

The Voice

Volume 26, Number 10

October 2009



One member's voice

Enter the world of the spirits

A story of experience, strength, and hope

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

Whether my mood was good or bad, I was unable to change the way I felt without the use of booze. Getting sober changed this for me, changed the way I looked at things, and changed the way I looked at life.

When I was drinking it was common for me to blame others for all my problems. In the process of doing the Twelve Steps with my sponsor and applying the principles of these steps in my life, I learned some uncomfortable truths about myself. I could not manage my life or relationships on my own.

Very slowly I began to

learn about relationships, first with my sponsor, next my home group. Later my sponsor showed me how he had established a relationship with God. He said it was not important that I understood God, but it was important to have a relationship with Him.

My sponsor and I would pray together, and I remember praying the third-step prayer with him. I am so glad God took that prayer much more seriously than I did.

As time went on, I began to understand another truth my sponsor shared with me: God could do for me those things I could not do for myself. I started with God's help to set right the wrongs and began restoring

broken relationships. I began to feel good about the person I was becoming, and the way I was living my life.

But then came a time when things were not going so good. I was once again trying to run the show, and things were not turning out like I thought they should. I had gone back to my old way of thinking; that life was not fair and others were to blame.

My sponsor suggested that I had overlooked the tenth-step promise, and that I had cut myself off from the sunlight of the spirit. The promise was, "And we have ceased fighting anything or anyone, even alcohol. For by this time sanity had returned." Yes, I once again

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Intergroup 17 Fall Picnic

Sunday, October 25
Details, page five



A quote for October

A continuous look at our assets and liabilities, and a real desire to learn and grow by this means, are necessities for us.

Twelve & Twelve, page 88

Tradition Ten

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

By Bill W, from *The Grapevine* digital archives

Never since it began has Alcoholics Anonymous been divided by a major controversial issue. Nor has our fellowship ever publicly taken sides on any question in an embattled world. This, however, has been no earned virtue. It could almost be said that we were born with it, for as one old-timer recently declared, "Practically never have I heard a heated religious,

political, or reform argument among AA members. So long as we don't argue these matters privately, it's a cinch we never shall publicly."

As by some deep instinct, we AAs have known from the very beginning that we must never, no matter what the provocation, publicly take sides in any fight, even a worthy one. All history affords us the spec-

tacle of striving nations and groups finally torn asunder because they were designed for, or tempted into, controversy. Others fell apart because of sheer self-righteousness while trying to enforce upon the rest of mankind some millennium of their own specification. In our own times we have seen millions die in political and economic wars often spurred

Continued, page 6

Congratulations October Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate anniversaries of our local AA family members that add up to a collective 447 years. That's more than 163,155 days of sobriety. One day at a time!

Kathy P	38 years	Nancy I	7 years
John P	32 years	Cathy U	2 years
Judy L	27 years	Alison C	5 years
Frank V	23 years	Bob J	4 years
Gene S	26 years	Virginia C	4 years
Jim B	25 years	Don P	3 years
Casey J	24 years	Greg M	3 years
Mike M	24 years	Jenifer H	3 years
Wayne L	24 years	Robert T	3 years
Bernadette S	20 years	Tracy G	3 years
Henderson S	20 years	Eleanor T	2 years
Bonnie J	18 years	Granville C	1 year
John M	18 years	John A	1 year
Cheryl T	9 years		
Frank D	9 years		
Connie C	7 years		

September

Diane D	32 years
George C	17 years
Barbara G	10 years
James J	2 years
Ryan	2 years

Please share your AA birthday with all. Deadline for November birthdays is October 20. E-mail to ocalaintergroup@msn.com or telephone: 352 867-0660.

October by the Books

STEP TEN

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

... Are these extravagant promises? We think not.They will always materialize if we work for them.

This thought brings us to Step Ten, which suggests we continue to take a personal inventory and continue to set right any new mistakes as we go along. ... We have entered the world of the *Spirit*. ... Love and tolerance of others is our code.

