at 8 p.m. \$3.00 for dinner. Jim K. with 29 years sober from the Living Sober group is speaking. Hope to see ya'll there!!!



**Mistakes and Not Forever**  
 If you ever get depressed about your tendency to make mistakes, a trip to the stationery store is a good idea. There, out in the open, is testimony to the facts that mistakes are universal. In the pencil section you find most pencils with erasers already on them. Nearby is a pile of even bigger erasers, and the typing section has erasable paper, correcting fluid, and special correcting ribbons for certain typewriters. I personally find a great deal of comfort in knowing that I am at last a member of the human race.

C.D., Chagrin Falls, Ohio

12 Step	1
Office	70
Alanon	30
AA Info.	62
Meeting Info.	66
Visitors	90
Misc.	13
Answering Sv.	166
Total	498

## Practice These Principles...

Tradition Six: An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, list problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

1. Should my fellow group members and I raise money to endow several AA beds in our local hospital?
2. Is it good for a group to lease a small building?
3. Are all the officers and members of our local club for AAs familiar with "Guidelines on Clubs" (which is available free from GSO)?
4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor's advisory committee on alcoholism?
5. Some alcoholics will stay around AA only if we have a TV and card room. If this is what is required to carry the message to them, shouldn't we have these facilities?

Traditions Checklist reprinted  
 Grapevine August 1970

Deadline for the next  
 Voice will be June 25th.  
 Thanks!  
 Thanks!!!



## Corrections Workshop

Help carry the AA message  
behind the walls

Corrections workshop held  
at St. Marks United  
Methodist Church the first  
Thursday of the month at  
7:00 p.m.

Please contact Sherry R. for  
more information 622-4711.



### In Memoriam

Our friend Bea A. died  
recently. She was 91 years  
of age and had been in AA  
for 11 years. Our sympathies  
go out to her family. Bea  
was a member of the We  
Give Thanks Group.

Doctor, Alcoholic, Addict pg 449

When I stopped living in the  
problem and began living in the  
answer, the problem went away.  
From that moment on, I have not  
had a single compulsion to drink.

And acceptance is the answer to  
all my problems today. When I  
am disturbed, it is because I find  
some person, place, thing, or  
situation - some fact of my life -  
unacceptable to me, and I can  
find no serenity until I accept  
that person, place, thing, or  
situation as being exactly the way it  
is supposed to be at this moment.  
Nothing, absolutely nothing hap-  
pens in God's world by mistake.  
Until I could accept my alco-  
holism, I could not stay sober;  
unless I accept life completely on  
life's terms, I cannot be happy. I  
need to concentrate not so much  
on what needs to be changed in  
the world as what needs to be  
changed in me and my attitudes.

### Desiderata

Go Placidly amid the noise  
& haste, & remember what  
peace there may be in si-  
lence. As far as possible  
without surrender, be on  
good terms with all per-  
sons. Speak your truth  
quietly & clearly; and listen  
to others, even the dull and  
ignorant; they too have  
their story. Avoid loud and  
aggressive persons; they  
are vexations to the spirit.

If you compare yourself  
with others, you may be-  
come vain and bitter; for  
always there will be greater  
and lesser persons than  
yourself. Enjoy your  
achievements as well as  
your plans. Keep inter-  
ested in your own career,  
however humble; it is a real  
possession in the changing  
fortunes of time. Exercise  
caution in your business  
affairs; for the world is full  
of trickery. But let this not  
blind you to what virtue  
there is; many persons  
strive for high ideals; and  
everywhere life is full of  
heroism.

Be Yourself. Especially do  
not feign affection. Neither  
be cynical about love; for in  
the face of all aridity & dis-  
enchantment, it is peren-  
nial as the grass. Take  
kindly the counsel of the  
years, gracefully surren-  
dering the things of youth.  
Nurture strength of spirit to  
shield you against sudden

misfortunes. But do not  
distress yourself with imag-  
inings. Many fears are  
born of fatigue & loneli-  
ness. Beyond a whole-  
some discipline, be gently  
with yourself.

You Are a child of the uni-  
verse, no less than the  
trees & the stars; you have  
a right to be here. There-  
fore be at peace with God,  
whatever you conceive Him  
to be; and whatever your  
labors & aspirations, in the  
noisy confusion of life keep  
peace with your soul. With  
all its sham, drudgery and  
broken dreams, it is still a  
beautiful world. Be careful.  
Strive to be happy.



Truckers Eatin' Meetin' of AA  
6:30 pm, Sat. at Jim's Pit  
Bar B Q - open discussion  
ordering a meal is necessary.

11th Step Retreat  
at Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
Retreat Center - 3989 S. Moon  
Drive, Venice, FL 34292  
(941) 486-0233  
June 4 - 6, 1999  
for more info. in Ocala:  
call Charles 867-5265

## Step 6

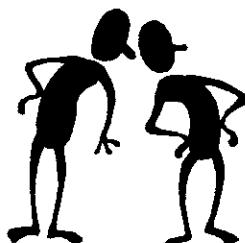
"Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."

Step Six necessary to spiritual growth. The beginning of a lifetime job. Recognition of difference between striving for objective - and perfection.

Why we must keep trying.  
"Being ready" is all-important.  
Necessity of taking action.

Delay is dangerous. Rebellion may be fatal. Point at which we abandon limited objectives and move toward God's will for us.

12 Steps & 12 Traditions



A.A.'s Twelve Steps are a group of principles, spiritual in their nature, which, if practiced as a way of life, can expel the obsession to drink and enable the sufferer to become happily and usefully whole.

12 & 12

## KISS

KEEP  
IT  
SIMPLE  
SWEETIE

## PRINCIPLES

1. Honesty
2. Hope
3. Faith
4. Courage
5. Integrity
6. Willingness
7. Humility
8. Brotherly Love
9. Discipline
10. Perseverance
11. Awareness of God
12. Service

**Constructive Action**  
I really wanted my drinking problem to go away. I'd been waiting for it to go away for a long time, but things just kept getting worse. I woke up one morning with a hangover, but no worse than usual. I sat there waiting to feel better when suddenly it dawned on me that I could wait around my whole life but nothing was going to change, until I took some constructive action. I phoned someone I knew who'd been sober in AA for several years and she put me in touch with a woman who took me to my first meeting.

John E., Edmonton, Alberta  
Grapevine June 1993

## Tradition Six

"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."

Experience proved that we could not endorse any related enterprise, no matter how good. We could not be all things to all men. We saw that we could not lend the A.A. name to any outside activity.

12 Steps & 12 Traditions

June 9th

## Living In The Now

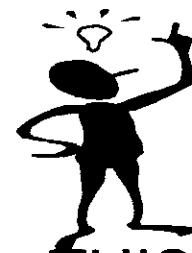
First, we try living in the now just in order to stay sober - and it works! Once the idea has become a part of our thinking, we find that living life in 24-hour segments is an effective and satisfying way to handle many other matters as well.

Living Sober, pg. 7

"One Day At A Time." To a newcomer this and other one-liners of A.A. may seem ridiculous. The passwords of A.A.

Fellowship can become lifelines in moments of stress. Each day can be like a rose unfurling according to the plan a Power greater than myself. My program should be planted in the right location, just as it will need to be groomed, nourished, and protected from disease. My planting will require patience, and my realizing that some flowers will be more perfect than others. Each stage of the petals' unfolding can bring wonder and delight if I do not interfere or let my expectations override my acceptance - and this brings serenity.

## Daily Reflections



THIS  
TO  
SHALL  
PASS

**INTERGROUP  
COUNTS ON YOUR  
CONTRIBUTIONS**

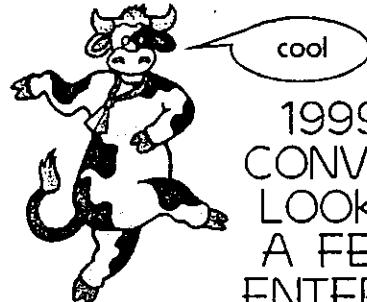
GROUP NAME	FOR THE MONTH OF			MAY AMOUNT OWED
	MONTH CONTBN	YTD CONTBN		

Alive & Well	\$10.00	\$10.00	
All You Need		\$25.00	3.18
Anthony	\$80.00	\$156.00	
Belleview		\$1,085.00	\$9.63
Came to Believe		\$14.00	
Daytimers		\$159.60	
Dunnellan		\$25.00	
Exp. Strength Hope	\$40.00	\$371.28	
Eye Opener		\$20.00	\$20.00
Fellowship	\$200.00	\$1,200.00	\$3.98
Foot Print	\$25.00	\$115.00	
Forest	\$30.00	\$150.00	
Ft. McCoy		\$115.00	
Fountain of Gratitude		\$66.00	
God's Way		\$185.00	
Grace		\$20.00	\$1.33
Happy, Joyous and Free		\$208.77	
Happy, Joyous and Gay		\$45.00	
Happy Hour		\$241.50	
Head Start	\$38.75	\$478.35	(\$0.54)
Its in the Book			(\$5.00)
Keep It Simple	\$30.78	\$30.78	
Living Sober	\$45.00	\$670.00	\$0.60
Lunch Bunch		\$405.31	
Marion Oaks 12 Step		\$50.00	
McIntosh		\$230.00	
Men's Group		\$390.00	
Men In Recovery		\$44.00	
New Attitudes		\$138.00	\$33.20
Ocala	\$176.67	\$3,085.34	(\$7.95)
Orange Lake		\$42.00	
Primary Purpose		\$225.00	
Rainbow		\$134.94	
Serenity		\$20.00	
Shores of Sobriety		\$202.00	
We Give Thanks	\$30.00	\$190.00	
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$726.20</b>	<b>\$10,547.87</b>	<b>\$59.53</b>
 Treatment		\$59.75	
Corrections		\$15.37	
CPC/PI			
TLC Treatment			
Faithful Fivers	\$45.00	\$649.49	
Lost and Found			
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$45.00</b>	<b>\$649.49</b>	<b>\$75.12</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$771.20</b>	<b>\$11,197.36</b>	<b>\$134.65</b>

1999



"I see you found something in the newsletter that caught your eye"

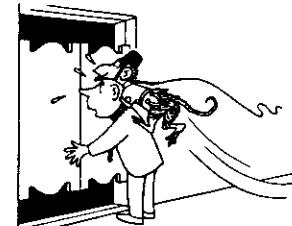


**1999 STATE  
CONVENTION IS  
LOOKING FOR  
A FEW GOOD  
ENTERTAINERS!**

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".

