

The Voice

Volume 26, Number 3

March 2009



One member's voice

My Daily Resolution

A story of experience, strength, and hope

Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.

I had one New Year's resolution this year: To turn my will and my life over to the care of God *as I understand Him*. It's a resolution I need to make every day, including January 1. Ever since I first learned the AA program, I haven't needed any other resolutions.

I came to AA after many failed resolutions: I will never drink this much again. I'm not going to drink today in honor of Good Friday. I'm not going to stay long; I'm just going to stop in for a quick one. I'll have just one more. I'll never drink before playing a tennis match. I'll never drink before my horseback riding lesson. I won't

drink while I'm on this medication. I'm going to cut down. I'm giving it up altogether. Not to mention all the failed resolutions that didn't involve drinking. Finally, I lost all confidence in my ability to keep resolutions—and that was a good thing.

Step 3 is a resolution—a decision. When I was a newcomer, some members of my group would always emphasize the word “decision” in Step 3. Somebody would always tell the story about frogs on a log. (If three frogs are floating on a log and one decides to jump in, how many frogs are on the log? Three. He only made a *decision*.) I thought this was pretty silly. If the frog really made the

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Third Tradition Checklist

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

Who can measure what is in the heart of another? He may not say he wants it, or act as if he does, but if the desire is in his heart, even unknown to himself, that is enough.

Third Tradition Checklist

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 over-impressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? 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 has been to AA before? What his other problems are?

From the *AA Grapevine*, February 1970. Reprinted by permission.

When you come to the end of all you know . . . You must believe one of two things . . . There will be ground on which to stand . . . Or . . . You will be given wings . . .



A quote for March

“Faith is more than our greatest gift. Its sharing with others is our greatest responsibility.”

*Bill W.
The Language of the Heart*

Congratulations March Birthdays!



This issue we celebrate anniversaries of our local AA family members that add up to a collective 355 years. That's 129,575 days of sobriety One Day at a Time!

David A. 31 years Willy A. 30 years John J. 29 years Linda 26 years Judy Q. 24 years Donna P. 23 years Carson F. 22 years John M. 19 years Mike I. 19 years Penny B. 18 years Carol W. 17 years Brenda Mc. 11 years Mary Anne B. 10 years Bill J. 8 years Rich B. 8 years Dennis A. 5 years	Mary M. 5 years Richard C. 5 years Tom C. 5 years Brandon 4 years Nancy M. 4 years Renee V. 4 years Melissa 2 years Cynthia O. 2 years Jennifer H. 2 years Chad I. 2 years	<p>MORE TO CELEBRATE</p> <p>FEBRUARY 2009</p> Richard 4 years Alice Marie R. 1 year	<p>JANUARY</p> Jim S. 15 years
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Please share your AA birthday with all. Deadline for March birthdays is March 20. E-mail to ocalaintergroup@msn.com or telephone 352-867-0660.

March by the Books

STEP THREE

“Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over the care of God as we understood him.”

Practicing Step Three is like the opening of a door which to all appearances is still closed and locked. All we need is the key, and it is called willingness. Once unlocked by willingness, the door opens almost of itself, and looking through it, we shall see a pathway beside which is an inscription. It reads: “This is the way to a faith that works.”

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Page 34

TRADITION THREE

“The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.”

You are a member of A.A. if you say so. You can declare yourself in; nobody can keep you out. No matter how long you’ve gone, no matter how low you’ve gone, no matter how grave your emotional complications – even your crimes – we don’t want to keep you out. We just want to make sure you have the same chance for sobriety that we have had.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Page 139

CONCEPT THREE

As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

Our entire A.A. program rests squarely upon the principle of mutual trust. We trust God, we trust A.A., we trust each other. Therefore, we cannot do less than trust our leaders in service. The “Right of Decision” that we offer them is not only the practical means by which they may act but it is also the symbol of our implicit confidence.

Twelve Concepts for World Service

Service opportunities.