Alcoholics Anonymous, page 84

TRADITION TEN

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

As by some instinct, we A. A.'s have known from the very beginning that we must never, no matter provocation, publicly take sides in any fight, even a worthy one. ...Others fell apart because of a sheer self-righteousness while trying to enforce upon the rest of mankind some millennium of their own specification.

Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions, page 176

CONCEPT TEN

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 by-laws.

Our service structure cannot function effectively and harmoniously unless, at every level each operational responsibility is matched by a corresponding authority to discharge it.

Twelve Concepts of World Service, page 8

Bigger. Better. More information than ever.
www.aocalamarion.org

- Where & When online
- The Voice, current and past issues
- Service opportunities
- How to get help
- Upcoming local and regional events
- Links to the Big Book, 12&12, and more

Intergroup 17 online www.aocalamarion.org Intergroup 17 online www.aocalamarion.org Intergroup 17 online

Recovery. Unity. Service.

These are the Three Legacies given to the whole membership of AA by its founders and their fellow old-timers. Here's your chance to complete the triangle. Service opportunities abound with Intergroup 17 and District 17. If nothing here appeals to your sense of service, just call Intergroup at 352 867-0660. There's plenty more to do!

Hotline and 12th Step calls.

Intergroup has a critical need for volunteers to answer our 24-Hour Hotline "after business hours" from their own home or cell phones. Others needed to help respond to 12th Step calls. One year of sobriety required. Call Intergroup 17 to volunteer: 352-867-0660.

Take the lead. District 17 Accessibilities Chair open.

We need a special person to lead our efforts to carry the message to AAs with special needs as Accessibilities Committee Chair. See page 4 for more.

Take the message to local correctional institutions.

Women's Meetings

There is a critical need to carry the message to women in prison (women only). Call Sherry R. at 352-622-4711.

Men's Meetings

More info, please contact Paul N. at 352-622-6967; John J. at 352-598-4319.

Through *The Grapevine!*

Many of our brothers and sisters in area corrections facilities enjoy reading *The AA Grapevine*. Drop off your old copies at the Intergroup Office, or coordinate a group effort through your GSR.

Great service in the great outdoors. Volunteers need for Intergroup 17 picnic.

Volunteers are needed before, during, and after the picnic. You can call it service, but we guarantee it's lots of fun. Call Chris: 352-209-1904. Email cjpeer@aol.com

Show your gratitude. Volunteers needed for the 2009 District 17 Gratitude Dinner

The planning committee needs help taking inventory of supplies and equipment. October 1, 6:30 pm. St. Marks. Other help needed too. More info or questions? Call Francine: 352-390-7163.

Publicize your group's service opportunities in The Voice. Call 352 867-0660 or email to ocalaintergroup@msn.com

If this turns you on



And you're looking for service work
We've got the perfect fit.

Intergroup 17 Website Programmer

We're looking for someone who can help create an interactive, online *When and Where* for Ocala-Marion County group meetings and add other functionality like an interactive map and "get directions" function.

Can you do the Job? Will you?

If you can create this type of functionality—and are willing to volunteer your time to help us carry the message—please visit, call, or email us today. 352-867-0660.

Email: ocalaintergroup@msn.com

Self-Support Where money and spirituality mix

The Seventh Tradition states: "Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

While contributions cover each group's rent and other expenses, the Seventh Tradition is essential at every level of AA service.

It is both a privilege and a responsibility for groups and members to ensure that not only their group, but also their intergroup office, district, area, and the General Service Office remain self-supporting.

This keeps AA free of outside influences that might divert us from our primary purpose—to help the alcoholic who still suffers.

The amount of our contribution is secondary to the spiritual connection that unites all groups around the world.

What money in the basket means.

When you put money in the basket, you support your group and AA worldwide. You help make sure that:

- AA groups have meeting space
- Hotline phones get answered
- Prisoners get Big Books
- Professionals get correct answers about alcoholism
- AAs in remote areas get letters and support
- Newcomers get literature and books
- Patients get meetings
- Your voice is heard
- AAs around the globe share experience, strength and hope..

Learn more. Give more if you can.