\*\*\*\*\*

VICTOR E.



# INTERGROUP VOICE

P.O. Box 1192 Ocala, FL 34478 352-867-0660  
July 1999 Fax 352-867-7819 Volume 7, Issue



## BIRTHDAYS

John B.	36 yrs.
Dean M.	33 yrs.
Keith E.	17 yrs.
Joe V.	10 yrs.
Wendy	10 yrs.
Phil S.	6 yrs.
Martha H.	4 yrs.
Marlene G.	4 yrs.
Jeanette M.	4 yrs.
Don G.	4 yrs.
Rita B.	3 yrs.
Barbara C.	3 yrs.
Paul B.	2 yrs.
Marvin C.	2 yrs.
Jan V.	2 yrs.
E.J.	1 yr.
Mike R.	1 yr.
Fred H.	1 yr.

Sat., July 31st, Jim B. will be the speaker at the Lunch Bunch (Lost & Found Club) 12 - 1 p.m.

Ham on Wry  
A THIRSTY WEST VIRGINIA FARMER enters a New York cocktail lounge and is shocked when the bartender tells him, "Sorry, we don't serve men without neckties." Desperate, the farmer returns to his truck, grabs his jumper cables, wraps them around his neck, and goes back into the bar. The barkeep gives a New York blink. "Well," he says, "as long as you don't start anything."

Joseph W., Philadelphia, PA  
Grapevine

A special thank you to the anonymous donor for the recent contribution.

Thank you!!! Thank you!!!

Next Intergroup Meeting will be July 11th at St. Marks at 3:30 & regular mtg. at 4:15

HELLO EVERYONE!!!  
WE HAVE A NEW VOLUNTEER FOR THE VOICE. THIS IS MY LAST MONTH. THANKS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE.  
LUCY C.



## Upcoming Activities & Events



Act II halfway house is looking for a group that would like to bring a meeting in their facility - call Charlie 369-1071.

The Anthony Group is having a chili supper on July 16th at the Winner's Circle Club. Serving starts at 6 p.m. followed by a speaker meeting at 8 p.m.

The Lost & Found Club will have a pool tournament on July 16th. \$5.00 entry fee.

Lost & Found Membership meeting is July 31st at 1:30 p.m.

Awesome Candlelight Meeting on Thursday nights at 8 p.m. at the Ocala Group in the back room. Every Thursday except the last Thursday of the month.



12 Step	4
Office	82
Alanon	22
AA Info.	68
Meeting Info.	97
Visitors	100
Misc.	30
Answering Sv.	132
Total	535

## 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, 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 the 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 string we have, and that is 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



Deadline for the next Voice will be July 30th.  
Thanks!  
Thanks!!!

## Corrections Workshop

Help carry the AA message  
behind the walls

Corrections workshop held  
at St. Marks United  
Methodist Church the first  
Thursday of the month at  
7:00 p.m.

Please contact Sherry R. for  
more information 622-4711.



7th Annual Southeast Woman  
to Woman Seminar  
Atlanta, Georgia  
Sept. 24-26, 1999  
Rooms: \$69-79  
Registration: \$18 or \$20  
for more info. call Karen D.  
404-284-0517 or Deborah P.  
904-356-6022

12th Annual Choo Choo  
Roundup  
"Happy, Joyous & Free"  
August 20-22, 1999  
Chattanooga, TN  
Rooms: \$72-102  
Registration: \$12-15  
go to intergroup to get forms.

Sobriety at Sea presents  
Winter Escape III  
"Norway"  
Rates start at \$429 per person  
plus portcharges of \$123.  
Call Bob at 1-800-650-7245  
for more info & brochures.

Sobriety in Paradise 6th  
Annual AA Convention in the  
Bahamas  
Oct. 22-24, 1999  
for more info. write to: The  
Nassau Group, P.O. Box  
N-4243, Nassau, Bahamas.

## Desiderata

Go Placidly amid the noise  
& haste, & remember what  
peace there may be in si-  
lence. As far as possible  
without surrender, be on  
good terms with all per-  
sons. Speak your truth  
quietly & clearly; and listen  
to others, even the dull and  
ignorant; they too have  
their story. Avoid loud and  
aggressive persons; they  
are vexations to the spirit.

If you compare yourself  
with others, you may be-  
come vain and bitter; for  
always there will be greater  
and lesser persons than  
yourself. Enjoy your  
achievements as well as  
your plans. Keep inter-  
ested in your own career,  
however humble; it is a real  
possession in the changing  
fortunes of time. Exercise  
caution in your business  
affairs; for the world is full  
of trickery. But let this not  
blind you to what virtue  
there is; many persons  
strive for high ideals; and  
everywhere life is full of  
heroism.

Be Yourself. Especially do  
not feign affection. Neither  
be cynical about love; for in  
the face of all aridity & dis-  
enchantment, it is peren-  
nial as the grass. Take  
kindly the counsel of the  
years, gracefully surren-  
dering the things of youth.  
Nurture strength of spirit to  
shield you against sudden

misfortunes. But do not  
distress yourself with imag-  
inings. Many fears are  
born of fatigue & loneli-  
ness. Beyond a whole-  
some discipline, be gently  
with yourself.

You Are a child of the uni-  
verse, no less than the  
trees & the stars; you have  
a right to be here. There-  
fore be at peace with God,  
whatever you conceive Him  
to be; and whatever your  
labors & aspirations, in the  
noisy confusion of life keep  
peace with your soul. With  
all its sham, drudgery and  
broken dreams, it is still a  
beautiful world. Be careful.  
Strive to be happy.



16th Annual Cruise Without  
Booze Jan. 22-30, 2000  
Cruise chairperson - Bob C.  
918-747-0615

19th FCYPAA  
It's a Promise!  
Sept. 17-19, 1999  
Holiday Inn Fort Myers, FL  
Rooms: \$65 (1-4 persons)  
Registration: \$10  
go to intergroup for forms.

## Step 7

"Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings."

What is humility? What can it mean to us? The avenue to true freedom of the human spirit. Necessary aid to survival. Value of ego-puncturing. Failure and misery transformed by humility. Strength from weakness. Pain is the admission price to new life. Self-centered fear chief activator of defects. Step Seven is change in attitude which permits us to move out of ourselves toward God.



**Quote of the Month**  
"Truth ... continues to release us from conflicts and miseries beyond reckoning; it banishes fear and isolation."

Bill W., August 1961  
Grapevine



**Tradition 7**  
Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

There is no free Lunch

Everything in the world costs something - in both material and spiritual spheres. Just think for a moment: What costs nothing? Some say courtesy costs nothing or love costs nothing, but that's not so. Even these virtues call for humility and unselfishness. So, without splitting hairs, it does cost some effort to get anything or to give anything. Even love itself can cost heartaches if it's not understood.

In AA, minor cash costs are incurred when just a few people voluntarily meet together. The cost of hiring a meeting place is real. Other incidental costs grow along with the group. But because nobody asks us to meet together except ourselves, then logically we ourselves should pay whatever costs arise through this association within our Fellowship. It's as simple as that!

If honesty (through our own free will and the help of a greater Power) we seek to help ourselves, we must decline outside contributions because, after all, it's nobody's business except our own anyway.

By helping ourselves so we help others similarly, with no thought of reward. They in turn do likewise, and so AA snowballs.

New groups learn how to maintain themselves from the members' contributions - offered in gratitude for a

newfound life and happiness. So please don't be mean, as any group surplus can help spread our message round the world. We in Australia are appreciative of help and advice thus made possible.

To its contributing members AA says, "Thank you!" To outside would be contributors, AA also says, "Thank you very much ... but if you don't mind ... no thank you."

Colin R., Sydney, Australia

**Tradition 7**  
Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Practice These Principles ...

1. Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a barroom?
2. Should the Grapevine sell advertising space, so it could make a big profit and become a bigger magazine, in full color, at a cheaper price per copy?
3. If GSO runs short of funds, wouldn't it be okay to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?
4. Is it more important to get a big collection from a few, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?
5. Is a group treasurer's report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?
6. How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect, rather than the feeling of being always under obligation for charity received?

Reprinted From Grapevine



### 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???



43rd Florida State Convention  
Daytona Beach 1999  
July 7,8,9,10, & 11, 1999  
Adams Mark Hotel  
Call intergroup for more info.



## Sobriety is Fun!!!

GROUP NAME	FOR THE MONTH OF			June MONTH	1999 YTD	AMOUNT OWED
	MONTH	YTD	AMOUNT OWED			
Alive & Well						
All You Need			\$3.18			
Anthony						
Bellevue	\$339.31	\$339.31	129.12			
Came to Believe						
Daytimers						
Dunnellon						
Exp. Strength Hope						
Eye Opener						
Fellowship			\$37.63			
Foot Print						
Forest						
Ft. McCoy						
Fountain of Gratitude	\$200.00	\$200.00				
God's Way						
Grace			\$1.33			
Happy, Joyous and Free						
Happy, Joyous and Gay						
Happy Hour						
Head Start	\$32.00	\$32.00	(\$0.54)			
Its in the Book			(\$5.00)			
Keep It Simple	\$27.98	\$27.98				
Living Sober	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$0.60			
Lunch Bunch						
Marion Oaks 12 Step						
MCI Faith						
McIntosh						
Men's Group	\$60.00	\$60.00				
Men In Recovery						
New Attitudes						
Ocala	\$298.41	\$298.41	(\$7.95)			
Orange Lake						
Primary Purpose						
Rainbow						
Serenity						
Shores of Sobriety						
We Give Thanks	\$30.00	\$30.00				
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,032.70</b>	<b>\$1,032.70</b>	<b>\$191.57</b>			
Charter Springs						
Marion Citrus						
Treatment						
Corrections						
CPC/PI						
TLC Treatment						
Faithful Fivers	\$10.00	\$10.00				
Lost and Found						
Special Account	\$500.00	\$500.00				
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$510.00</b>	<b>\$510.00</b>	<b>\$688.89</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,542.70</b>	<b>\$1,542.70</b>	<b>\$880.46</b>			



"Don't make any noise, dear . . .  
Daddy is playing a game called 'never again'."