For a free copy of the information pamphlet, "Self-Support: Where Spirituality and Money Mix," complete self-support packets, and other information pamphlets, please visit or contact Intergroup 17. 352-867-0660 or email to ocalaintergroup@msn.com

See page 7 for more information on honoring the Seventh Tradition.

All fear is not created equal.

Understanding the difference between functional and dysfunctional fear.

Someone recently asked me to explain the role that fear has played in my life. The first thing that came to mind was that this task was like trying to define my relationship with gravity. Both have always been present in my life. And both influence, and often limit, all that I do.

When my life had collapsed sufficiently for me to try to quit drinking I realized that for me to do this it might help to understand why I drank. After distilling this question to its essence, I concluded that I drank to change the way I felt. So there must be something wrong with what I felt, I reasoned. The steps revealed to me that what I felt was afraid, constantly afraid. It followed that I had better get “up close and personal” with this issue of fear.

When I first got sober and the topic of fear came up in a meeting (and I noticed it seemed to come up a lot) I would often hear people describe their understanding that there was “good” fear and “bad” fear. I had some difficulty with this since even early on I sensed I was not very adept at judging things as good or bad.

I have since come to understand that in my experience it makes more sense for me to consider fear as either “functional” or “dysfunctional”.

Functional fear alerts me to danger and motivates me to protect myself. I couldn’t cross the street too many times without this type of fear lest I be flattened by a bus. Functional fear is self limited, it evaporates when the threat is over. In my life, functional fear has been rare enough so that it couldn’t account for my constantly feeling afraid.

On the other hand, “dysfunctional” fear is a different story. For me, dysfunctional fear can be defined as fear that serves no protective purpose. It arises to alert me to dangers that originate in my imagination and as such are not real. While drinking this type of fear seemed to have invaded my life during every waking moment and in half my dreams as well. This dysfunctional fear clung to me; in fact it seemed to feed on itself to grow more intrusive. To stay sober I would have to escape its onslaught.

Stepwork in AA revealed to me the nature of my fear. I learned that in my life dysfunctional fears are usually a byproduct of my inability to accept some aspect of the reality I inhabit, God’s universe. I seem to struggle against ‘what is’ and this conflict is often painful enough to compel me to take refuge in my own world. Here I make the

rules; I know what the future holds and can even rewrite history, if I feel the need.

The problem of course is that “my universe” is illusion and disintegrates when it encounters reality. In the end, dysfunctional fear in the form of worry, regret, anger, self-pity, guilt and a dozen other disguises is the price I pay for my inability to accept God’s reality.

Fortunately the program of Alcoholics Anonymous has also provided me with the means to bring my fear into a workable balance. I certainly still have daily encounters with dysfunctional fear. So what is the solution? For me what helps most is to live in the present moment, for this is the location of God’s universe as I understand it. My dysfunctional fears thrive in my illusions of the past or future but wilt in the present moment.

I have come to accept fear as a part of the background for my life. The AA program has given me tools to recognize dysfunctional fear so that it no longer permeates my life and dominates me. I still have lots of fears, but I no longer constantly feel afraid. for me that’s a big deal.

By Don C, Ocala
Reprinted from *The Voice*, July 2008

“I still have lots of fears, but I no longer constantly feel afraid.”

District 17 Corner

August Meeting Summary

- Institutional meetings will now be designated as such; attendees should adhere to institutional policies.
- Accessibility Committee chair is vacant. Volunteers sought to help.
- CPCI is making steady progress to distribute literature to the local professional community.
- Corrections meetings have expanded. Women’s groups still need support.
- Gratitude Dinner, November 21. Theme: God Could and Would.
- District will consolidate DCM positions to one.

All invited. Get involved.

Next Meeting, Thursday 10/29, 6 pm

St. Mark’s United Methodist
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

North Florida Area Assembly October 9-11, 2009.

Paramount Resort
and Conference Center
2900 SW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL

District 17 officers, GSRs and committee chairs urged to attend. All welcome.

- Find complete meeting information and full agenda at www.aanorthflorida.org
- Printable Agenda: www.aanorthflorida.org/PDF/October09_agenda.pdf
- Hotel reservation Information: 877-992-9229

We need you.

A special person to help serve AAs with special needs.

While there are no special AA members, many members have special needs.

AA Guidelines define AAs with special needs as persons who are blind or visually impaired; deaf or hard of hearing; chronically ill or homebound, and those who are developmentally disabled.

The District 17 Accessibilities Committee serves such individuals. We need a special person to lead that effort with the help of other volunteers. To learn more, call 352 207-8516 or come to our next meeting October 29, 2009.

Intergroup 17 ANNUAL FALL PICNIC

Sunday, October 25, 2009
Ray Wayside Park, Boat Basin

Fun starts: 11:00am

Lunch: 12:00 noon

Fabulous Food.

Chicken on the grill
Sides and beverages.
Bring a dessert to share.

Lunch served at 12 noon



Fun & games.

DJ Ron will spin the tunes.
Lawn games and volleyball for
children of all ages.



Volunteers Needed

A great chance for service. Volunteers are needed before, during, and after the picnic. You can call it service, but we guarantee it's lots of fun.
Call Chris: 352-209-1904 Email cjpeer@aol.com



Tickets

Purchase tickets in advance and save!

Adults: \$5 Children: \$3

Add \$1 per ticket if purchased at the picnic.

Available from the Intergroup Office

Or ask your Intergroup Rep

KanYuKanu? Kayak too?

Bi-Annual Celebrate Sobriety Silver Springs Canoe

Trip to and from the picnic. See page 9. Email:

hdwildfire@aol.com or call Will at 352.804.3331.



Picnic Directions & Info

Go east on Highway 40 (Silver Springs Boulevard)
past Silver Springs Resort about 3 miles.

Ray Wayside Park is on the right, just before
Ocklawaha Bridge. **For more information:**

Intergroup 17 352-867-0660



Tradition Ten

continued from page 1

by religious and racial difference. We live in the imminent possibility of a fresh holocaust to determine how men shall be governed, and how the products of nature and toil shall be divided among them. That is the spiritual climate in which AA was born, and by God's grace has nevertheless flourished.

Let us re-emphasize that this reluctance to fight each other or anybody else is not counted as some special virtue in which we feel superior to other people. Nor does it mean that the members of Alcoholics Anonymous, now restored as citizens of the world, are going to back away from their individual responsibilities to act as they see the right upon issues of our time. But when it comes to AA as a whole, that's quite a different matter. In this respect we do not enter into public controversy, because we know that our society will perish if it does. We conceive the survival and spread of Alcoholics Anonymous to be something of far greater importance than the weight we could collectively throw back of any other cause. Since recovery from alcoholism is life itself to us, it is imperative that we preserve in full strength our means of survival.

Maybe this sounds as though the alcoholics in AA had suddenly gone peaceable, and become one great big

happy family. Of course this isn't so at all. Human beings that we are, we squabble. Before we leveled off a bit, AA looked more like one prodigious squabble than anything else, at least on the surface. A corporation director who had just voted a company expenditure of a hundred thousand dollars would appear at an AA business meeting and blow his top over an outlay of twenty-five dollars' worth of needed postage stamps. Disliking the attempt of some to manage a group, half its membership might angrily rush off to form another group more to their liking. Elders, temporarily turned Pharisee, have hurled rocks. Bitter attacks have been directed against people suspected of mixed motives. Despite their din, our puny rows never did AA a particle of harm. They were just part and parcel of learning to work and live together. Let it be noted, too, that they were almost always concerned with how to make AA more effective, how to do the most good for the most alcoholics.

The Washingtonian Society, a movement among alcoholics of a century ago, almost discovered the answer to alcoholism. At first the society was composed entirely of alcoholics trying to help each other. The early members foresaw that they should dedicate themselves to this sole aim. In many respects, the Washingtonians were akin to AA of today. Their membership passed the hundred-thousand mark.