"Mommy, why don't we stop there anymore?"

# INTERGROUP VOICE

P.O. Box 1192      Ocala, FL 34478      352-867-0660  
August 1999      Fax 352-867-7819      Volume 8



The Nueva Vida Group invite all to the first Spanish Meeting on Saturday August 7th at 6:30 PM. Where: Blessed Trinity Catholic Church, 5 SE 17th Street Ocala, Building H, Room 202 Please Help us to start this group! The Nueva Vida Group

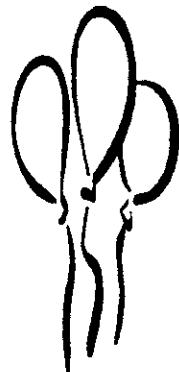


## OFFICE CONTACTS

12 Step	7
Office	104
Alon	30
A.A. Info	92
Meeting Info	95
Agency Info	6
Visitors	83
Answering Service	132
Total	549

## AUGUST

### BIRTHDAYS



Dave B.	22 yrs
Simone S.	22 yrs
George R.	20 yrs
Jan M.	20 yrs
Lisa H.	20 yrs
Arlis	17 yrs
Tom M.	17 yrs
Don Z.	14 yrs
Victor M.	14 yrs
Mike R.	10 yrs
Ken L.	9 yrs
Pete O.	9 yrs
Troy F.	7 yrs
B.J. P.	6 yrs
Tom R.	6 yrs
John F.	5 yrs
John G.	3 yrs
Vivian	3 yrs
Rose B.	2 yrs
Billy J.	1 yrs
David K.	1 yrs
Estelle P.	1 yrs
Ginny A.	1 yrs
Jack C.	1 yrs
June O.	1 yrs
Mike P.	1 yrs

In remembrance of Rolan C.  
The New Attitudes Group  
would like to acknowledge  
his one year of sobriety  
and we miss you.

### JULY BIRTHDAY

MaryJo	21 yrs
Ro F.	16 yrs
Mike	9 yrs
Bob	7 yrs
Debbie B.	5 yrs
Boni V.	2 yrs
Paul N.	1 yrs

Happy Hour Meeting has a  
NEW MEETING PLACE at  
103rd Street Plaza SR 200  
Thursday 5:30 PM  
YOU'RE NEXT BARBER SHOP

Lunch Bunch Speaker Meeting  
Saturday, August 28 with  
Kathleen G. (Celebrating 10yrs)

If you weren't there, you missed a  
Great 4th Step Workshop!  
A "Special THANK YOU" to John  
P. & Kevin and all who participated.  
IT WAS WONDERFUL!

New Soil New Roots Meeting has  
a new meeting place and time.  
The meeting will now be held at  
the Church of Christ, 2750 Mari  
Camp Rd. on Tuesday at 7:30 PM

Ham Operators Needed for 12  
step work. Call 591-4791 if  
you can help.

Correction Workshop  
help carry the message be-  
hind the walls  
Corrections workshop is  
held at St. Marks United  
Methodist Church the first  
Thursday of the month at  
7:00 PM. Please Contact  
Sherry R. for more informa-  
tion 622-4711.

Thank You, James R. for  
speaking in June, Lunch  
Bunch.

Dead line for the next  
voice will be 31 Aug.

Next Intergroup Meeting  
will be 11 Sept at St.  
Marks at 3:30 PM & regular  
meeting at 4:15

## Step 8

Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and become willing to make amends to them all.

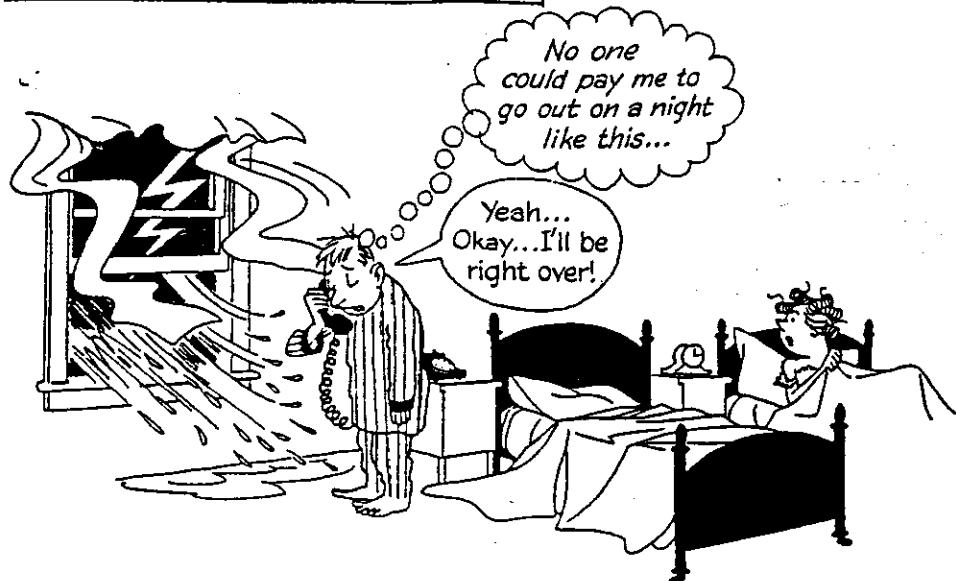


I ask: Who did I hurt?  
How can I fix it?

This and the next two steps are concerned with personal relations. Learning to live with others is a fascinating adventure. Obstacles: reluctance to forgive; nonadmission of wrongs to others; purposeful forgetting. Necessity of exhaustive survey of the past. Deepening insight results from thoroughness. Kinds of harms done to others. Avoiding extra me judgements. Taking an objective view. Step Eight is the beginning of the end of isolation.

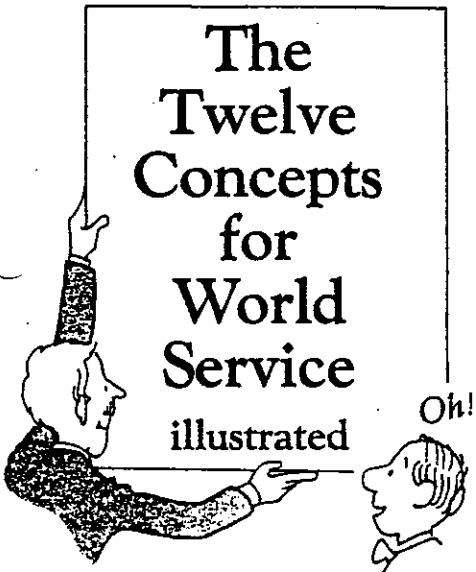
### The Eighth Tradition

*Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.*



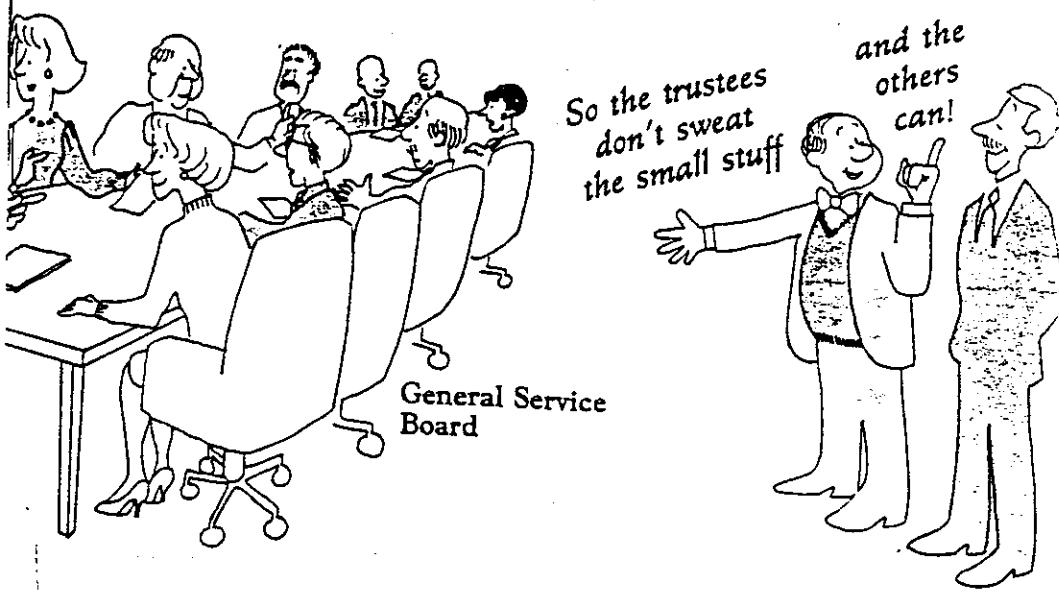
1. Is my own behavior accurately described by the tradition? If not, what needs changing?
2. When I chafe about any particular Tradition, do I realize how it affects others?
3. Do I sometimes try to get some reward-even if not money-for my personal A.A. efforts?
4. Do I try to sound in A.A. like an expert on alcoholism? On recovery? On medicine? On sociology? On A.A. itself? On psychology? On spiritual matters? or, heaven help me, even humility?
5. Do I make an effort to understand what A.A. employees do? What other alcoholism agencies
6. In my own A.A. life, have I any experience which illustrate the wisdom of this tradition?
7. Have I paid enough attention to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*? To the pamphlet *A.A. Traditions-How it developed*.