Had they been left to themselves, and had they stuck to their one goal, they might have found the rest of the answer. But this didn't happen. Instead, the Washingtonians permitted politicians and reformers, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, to use the society for their own purposes. Abolition of slavery, for example, was a stormy political issue then. Soon Washingtonian speakers violently and publicly took sides on this question. Maybe the society could have survived the Abolition controversy, but it didn't have a chance from the moment it determined to reform America's drinking habits. When the Washingtonians became crusaders, within a very few years they had completely lost their effectiveness in helping alcoholics.

The lesson to be learned from the Washingtonians was not overlooked by Alcoholics Anonymous. As we surveyed the wreck of that movement, early AA members resolved to keep our society out of public controversy. Thus was laid the cornerstone for Tradition Ten: "Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy."

*From the AA Grapevine, February, 1953.
Reprinted by permission of AA Grapevine.*

Enter the World of the Spirit

Continued from page 1

believed I could manage my life own my own, without God.

The pain I was enduring was unbearable, and I did not know what to do. I don't remember wanting to drink, but I do remember wanting relief from what was going on inside my head. I finally did the thing I never liked doing. I asked for help.

My sponsor and others pointed out to me that clearly I was causing my own problems. I was unwilling to accept God's gift of guidance, and I had let up on the maintenance part of the twelve steps.

It was explained to me that the steps were not given to harm or hurt me, but to bring me closer to God. I began to understand that the pain I was feeling was a blessing God had given

me as a result of practicing the twelve steps, helping me to see the path I was to be walking down, hand-in-hand with the Spirit of the Universe. Feelings enabled me to know when I was off base.

The maintenance part was the proper use of my will-power to do the will of God. I had to seek God, and the knowledge of his will for me, as it was given in the tenth-step prayer, "How can I best serve Thee. Thy will be done."

I know now that in order to keep peace and serenity in my life, I must identify what is causing problems, and to accept my role in causing those problems. I then must set things right by continuing to move forward with a plan of action, and to seek God and the knowledge of his will and the power to carry it out, as Step Eleven tells me to do.

As I reflect back over the Twelve Steps, I realize they all work together to keep me on the path of wholeness and usefulness. If I follow them and do what they suggest I do, I find my life is easier to live. But when I return to a life of insanity, I am grateful for the way Step Two works with Step Ten and shows me that I have a God that loves me enough to allow me to make U-turns.

Fred M
Ocala, Florida
October 2009

The thoughts, expressions, and opinions expressed here are those of the author and not necessarily those of Alcoholics Anonymous or Intergroup 17. Ocala-Marion County, Florida.

How Groups and Individuals Support the Work of AA

Group contributions are the major funding source for the work of Intergroup 17 and other areas of AA. Many groups follow the 50-30-10-10 plan of support after they meet their own financial needs:

- 50 percent to Intergroup 17
- 30 percent to AA Worldwide General Services Office
- 10 percent to North Florida Area Assembly
- 10 percent to District 17

Group contributions

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

NFACAA
P.O. Box 567
Melbourne, FL 32902

The General Service Office
P.O. Box 459
6035 E. Tudor St.
New York, NY 10164

District 17
P.O. Box 3081
Ocala, FL 34478

Member contributions

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

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

All contributions count

In the spirit of participation, no contribution toward carrying the message can be too small. Bill W spoke of our "collective obligation" to support AA services. If everyone waited until they had a "sizeable" amount, it's more than likely that AA's bills would go unpaid.

Please contribute what you can when you can. Thanks.

Group Contributions to Intergroup 17. Fiscal Year June 2009-May 2010.

Figures below reflect contributions for FY2009-10. June 1 through August 31, 2009 only.