**THE BIG BOOK  
COMES ALIVE :  
AN IN DEPTH STUDY OF  
OUR BASIC TEXT.  
PRESENTED BY JOE M.  
& CHARLIE P.  
THE STUDY WILL BE  
19-21 NOV AT  
ST. PETERSBURG  
BAYFRONT HILTON.  
REGISTRATION FORMS  
ARE AVAILABLE AT  
THE INTERGROUP  
OFFICE**



## Concept VIII

The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.



### General Service Board (the trustees)

#### 1. General Service Board (the trustees)



This board, traditionally composed of nonalcoholic as well as A.A. members, was the first movement-wide service unit in A.A. It is responsible for safeguarding A.A. tradition and A.A. service funds. It oversees the operating service units: General Service Office; A.A. World Services, Inc.; The A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

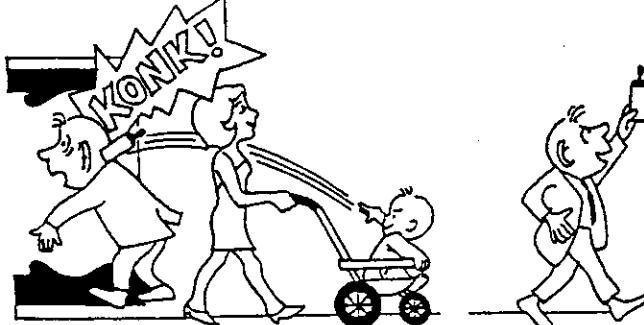
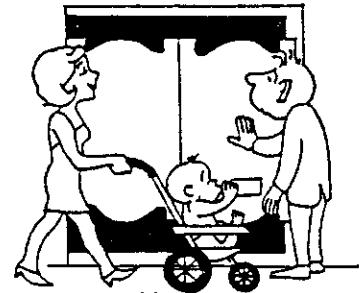
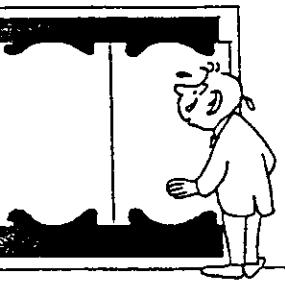
### Service and the A.A. Member

Service is our Third Legacy. Recovery and Unity are the First and Second. Service to others and to the Fellowship reminds us that we owe our sobriety to the work of earlier members-and that our continued sobriety may depend on the hundreds of thousands who still need to learn of A.A. Their participation may well be part of our future.

### What Is A.A.?

*Alcoholics Anonymous is an international fellowship of men and women who have had a drinking problem. It is nonprofessional, self-supporting, nondenominational, multiracial, political, and available almost everywhere.*

*There are no age or education requirements. Membership is open to anyone who wants to do something about his or her drinking.*



GROUP NAME	FOR THE MONTH OF MONTH	July YTD	1999 AMOUNT OWED
Alive & Well			
All You Need			
Anthony			
Bellevue		\$339.31	69.86
Came to Believe			
Daytimers			
Dunnellon			
Exp. Strength Hope			
Eye Opener			
Fellowship	\$160.00	\$160.00	\$7.95
Foot Print			
Forest			
Ft. McCoy			
Fountain of Gratitude		\$200.00	
God's Way			
Grace			\$1.33
Happy, Joyous and Free			
Happy, Joyous and Gay			
Happy Hour			
Head Start	\$31.25	\$63.25	(\$0.54) (\$5.00)
Its in the Book			
Keep It Simple	\$19.07	\$47.05	
Living Sober		\$45.00	
Lunch Bunch	\$30.07	\$30.07	
Marion Oaks 12 Step			
McIntosh			
Men's Group		\$60.00	
Men In Recovery			
New Attitudes	\$128.52	\$128.52	
Ocala	\$299.36	\$597.77	(\$7.95)
Orange Lake			
Primary Purpose			
Rainbow			
Serenity			
Shores of Sobriety			
We Give Thanks		\$30.00	
SUB TOTAL	\$668.27	\$1,700.97	\$65.65
Charter Springs			\$360.00
Marion Citrus			\$231.78
Treatment			
Corrections			
CPC/PI			
TLC Treatment			
Faithful Fivers	\$15.00	\$25.00	
Lost and Found			\$151.32
Special Account		\$500.00	
SUB TOTAL	\$15.00	\$525.00	\$743.10
TOTAL	\$683.27	\$2,225.97	\$808.75

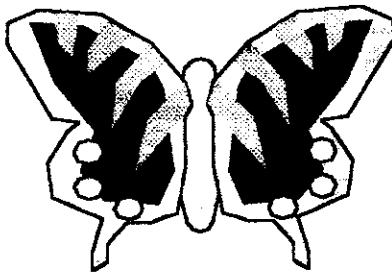
## I'M SLIPPING

- \* WHEN I BEGIN TO DIS-LIKE AA CONVERSATION AND COMPANY...
- \* WHEN I DELIBERATELY STAY AWAY FROM MEETINGS...
- \* WHEN I AM BEGINNING TO TAKE ANOTHER PERSON'S INVENTORY INSTEAD OF MY OWN...
- \* WHEN I'M MORE AFRAID OF BEING AN AA MEMBER THAN A DRUNK...
- \* WHEN I BEGIN TO REMEMBER THE GOOD TIMES I HAD DRINKING AND OVERLOOK THE BAD ONES...
- \* WHEN I CONDEMN IN OTHERS THAT WHICH I TOLERATE IN MYSELF...
- \* WHEN I SAY I FORGIVE BUT I DON'T FORGET...
- \* WHEN I SHRINK FROM SELF-EXAMINATION....

## I'M SLIPPING

## FAITHFUL FIVERS

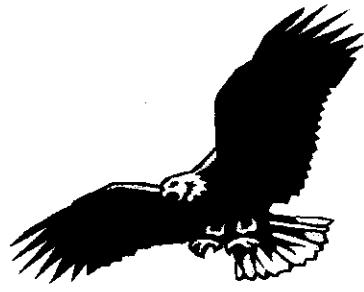
Faithful fivers are little angles who send \$5 to intergroup monthly as an act of gratitude. Why not stop in at the intergroup office once a month, drop a fiver on 'em and visit for a while over a cup of java???



September 1999 Volume 9

INTERGROUP 17

# VOICE



P. O. Box 1192 Ocala, Fl. 34478 (352) 867-0660

Fax (352) 867-7819

" 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 those groups in their general interest. It exists to aid groups in carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers." From A.A. Guidelines on Intergroup Offices

SEPTEMBER		AUGUST	
BIRTHDAYS		BIRTHDAYS	
FRED S.	34 YRS	GABE P.	18 YRS
JIM B.	31 YRS	TOM M.	17 YRS
TOM T.	24 YRS	JANE S.	11 YRS
BILL G.	22 YRS	AL S.	9 YRS
BOB G.	21 YRS	DOT D.	9 YRS
CAROL P.	17 YRS	JIM C.	9 YRS
PHYLLIS E.	13 YRS	MAURICE C.	7 YRS
RUTH T.	13 YRS	HOWARD L.	7 YRS
JOHN O'C.	11 YRS	TOM S.	6 YRS
GRAVEL	10 YRS	ANTHONY M.	5 YRS
MIKE P.	9 YRS	MIKE V.	5 YRS
SMOKEY B.	9 YRS	RANDY A.	5 YRS
MIKE M.	7 YRS	EARL T.	3 YRS
BOB K.	4 YRS	ROCK H.	3 YRS
GREG T.	4 YRS	CINDY S.	2 YRS
PATTY K.	4 YRS	BOB H.	1 YR
ANDY M.	3 YRS	FRED C.	1 YR
DAVE H.	3 YRS	JOHN P.	1 YR
JOE S.	3 YRS	KAT H.	1 YR
MICHAEL R.	3 YRS		
REGGIE D.	3 YRS		
RENEE B.	3 YRS		
JIM D.	2 YRS		
TEE	2 YRS		
JIM D.	2 YRS		
ALAC C.	1 YR		
PETE S.	1 YR		
TERRY	1 YR		

HAPPY, HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY TO ALL!



SPONSORED BY INTERGROUP 17

WHERE: BOAT BASIN

WHEN: SUNDAY, October 24th

ACTIVITIES FROM NOON - ???

FOOD SERVED AT 1 PM

MENU: 1/2 CHICKEN  
CAMP BEANS  
COLE SLAW

(PLEASE BRING A DESSERT)

COST: \$4.00 ADULT

\$2.00 CHILDREN

(COST FOR FOOD ONLY; PICNIC FREE)

ACTIVITIES:

GAMES FOR KIDS

LIVE MUSIC  
CAKEWALK  
CANOE RIDES  
VOLLEYBALL



AUCTION

(PLEASE BRING ITEMS (NO CLOTHES) TO  
BE AUCTIONED OFF)

## STEP

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



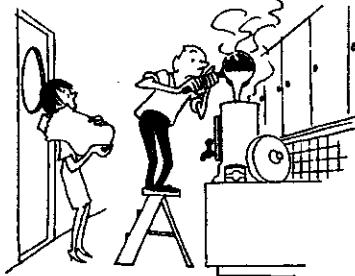
I try to fix things if I can.

A tranquil mind is the first requisite for good judgment. Good timing is important in making amends. What is courage? Prudence means taking calculated chances.

Amends begins when we join A.A. Peace of mind cannot be bought at the expense of others. Need for discretion. Readiness to take consequences of our past and to take responsibility for well-being of others is spirit of Step Nine. From

the 12 & 12 pg. 8

WE DO SET UP COMMITTEES AND BOARDS . . .  
But whether they make coffee... or help organize



## 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.*



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

Traditions Checklist from the A.A.

## FALSE PRIDE

**The alarming thing about pride-blindness is the ease with which it is justified. But we need not look far to see that self-justification is a universal destroyer of harmony and of love. It sets man against man, nation against nation. By it, every form of folly and violence can be made to look right, and even respectable.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**It would be a product of false pride to claim that A.A. is a cure-all, even for alcoholism. From As Bill Sees it. page 285**

# Concept IX

Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

## UP COMING EVENTS

46th Georgia State Pre-Paid

Convention October 14-17, 1999. In  
Savannah, Ga.

3rd Fall Unity Weekend "An  
Attitude of Gratitude" 19-21

November 1999 at Jekyll Inland, Ga.

*Sobriety in Paradise 6th Annual A.A.*

*Convention in the Bahamas 22-24*

*October 1999.*

**The Big Book Comes Alive: An  
in Depth Study of our Basic  
Text. 19-21 Nov. 1999 in St.  
Petersburg, Fl.**

**Sobriety at Sea Presents  
Winter Escape III. 7 days  
of Fellowship aboard the  
Superliner "Norway" Ship  
departs from Miami on  
January 8, 2000.**

**Minneapolis 2000 PASS IT ON-  
Into the 21st Century  
International Convention  
Alcoholics Anonymous June 29-  
July 2, 2000 in Minneapolis,**

**Minnesota. Coordinated by A.A.  
World Services, Inc**

**Lunch Bunch....Thanks Kathleen G. for  
speaking in August. Ileen P. will be  
the speaker on 25 September & has 18  
years of sobriety.**

They lead us  
by example.  
They don't  
boss!



### 2. General Service Office (G.S.O.)

G.S.O., in New York City, serves as the center of A.A. activities under the guidance of A.A. World Services, Inc., the General Service Board, and the General Service Conference (U.S. and Canada).

At G.S.O., about 88 A.A.s and non-A.A.s are involved in helping groups with problems, dealing with the general public, publishing *Box 4-5-9* and other bulletins, maintaining contact with more than 3,000 groups in institutions, and helping about 32,000 groups overseas.

Here, too, are centered the vital publishing and distribution of basic books and recovery and service pamphlets—running to a yearly total of close to 9,000,000 pieces.



### OFFICE CONTACTS

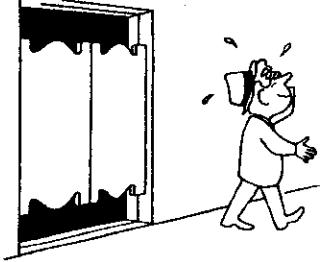
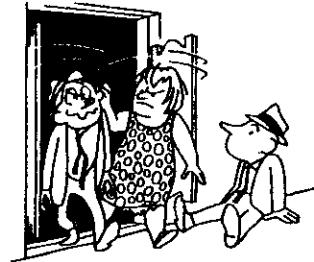
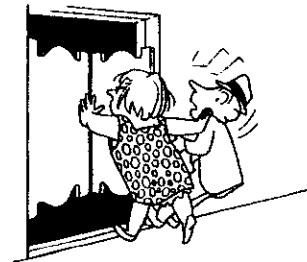
Office	75
A.A. Information	85
Meeting Information	102
Visitors	94
Agency Information	7
Answering Service	155
Alanon Information	61
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>559</b>

### THE NEXT FRONTIER: EMOTIONAL SOBRIETY

Those adolescent urges that so many of us have for top approval, perfect security, and perfect romance—urges quite appropriate to age 17—prove to be an impossible way of life when we are at age 47 or 57.

Since AA began, I've taken immense wallops in all these areas because of my failure to grow up, emotionally and spiritually. My God, how painful it is to keep demanding the impossible, and how very painful to discover, finally, that all along we have had the cart before the horse! Then comes the final agony of seeing how awfully wrong we have been, but still finding ourselves unable to get off the emotional merry-go-round.

Language of the Heart page 236



## FAITHFUL FIVERS

*Faithful Fivers are little angles who send \$5 to Intergroup monthly as an act of gratitude. Why not stop in at the Intergroup Office once a month, drop off a five or 'em and visit for a while over a cup of coffee???*

**North Florida Area Conference Quarterly**  
**Contribution Report Apr-Jun 99**

District 17

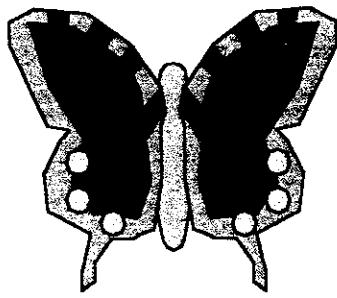
## Experience, Strength, Hope

Ft. McCoy Group	12.00
Happy Hour Group	17.50
Head Start Group	18.18
Inglis Group	25.00
living Sober Group	20.00
Lunch Bunch Group	23.91
McIntosh Group	125.00
Ocala Group	116.89
Ocala Mens Group	60.00
Rainbow Group	10.35
We give Thanks	20.00
<b>Total District 17</b>	<b>463.13</b>



On Sept 26, 1953, Richard Walker wanted to donate \$2,712.62 to his home group, the Daytona Beach Group. This was the net profit he received from the second and third printing of his "Twenty Four Hours A Day" book. Richmond suggested the group discuss this donation and let him know the conclusion they reached.

On November 26 1953, the group decided to contribute \$2,000 to the General Service Office



# VOICE

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## OCTOBER

### BIRTHDAYS

Ellen S.	23 yr	Gary G.	11yr
Mike M.	14 yr	Reggie D.	5 yr
Cheri B.	10 yr	Fran H.	2 yr
Hendeson S.	10 yr		
Judy S.	10 yr		
Dick T.	3 yr		
Retha	3 yr		
Darlene T.	2 yr		
Eric A.	2 yr		
Jason H.	1 yr		
Paul P.	1 yr		

HAPPY, HAPPY

BIRTHDAY TO ALL!

## SEPTEMBER

### BIRTHDAYS

Gary G.	11yr
Reggie D.	5 yr
Fran H.	2 yr

### What are the Three Legacies of A.A.

These are derived from the accumulated experience of A.A.'s earliest members that has been passed on and shared with us: (1) suggestions for Recovery-the Twelve steps; (2) suggestions for achieving Unity-the Twelve Traditions; and (3) A.A. Service-described in *The A.A. Service Manual/ Twelve Concepts for World Service*, and *A.A. Comes of Age*.

Taken from: *The A.A. Group....Where it all begins* page 50.

# AA

## ANNUAL PICNIC

SPONSORED BY INTERGROUP 17

WHERE: BOAT BASIN

WHEN: SUNDAY, October 24th

ACTIVITIES FROM NOON - ???

FOOD SERVED AT 1 PM

MENU: 1/2 CHICKEN

CAMP BEANS

COLE SLAW

(PLEASE BRING A DESSERT)

COST: \$4.00 ADULT

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ACTIVITIES:

GAMES FOR KIDS

LIVE MUSIC

CAKEWALK

CANOE RIDES

VOLLEYBALL



### AUCTION

(PLEASE BRING ITEMS (NO CLOTHES) TO BE AUCTIONED OFF)

## Up Coming Events

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*Sobriety in Paradise 6th Annual Art Convention in the Bahamas 22-24 October 1999.*

**The Big Book Comes Alive:**  
An in Depth Study of our Basic Text. 19-21 Nov. 1999 in St. Petersburg, Fl.

Sobriety at Sea Presents Winter Escape III. 7 days of Fellowship aboard the Superliner "Norway" Ship departs from Miami on January 8, 2000.

For more information contact the Intergroup Office.

**Intergroup Meeting**  
14 November 1999  
3:30 Steering Committee  
4:15 Intergroup Reps.  
At  
St. Marks Methodist Church

Dear A.A. Volunteers, I would like to thank you for your commitment to our Community. Our inmates loved the A.A. banquet and were most grateful for all who attended. Many have written letters of appreciation. Sincerely, Jeri S. Inside A.A. Sponsor, Lowell Correctional Institution, Men's Unit.

Caring the message Behind the Wall is a very rewarding experience. **Corrections Workshop** is held at St. Marks Methodist Church the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Sherry R. for more information at 622-4711.

**Welcome Home**  
Victor M.  
from your A.A. Friends

### OFFICE CONTACTS

<b>Office</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>A&amp;A Information</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Meeting Information</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Visitors</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Agency Information</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Answering Service</b>	<b>270</b>
<b>Alanon Information</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>639</b>

**In working the tenth step and we "continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it," we are practicing the principle of PERSEVERANCE.**

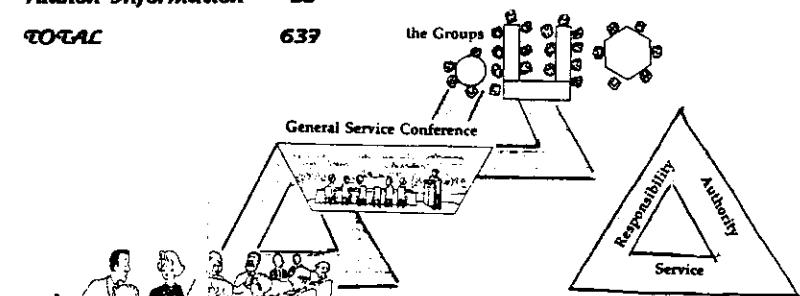
### 3. A.A. Grapevine, Inc.



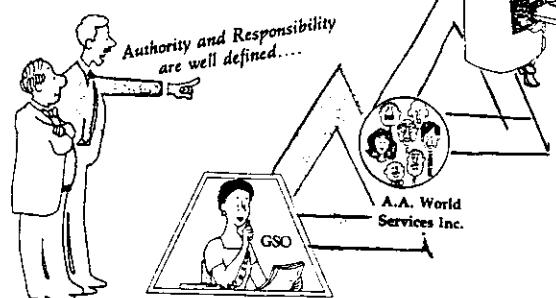
The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., a separate corporation with its own board, is under the guidance of the trustees. Grapevine editorial and business staffs are responsible for publishing the pocket-size monthly that carries A.A. to more than 120,000 members throughout the world.