11th Step Group		Living Sober	275.35
17th Street Group		Lunch Bunch	
164 Pages Group	\$ 54.95	Mano Abierta	
ACOA		Marion Oaks Group	
ALANON		McIntosh Group	
Acceptance		New Attitudes	
Alive and Well	50.00	New Beginnings, Dunellon	
All You Need		No Name Group	
Anonymity Group		Nueva Vida	
As Bill Sees It, The Villages	137.25	Ocala AM Men's Group	302.00
Bellevue Eye Opener		Ocala Group	708.35
Bellevue Group	100.14	Ocklawaha AM Group	
Bellevue God's Way	3.00	One Page At A Time	
Bonfire Group, The Refuge		Primary Purpose	27.00
Breakfast Club	500.00	Resentment Too Group	
Came To Believe		Shores of Sobriety	60.00
Citra Group		Sisters of Serenity	
Come As You Are		Start A New Life	
Conscious Contact	37.98	Steps and Promises	
Day by Day		Stop Whining and Sober Up	
Dunellon Group		Strength In Numbers	00.70
Dunellon Rainbow Group		Summerfield Group	20.00
Experience, Strength & Hope		Sundae Social Group	
First Impressions Group		TLC Group - the Centers	
Forest Group	80.00	We Give Thanks	
Ft. McCoy Group		We Give Up	
Fountain of Gratitude	47.00	Weir Crazy, Summerfield	100.00
Free To Be	20.00	Williston Winners	
God's Way Group		Won Rebos Group	
Grace Group		Young People's Group (YPG)	
Grateful Gals			
Happy Highlanders		Birthday Club	
Happy Hour Group		Double Nickels	10.00
Happy, Joyous & Free	241.19	Faithful Fivers	
Headstart Group	121.34	Individuals	42.06
It's In The Book			
Keep It Simple	308.00		
Last Call Group		Total	\$3,246.56
Last House On The Block			
Life Is Good Sober			
Lifesaver Group	100.15		

*I am responsible.
Whenever anyone
anywhere
reaches out for help,
I want the hand of
AA to be there.
For that I am responsible.*

Intergroup 17 Call Center Report September 2009

Meeting info requests	95
Twelfth Step Calls	2
Office transactions	55
Visitors	21
Al-Anon*	9
Miscellaneous	25

Does not include all after hours hot-line calls.
*Calls requesting information on or needing assistance from Al-Anon are respectfully referred to the appropriate local resources.

Upcoming Events and Meetings of Interest

Ocala/Marion County

There are more than 140 AA meetings per week in Ocala/Marion county visit. Check out the Where & When online: www.aocalamarion.org

Monday

Beginners Meeting

17th Street Group
6:00pm every Monday
Church of Christ
2730 SE Maricamp Rd., Ocala

Wednesday

Meditation

Conscious Contact
7:00pm every Wednesday
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
3452 NE Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala

Spanish Speaking Grupo Nueva Vida

7:00pm every Wednesday
150-A SW 23rd Ave. (1/2 block South of Ft. King), Ocala

Thursday

Eat 'n Speak

Keep It Simple Group
Last Thursday of the month
Eat: 7:00pm Speaker: 8:00pm
Small fee for meal
ALL INVITED!
Ascension Lutheran Church
5730 SE 28th Street, Ocala

District 17 Monthly Meeting

6:00 pm last Thursday of the month
All GSRs. Everyone welcome.
St. Mark's United Methodist
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Friday

Speaker Meeting

Experience, Strength and Hope
8:00pm every Friday
Druid Hills Methodist Church
1712 SE Lake Weir Blvd., Ocala

Spanish Speaking Grupo Mano Abierta

7:00pm every Friday
2082 Walnut Street, Dunnellon

Saturday

Eat 'n Speak

Ocala Group
Last Saturday of the month
Eat: 7:00pm Speaker: 8:00pm
Small fee for meal All welcome.
St. Mark's United Methodist
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Spanish Speaking Grupo Mano Abierta

7:00pm every Saturday
2082 Walnut Street, Dunnellon

Sunday

Intergroup 17 Monthly

5:15 pm second Sunday of month
Intergroup Reps. All welcome.
St. Mark's United Methodist
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Newer Meetings

The Come As You Are Women's Group

Big Book, first Tuesday of month
Speaker, last Tuesday of month

Thursday Night Step Group

Closed Step Meeting
Thursdays, 8 pm
South Ocala Baptist Church
2907 SE 52nd St, Ocala, FL

Living Sober Group Picnic Sunday, October 4



**Dinner 6:00 pm
Speaker 7:30 pm**

Please bring a dish or dessert to share.