Taken from **Inside A.A. Understanding the Fellowship and its Service Agencies**

## Concept X



**Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority—the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.**



**"The Twelve Concepts for World Service."**

## STEP 10 "Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it."



### *I check up on myself. I am honest.*

Can we stay sober and keep emotional balance under all conditions? Self-searching becomes a regular habit. Admit, accept, and patiently correct defects.

Emotional hangover. When past is settled with, present challenges can be met.

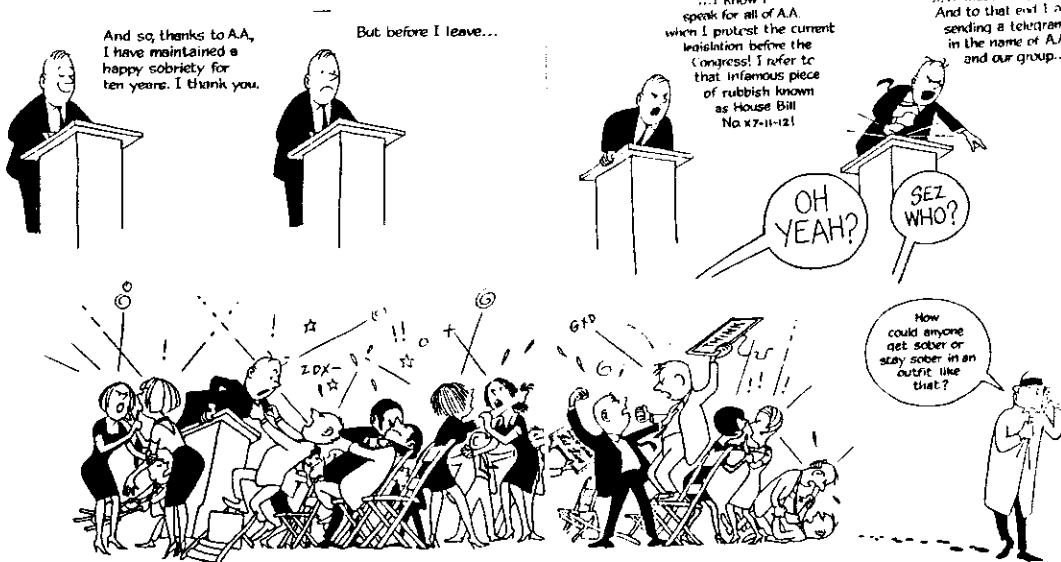
Varieties of inventory. Anger, resentments, jealousy, envy, self-pity, hurt pride—all led to the bottle. Self-restraint first objective.

Insurance against "big-shot-ism." Let's look at credits as well as debits. Examination of motives. 12 & 12 page 8

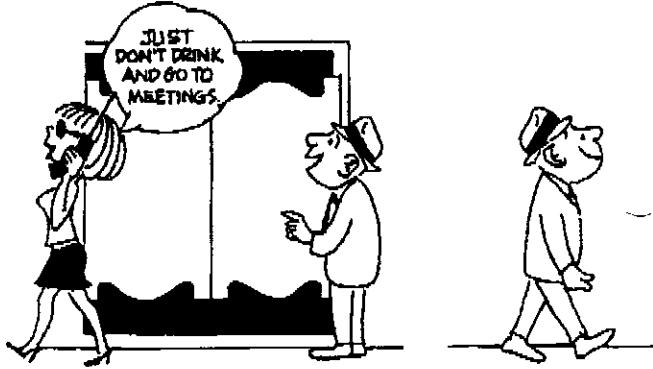
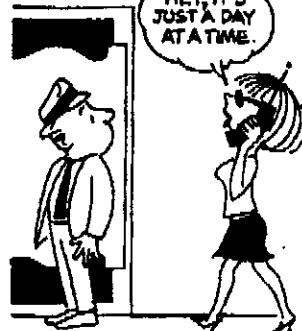
☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
 ☆ *New Meeting*  
 ☆ *"Teens in Recovery"*  
 ☆ *Tuesday at 7:00 PM*  
 ☆  
 ☆ 717 S.W. Martin Luther King Ave.  
 ☆ Marion Citrus Mental Health  
 Bldg. #2  
 ☆  
 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

## TRADITION 10 "Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy."

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



**Pass It On –  
Into the 21st Century**  
 International Convention  
 Alcoholics Anonymous  
 June 29 - July 2, 2000  
 Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 Coordinated by A.A. World Services, Inc.



20 • October 1999

FOR THE MONTH OF ~~Sept~~ <sup>Sept</sup> 1999

GROUP NAME	MONTH	YTD	AMOUNT OWED
Alive & Well		\$20.00	\$20.00
All You Need		\$20.00	\$3.18
Anthony			
Belleview		\$339.31	
Came to Believe		\$10.75	
Daytimers		\$80.00	
Dunnellon			
Exp. Strength Hope	\$12.00	\$32.00	
Eye Opener			
Fellowship	\$100.00	\$380.00	\$20.14
Foot Print			
Forest		\$40.00	
Pt. McCoy		\$80.00	
Fountain of Gratitude		\$200.00	\$3.18
God's Way			
Grace			
Happy, Joyous and Free	\$29.00	\$81.73	
Happy, Joyous and Gay			
Happy Hour	\$32.00	\$32.00	
Head Start	\$34.40	\$125.77	(\$0.54)
Its in the Book			(\$2.35)
Keep It Simple	\$30.41	\$108.18	
Living Sober		\$45.00	
Lunch Bunch		\$30.07	\$2.65
Marion Oaks 12 Step			
McIntosh	\$50.00	\$50.00	
Men's Group	\$100.00	\$160.00	
Men In Recovery		\$23.00	
New Attitudes	\$58.11	\$252.67	\$43.57
Ocala	\$236.16	\$833.93	\$2.65
Orange Lake			
Primary Purpose			
Rainbow		\$114.51	
Serenity			
Shores of Sobriety			
We Give Thanks		\$30.00	
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$700.08</b>	<b>\$3,058.92</b>	<b>\$72.48</b>
Charter Springs			\$754.97
Marion Citrus			\$28.32
Treatment			
Corrections			
CPC/PI			\$12.72
TLC Treatment			
Faithful Fivers	\$20.00	\$70.00	
Lost and Found			\$225.25
Special Account			\$500.00
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>	<b>\$570.00</b>	<b>\$1,021.26</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$720.08</b>	<b>\$3,628.92</b>	<b>\$1,093.74</b>

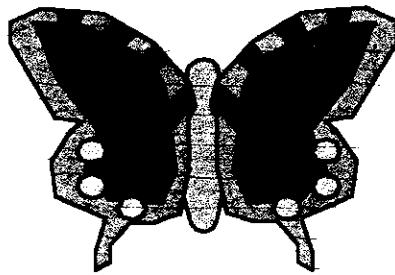


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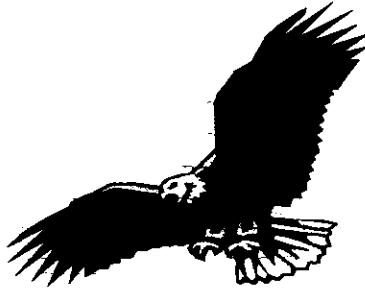
### Acceptance

Acceptance is the answer to all my problems today. When I am disturbed, it is because I find some person, place, thing, or situation-some fact of my life-unacceptable to me, and I can find no serenity until I accept that person, place, thing, or situation as being exactly the way it is supposed to be at this moment. Nothing, absolutely nothing happens in God's world by mistake. Until I could accept my alcoholism, I could not stay sober; unless I accept life completely on life's terms. I cannot be happy. I need to concentrate not so much on what needs to be changed in the world as on what needs to be changed in me and in my attitudes. Taken from Page 449 Alcoholics Anonymous



November 1999 Volume 11  
INTERGROUP 17

# VOICE



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## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Pat B.	24 yrs
Jim Z.	23 yrs
Paul H.	23 yrs
Tom M.	21 yrs
Fanny V.F.	20 yrs
Ernie N.	18 yrs
Bill K.	18 yrs
Linne C.	7 yrs
Kate P.	7 yrs
David W.	7 yrs
Ed L.	4 yrs
MaryAnne N.	2 yrs
Terry S.	2 yrs
Al R.	1 yr
Diane W.	1 yr
Jerry C.	1 yr
Robert R.	1 yr
Stephen B.	1 yr

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Bill S.	31 yrs
Kathy P.	28 yrs
John P.	22 yrs
Mike M.	14 yrs
Joe F.	14 yrs
Henderson S.	10 yrs
Bonnie C.	1 yr

## AAWS CENTRAL OFFICE/ INTERGROUP SEMINAR

The 14th annual AAWS Central Office/Intergroup Seminar was held in Bradenton, FL Oct. 14-17, and what a great AA experience it was! It was hosted by the local Sarasota Central Office who welcomed representatives from all over Florida, 38 states and 3 provinces in Canada. Approximately 250 members brought their experience, strength, hope and resentments for brainstorming and sharing sessions and workshops. There were even some good AA meetings. What a wonderful opportunity to be among so many people from the four corners of the continent and so involved in carrying the AA message.

GSO was represented by the Supervisor of Literature Sales, the Trustee of the East Central Region, GSO Publications Director and the Intergroup/Central Office Liason for GSO.

Workshops topics included: "Literature and What We Sell", "Self Support", "Carrying the Message in Cyberspace", "Unity-Cooperation for Common Welfare-Intergroups and Districts", and "Newsletters", just to name a few. Some of the offices represented have as many as 800 groups and more than 1,500 meetings a week while others have a handful of groups and meetings.

There also was a great exchange of information from GSO on such topics as literature sales, new book jacket designs, progress report on the upcoming 4th edition of the Big Book and what that process is like, as well as AA in the Native American Community, Russia, China and Camaroon/Kenya. We heard an update on the Y2K International Convention. Did you know that GSO has received a formal request from the Native American Community to carry a flag in the procession there?

Well, there is more to tell you but just don't have enough room. But I do want to thank you for letting me serve as your representative. It was an enriching experience that I shall never forget. Thank you all so very much.

*Reuth T.*

The INTERGROUP PICNIC  
was a huge success!!

Intergroup would like to say  
"Thank You" to all who took  
part in making this the BEST  
Picnic we have had!  
We took in \$2,367. 00  
and our expenses were  
\$1,051.90 for a  
net profit of \$1,315.10.  
Thanks again!!!

## OFFICE CONTACTS

Office	86
AA Information	68
12th Step	3
Meeting Information	10
Alanon	27
Visitors	87
Answering Service	220
Total Calls for Oct. 1999	584

\*\*\*\*\*  
 The Do It Sober Bikers  
 Group  
 will surely miss E.J.'s  
 Smiles and Giggles.  
 Our prayers go out to  
 Billie Willie  
 God bless Amanda and  
 Grandma.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

The greatest way to live with honor  
 in this world is to be  
 what we pretend to be. Socrates

#### A WIDE ARC OF GRATITUDE

*And, speaking for Dr. Bob and myself, I gratefully declare that had it not been for our wives, Anne and Lois, neither of us could have lived to see A.A.'s beginning.*

Am I capable of such generous tribute and gratitude to my wife, parents and friends, without whose support I might never have survived to reach AA's doors? I will work on this and try to see the plan my Higher Power is showing me which links our lives together.

*from Daily Reflections*

#### HAPPY THANKSGIVING



#### FAITHFUL FIVERS

*Faithful Fivers are little angles who send \$5 to Intergroup monthly as an act of gratitude. Why not stop in at the Intergroup Office once a month, drop off a five or 'em and visit for a while over a cup of coffee???*

INTERGROUP			
	NEXT MEETING		
IS			
	DECEMBER		
12, 1999			
	AT ST. MARK'S		
METHODIST			
4:15 PM			
	DEAD LINE		
FOR			
	DECEMBER		
VOICE			
	DEC. 3RD		

#### ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE!!

\*\*\*\*\*  
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
 ★ New Meeting  
 "Teens in Recovery"  
 Tuesday at 6:00PM  
 ★ 717 SW Martin Luther  
 King Ave  
 Marion Citrus Mental  
 Health Bldg #2  
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

#### WELCOME CRITICISM

*From As Bill Sees It*

*"For myself, I have come to set a high value on the people who have criticized me, whether they have seemed reasonable critics or unreasonable ones. Both have often restrained me from doing much worse than I actually have done. The unreasonable ones have taught me, I hope, a little patience. But the reasonable ones have always done a great job for all of AA — and have taught me many a valuable lesson."*

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



I ask a Higher Power for help to live the right way.

#### **YOU'RE INVITED**

To take a four week trip

THROUGH THE STEPS

with those who have been there

and can light the way!!

**Thursdays**

**7:30-8:30 pm**

**McIntosh Group**

Each moth we will have a different speaker share their experience with the steps.

**NOVEMBER**

**Monty B. of the All You Need Group**

(P.S. Bring a newcomer)

**TRADITION 11** *"Our Public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at 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 a recovered, or recovering, alcoholic?
5. What would AA be like if we were not guided by the ideas in Tradition Eleven? Where would I be?
6. Is my AA sobriety attractive enough that a sick drunk would want such a quality for himself?

#### **From Inside AA**

**Understanding the Fellowship and its Service Agencies**

#### **11. Conference Sessions**

Conference member meet annually for 6 days. They review reports on activities of G.S.O. and the General Service Board, and on service needs all over the world.

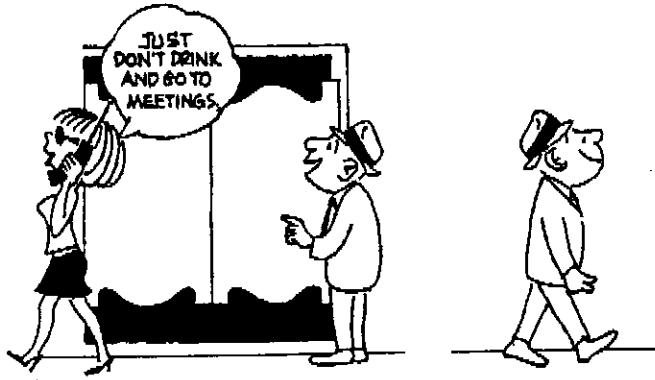
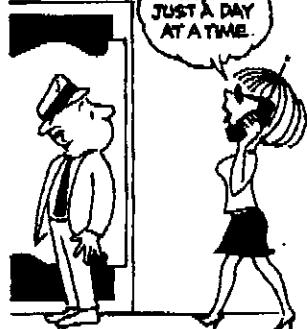
They also review significant trends and developments in AA. Each Conference member is encouraged to act as a representative of AA, not just of one area.

*Good Morning!!  
This is God!  
I will be handling  
all your problems  
today.  
I will NOT need  
your help....  
So, have a good  
day!*

*A joy that's shared  
is a joy made double!!*

## **Concept XI**

*While the trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Therefore, the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.*

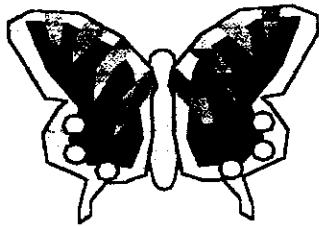


GROUP NAME	MONTH	YTD	October 1999 AMOUNT OWED
Alive & Well			
All You Need		\$20.00	\$3.18
Anthony			
Bellevue	\$250.00	\$589.31	12.18
Came to Believe		\$10.75	
Daytimers		\$60.00	
Dunnellon			
Exp. Strength Hope		\$32.00	
Eye Opener			
Fellowship	\$150.00	\$530.00	\$3.18
Foot Print			
Forest		\$40.00	
Pt. McCoy		\$80.00	
Fountain of Gratitude		\$200.00	
God's Way			
Grace	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$3.98
Happy, Joyous and Free	\$27.88	\$119.81	
Happy, Joyous and Gay			
Happy Hour		\$32.00	
Head Start	\$32.50	\$158.27	(\$0.54)
Its in the Book			(\$2.35)
Keep It Simple		\$108.18	
Living Sober		\$45.00	\$0.60
Lunch Bunch		\$30.07	\$2.65
Marion Oaks 12 Step			
McIntosh		\$50.00	
Men's Group		\$160.00	
Men In Recovery		\$23.00	
New Attitudes	\$28.81	\$281.28	\$6.18
Ocala	\$245.76	\$1,080.69	\$2.65
Open Door	\$5.00	\$5.00	
Orange Lake	\$44.70	\$44.70	
Primary Purpose			
Rainbow			\$114.51
Serenity			
Shores of Sobriety			
We Give Thanks	\$25.00	\$55.00	
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$910.45</b>	<b>\$3,989.37</b>	<b>\$31.71</b>
Charter Springs			\$754.97
Marion Citrus			\$28.32
Corrections			
CPC/PI			\$12.72
TLC Treatment			\$22.47
Faithful Fibers	\$10.00	\$80.00	
Lost and Found			\$263.41
OCSC			\$14.31
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$80.00</b>	<b>\$1,098.20</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$920.45</b>	<b>\$4,049.37</b>	<b>\$1,127.91</b>

### 11th Step Prayer

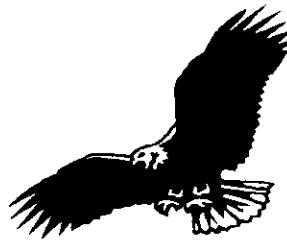
*Lord,  
make me a channel of thy  
peace*

*—that where there is hatred,  
I may bring love  
—that where there is wrong,  
I may bring the spirit of  
forgiveness  
—that where there is discord,  
I may bring harmony  
—that where there is error,  
I may bring faith  
—that where there is despair,  
I may bring hope  
—that where there are shad-  
ows,  
I may bring light  
—that where there is sadness,  
I may bring joy.  
Lord, grant that I may seek  
rather to comfort  
than to be comforted  
—to understand,  
than to be understood  
—to love,  
than to be loved.  
For it is by self-forgetting  
that one finds.  
It is by forgiving  
that one is forgiven.  
It is by dying  
that one awakens to Eternal  
Life.  
Amen*



December 1999 Volume 12  
INTERGROUP 17

# VOICE



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

Fax (352) 867-7819

"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 those groups in their general interest. It exists to aid groups in carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers." From A.A. Guidelines on Intergroup Offices

## DECEMBER NOVEMBER

### BIRTHDAYS

Hermina D.	47 yrs	Monroe C.	21 yrs
Price O.	41 yrs	Wayne C.	20 yrs
Arnold H.	39 yrs	Jim F.	20 yrs
Don C.	34 yrs	Jim E.	11 yrs
Bob S.	28 yrs	Joe C.	9 yrs
Frank H.	23 yrs	Kevin M.	9 yrs
Dawn C.	15 yrs	Keith S.	7 yrs
Adell P.	15 yrs	Lucy C.	6 yrs
Keith S.	15 yrs	Mark B.	1 yrs
Bob T.	14 yrs	Mildred B.	1 yr
Mike C.	14 yrs	Diane W.	1 yr
Paul B.	13 yrs	Karen L.	1 yr
Roger D.	12 yrs		
Pablo T.	10 yrs		
Becky G.	6 yrs		
Jerry S.	6 yrs		
Margaret J.	4 yrs		
Debbie P.	4 yrs		
Joy C.	4 yrs		
Shawn	4 yrs		
Mike M.	3 yrs		
Steve P.	3 yrs		
Murph	3 yrs		
Pat M.	3 yrs		
Rita P.	2 yrs		
Erik G.	1 yr		



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

ALL

### Chairperson's Corner

I wish to thank each and everyone for the past year. Our phones are being answered by volunteer's, our bank account is in the black, we have many items to sell and staffed hours to sell them. WE ARE CARRYING THE MESSAGE.