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
7171 SW Highway 200**

New Meeting Needs Your Support

Open Discussion, 7 pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Zion United Methodist Church
1605 Blichton Road
(Corner ML King Blvd & Blichton, north of the railroad crossing)

**Carry the message.
Receive the blessing.**

First Contact

"Is this AA? Well, um . . . I think I might have a drinking problem . . . Can you help me?"



**Can YOU?
Yes YOU can!
Will YOU?**

Just say "Yes" to answering 12th Step calls, We'll show you the rest. Call Intergroup to learn more. 352 857-0660

October at the Lost and Found Club 339 NE Sanchez Avenue (NE 4th St. & Tusawilla Park). 352-351-4688

10/3 Saturday: Monthly Dance. 9 pm—midnight.

10/7 Friday: Pool tournament. 9:20 pm.

10/17 Saturday: Bingo!!!!!! 9 pm-??

10/24 Saturday: Bingo!!!!!! 9 pm-??

10/31 Saturday: Bingo!!!!!! 9 pm-??

The Lost and Found Club is not affiliated with Alcoholics Anonymous World Services or Intergroup 17. Local AA groups rent space from the club for meetings and other events.

Some meeting times are now available for local AA groups. Inquire at the club.

Special Events and Celebrations

KanYuKanuu? Kayak2?



Paddle to the Picnic
 3rd Bi-Annual
 Celebrate Sobriety
 Silver Springs Canoe Trip
 Sunday, October 25

Bring your own or rent a canoe.
 Meet at Wilderness RV Park: 9:16 am
 2771 NE 102nd Ave Rd, Silver Springs FL
 Canoes in water and trip prayer: 10:00 am
 Paddle to picnic. Paddle back at 1 pm

Rentals: Call Carolyn at Wilderness,
 352.624.1122. Ask for Will Enderley's block
 of canoes. \$30 per day. Holds 2 or 3

Want more info?
Email Will: hdwildfire@aol.com
Call: 352.804.3331

tHe wEiR CrAzY gRoUp "wEiR wEir HaPpY"

Sixth Anniversary Gratitude Celebration

Wednesday, November 25
Food and fellowship 6:00PM
Speaker 7:00PM
Fred B , Ormond Beach , Fl

St. John Lutheran Church
 10495 Sunset Harbor Rd
 Summerfield/Weirsdale Florida

Group will provide meat, cheese,
 rolls, chips, coffee, and soft drinks.
PLEASE bring a nice covered dish
 or desert to express your
 thanks...giving

For more information
 Michelle M. 352.303.7344
 Michelle Y. 352.216.0304

First Anniversary Dinner!

The Start a New Life Big Book Step Study Group



Saturday, October 10
Lunch 12:00 pm
Speaker 1:00 pm

Bring a covered dish and
 join the celebration!

ALL WELCOME
 St Mark's UMC
 839 Eighth Rd. Ocala, Florida

Mark Your Calendar

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

- 10/3** District 32 Pass It On Party, Day-
 tona, <http://www.aadaytona.org/PassItOn.pdf>
- 10/4** Living Sober Group Picnic, p. 8
- 10/9-11** North Florida Area Assembly,
 Gainesville, www.aanorthflorida.org/events
- 10/10** Start a New Life Anniversary, p 9
- 10/11** Intergroup 17 Meeting, Ocala, p. 4
- 10/23-25** Suncoast Roundup, St. Pete,
www.suncoastroundup.org/Suncoast_Flyer.pdf
- 10/25** Intergroup 17. Fall Picnic, p. 5
- 10/25** Celebrate Sobriety canoe trip, p. 9
- 10/29** District 17 Meeting, Ocala, p. 10
- 10/31** YPG Halloween Party. Ocala. P. 10
- 10/31** Whoopee Costume Party, Day-
 tona, www.aadaytona.org/Whoopee32.pdf
- 11/21** District 17 Gratitude Dinner p. 10
- 11/25** Weir Crazy Anniversary. P. 9
- 2/11-14, 2010** 46th International
 Women's conference, Orlando
www.internationalwomensconference.org

Inventory Clearance Sale. Save 30 to 45%! Recovery related literature. Great bargains. Great gifts.