Again, Thanks for your support of our Intergroup office. You have made my position as chairperson this past year so much more enjoyable. Our accomplishments for this past year is a combined effort by each and everyone. This shows that Alcoholics Anonymous is growing both locally and elsewhere. Again Thanks for your support.  
DAVE H.

In working the twelfth step "having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we try to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs," we are practicing the *Principle of Service*.

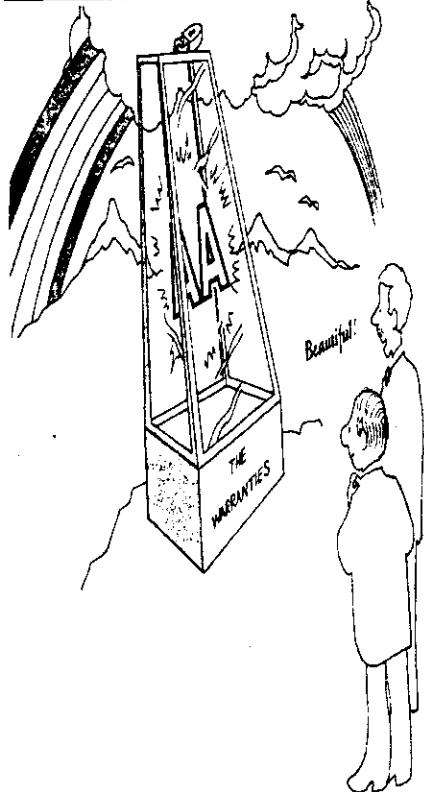


### OFFICE CONTACTS

Office	58
AA Information	71
12th Step	4
Meeting Information	94
Alanon	40
Visitors	89
Answering Service	197
Misc. Info	19
<b>Total Calls for Oct. 1999</b>	<b>572</b>

## Concept XII

*General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion vote and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.*

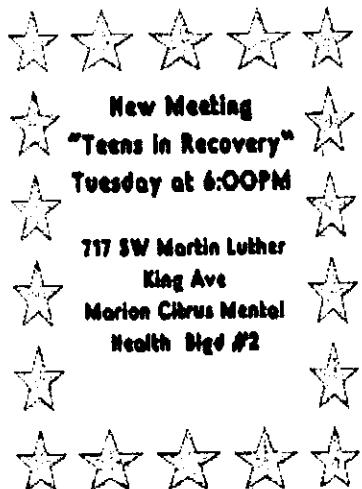


**12** Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and practice these principles in all our affairs.



I live by these Steps and get better. I try to help other alcoholics.

From The Twelve Steps Illustrated



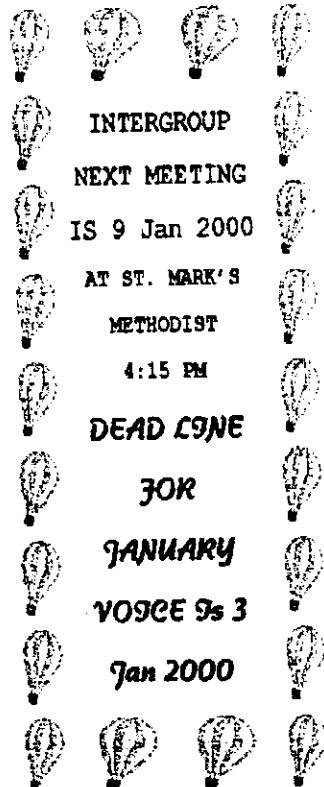
**Miraculously**  
Bill-Willie is home recuperating now. We wish him up and runnin!

Do It Sober Bikers

“Do every act of your life as if it were your last.”  
Marcus Aurelius

## FAITHFUL FIVERS

Faithful floors are little angles who send \$5 to Intergroup monthly as an act of gratitude. Why not stop in at the Intergroup Office once a month, drop off a floor or two and visit for a while over a cup of coffee???



**In Memory of Eddie V.**  
We will truly miss your hugs, your laughter and sobriety.

Special thoughts to Shirley V.  
The Bellevue Group

**“Delight in teaching what you have learned.”**  
Lucius Seneca

## New Years Eve!

Anthony - 9700 NE 21st Avenue - Winners Circle Club

**8:00 PM Meeting  
Open House Follows**

**10:30 PM  
Candlelight Meeting**

**Bring Finger Foods  
(Meat Provided)**

## A.A. ALKATHON

**\* CHRISTMAS EVE \***

**\* NEW YEARS EVE \***

**8:00 PM TO 1:00 AM**

**OCALA GROUP  
1839 N.E. 8th AV.**

**ALL WELCOME!  
Snacks Appreciated**

### **YOU'RE INVITED**

To take a four week trip  
THROUGH THE STEPS

with those who have been there  
and can light the way!!

**Thursdays**

**7:30-8:30 pm**

**McIntosh Group**

Each month we will have a different speaker  
share their experience with the steps.

**TRADITION 12** "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 opinions 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?
7. Do I do all that 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 more than a million AAs?

### **12. A.A. World Service, and Money**

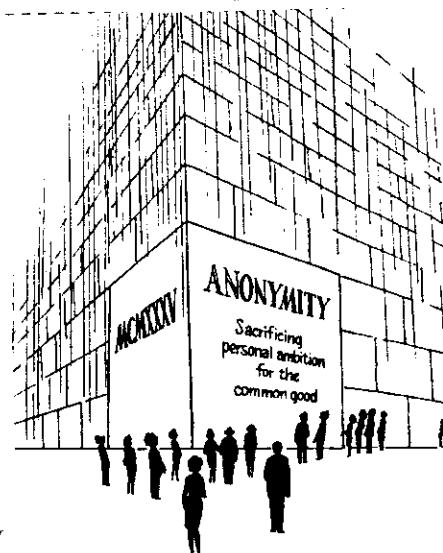


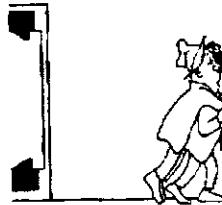
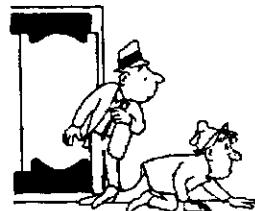
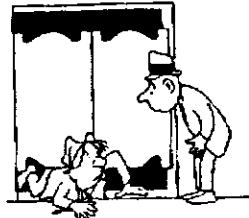
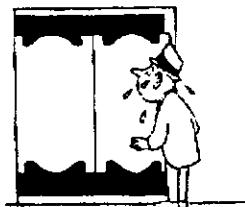
The fellowship's world service is supported by voluntary contributions from the groups, by funds derived from publishing activities, and by individual contributions from members. No individual contribution may exceed \$1,000 per year. Membership in A.A. is in no way contingent upon financial support of the movement. (Groups that are able to do so are invited to contribute in accordance with the "60-30-10" plan-60% to the intergroup or central office, 30% to your General Service Office, and 10% to your area committee.)

All accounts of A.A.'s service agencies are C.P.A.-audited, and detailed statements covering the Society's finances are published annually.

From Inside AA Understanding the Fellowship and its Service Agencies

Traditions Checklist from the AA Grapevine





GROUP NAME	FOR THE MONTH OF NOV 1999		
	MONTH	YTD	AMOUNT OWED
Alive & Well	\$10.00	\$10.00	
All You Need		\$20.00	\$3.16
Anthony			\$82.95
Belieview		\$589.31	
Came to Believe		\$10.75	
Daytimers		\$60.00	
Dunnellon			
Exp Strength Hops	\$25.00	\$57.00	
Eye Opener	\$20.00	\$20.00	
Fellowship	\$150.00	\$680.00	\$19.29
Foot Print			
Forest	\$25.00	\$85.00	
Fl. McCoy		\$80.00	
Fountain of Gratitude		\$200.00	
God's Way			
Grace		\$100.00	
Happy, Joyous and Free		\$119.81	
Happy, Joyous and Gay			
Happy Hour		\$32.00	
Head Start	\$37.50	\$185.77	(\$0.54)
Its in the Book			(\$2.35)
Keep It Simple		\$108.18	
Living Sober	\$50.00	\$95.00	\$19.61
Lunch Bunch		\$30.07	\$2.65
Marion Oaks 12 Step			
McIntosh		\$50.00	
Men's Group		\$180.00	
Men In Recovery		\$23.00	
New Attitudes		\$281.28	\$6.18
Ocala	\$314.82	\$1,395.31	
Open Door	\$5.00	\$10.00	
Orange Lake		\$44.70	
Primary Purpose			
Rainbow		\$114.51	
Serenity			
Shores of Sobriety			
We Give Thanks		\$55.00	
SUB TOTAL	\$637.12	\$4,806.49	\$130.97
Chaser Springs			\$362.77
Marion Cities			\$26.32
Corrections			
CPCPI			
TLC Treatment			\$22.47
Faithful Friends	\$5.00	\$85.00	
Lost and Found			\$165.36
OCSC			\$14.31
SUB TOTAL	\$5.00	\$85.00	\$593.23
TOTAL	\$642.12	\$4,891.49	\$724.20

*I Asked God*

*I asked God for strength,  
that I might achieve, I  
was made weak, that I  
might learn humbly to  
obey.*

*I asked for health, that I  
might do great things.  
I was given infirmity,  
that I might do better  
things.*

*I asked for riches, that I  
might be happy, I was  
given poverty, that I  
might be wise.*

*I asked for power, that I  
might have the praise of  
men. I was given weak-  
ness, that I might feel the  
need of God.*

*I asked for all things, that  
I might enjoy life, I was  
given life, that I might en-  
joy all things.*

*I got nothing that I asked  
for, but everything that I  
ever hoped for.*

*Almost despite myself,  
my unspoken prayers  
were answered.....I am,  
among all men...most  
richly blessed!*

*Anonymous*