Intergroup 17 is clearing the shelves of titles we will no longer carry for sale. We're selling them at cost—usually a 30 to 45% savings—so take a look at the list below, If you see something you want, get it today. Supply limited to current stock. Purchase at Intergroup office. Call for more information 352-867-0660. All AA literature in stock at regular prices.

Daily Meditation Books

- The Promise of a New Day
- Free at Last
- A Day at a Time
- Night Light
- Answers in the Heart
- Touchstones
- Today I Will Do One Thing
- Time to Fly Free
- Wisdom to Know
- Believing in Myself
- Daybreak
- The Color of Light
- Twenty-four Hours a Day for Teens
- Gratitude
- Serenity
- The Wrath of Grapes
- Just for Today

Self-Help Books

- Children of the Healer
- Lost Feathers
- My Search for Bill W
- Not God
- Things My Sponsor Taught Me
- Young, Sober, and Free
- A Place Called Self
- When Parents Love Too Much
- 'The Soul of Sponsorship
- 101 Meeting Starters
- Broken
- Search for Serenity
- Walk Softly and Carry a Big Book
- Helping a Loved One
- Just for Today
- The Eye Opener



Intergroup 17 Meetings Everyone invited!

Open to all. Learn more about AA, Intergroup, and the great opportunities for service work within our local AA community.

Next Meeting
Sunday, October 11, 5:15 pm
St Mark's United Methodist
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Group Representatives

Please send your contact info to: ocalaintergroup@msn.com or call 352-867-0660. Your support is greatly appreciated and needed.

Free Subscription. The Voice by e-mail.



For your free monthly subscription, send an e-mail with "Free Voice" in the subject line to:
ocalaintergroup@msn.com

The Voice by e-mail is in PDF format. Requires Adobe Reader software. Free download available at www.adobe.com. Printed copies available at Intergroup office.

Intergroup 17 Ocala-Marion County Florida

3666-A N.E. 25th Street
Ocala, Florida 34470
Phone: 352-867-0660
Email: ocalaintergroup@msn.com

Hours of operation

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

Website

www.aaocalamarion.org

24-Hour Hotline
352-867-0660

Bigger. Better. More information than ever.

- Where & When online
- The Voice, current and past issues
- Service opportunities
- How to get help
- Upcoming local and regional events
- Links to the Big Book, 12&12, and more

Intergroup 17 ANNUAL FALL PICNIC

Sunday, October 25, 2009
Ray Wayside Park, Boat Basin

Fun starts: 11:00am
Lunch: 12:00 noon

Fabulous food, fun, and fellowship.
See page 5 for details.



Tickets

Adults: \$5 Children: \$3
Add \$1 if purchased at the picnic.
Available from the Intergroup Office
Or ask your Intergroup Rep

Celebrate Sobriety Canoe Trip
See page 9.

LET THESE SPIRITS MOVE YOU



Young People's Group Halloween Party and Dance

Saturday, October 31
9 pm to Midnight
Ocala Livestock Pavilion
2220 NE Jacksonville Road

Fun for all ages.
Everyone welcome!
Prizes for best costume
Refreshments & scary desserts
Children's games for all ages
Advance tickets: \$5
At the door: \$6
Desserts greatly appreciated!

An Attitude of Gratitude District 17 Annual Gratitude Dinner

Saturday, November 21
St. Mark's Fellowship Hall
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala



Tickets \$20. On sale now from your GSR or the Intergroup 17 office.

Groups. Donate a Bountiful Basket for the Raffle!

This year's gratitude dinner will again feature the ever-popular raffle of "goodie" filled baskets provided by District 17 Groups.

All groups are encourage to participate. All proceeds from raffle ticket sales are donated to carrying the AA message. The bigger the basket, the more it will carry.