Your service is greatly needed.
 Please help take the message to fellow alcoholics in local Correctional Institutions.
 Applications available at Intergroup 17 office.

Women's Meetings

There is an unmet need to carry the message to women in prison (women only). You could play a vital role. For more information, call Sherry R. at 352-622-4711

Men's Meetings

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

Hotline and 12-Step calls

You could be the hand of AA when someone reaches out.

Intergroup has a critical need for volunteers to help staff our 24-Hour Hotline after business hours from their own homes and to help respond to 12-Step calls. One year of sobriety required. Call Intergroup 17 to volunteer: 352-867-0660.

You've got a friend in the hospital.

Eddie F. is organizing meetings for hospital-bound members of our fellowship and asks for your help in carrying the message.
 Cell phone: 352-207-5144. Office: 352-237-8800.
 E-mail: eddie@ferrentinoandson.com

Heard it through *The Grapevine*? Donate your old copies to help carry the message.

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. The District 17 Grapevine Committee will make sure the copies are delivered where they'll do the most good. Just think: recycling not only saves trees, it might help save a drunk.

Publicize your service opportunities here.

Send full details to:
ocalintergroup@msn.com
 Or call 352-867-0660



Everything I needed to know about life,
 I learned from Noah's Ark.

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember we're all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float awhile.
10. Remember the ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm, when you're with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Hello Friends,

Just wanted to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers. My surgery went well and I am trying to make sure that my recovery does the same. Thanks to my volunteers who keep Intergroup open, up and running on a daily basis. You guys are the bestest!!!!

Love and Peace,

Cindy Mc



District 17 to host Grapevine Room at next Area Assembly Volunteers needed.

If you plan to attend North Florida Area Assembly in April (see next column), consider volunteering some of your time to helping staff the Grapevine Room, a special area set aside for subscription services and other publication related activities. Call Nancy to volunteer: 352-840-0198

Next District meeting. March 26.

Group Service Representatives and anyone interested in service or just leaning what District 17 is and does, please come to the next district meeting. Thursday, March 26, 2009, 6:00 pm, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 1839 N.E. 8th Avenue, Ocala, FL. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

North Florida Area Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous Area Assembly

April 3-5, 2009. Paramount Resort and Conference Center
2900 SW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL

Friday, April 3

6 to 8 pm Registration
8 to 9 pm Discussion meeting

Saturday, April 4

7 to 8 am Poolside discussion meeting
9 am to 12:15 pm New GSR and DCM orientations, workshops, officer meetings, and much more.
12:15-1:30 pm Lunch
1:30 to 6 pm Workshops and meetings continue
6 to 8:30 pm Dinner
10 to 11 pm Ice cream social.

Sunday, April 5

9 am to Noon Business meeting

Please note:

- All members of AA are invited to attend all functions.
- Only voting DCMs & GSRs or their alternates in their absence may vote at the business meeting on Sunday. Participants must be seated by 9:00am Sunday in order to vote.
- Grapevine store is open on Saturday in the Grapevine Room adjacent to registration desk.
- The ice cream social cost is \$5. (It has been known to ruin a diet but warm a heart.)

Find complete meeting information and full agenda at
www.aanorthflorida.org

My Daily Resolution

Continued from page 1

decision, he's gonna get wet. Why pretend he's not? They're just playing mind games to make the step more palatable to newcomers. Do they think we're stupid? They don't know who they're dealing with.

The Twelve and Twelve said that the key of willingness is all that's required. That sounded condescending, manipulative, and scary. I could see where willingness might take me, and I couldn't separate the willingness from whatever comes after.

Well, I hitched up my brand new humility and decided to let them manipulate me. I had admitted to myself that I was in big trouble. I had come to believe that God could and would help me. I knew I had better let him. I decided to step out on faith and not look down.

It turned out they were not manipulating me at all. Step 3 is just a decision. All I have ever had to do is make the decision to be

willing. God does the rest. Just as the book says, this is the way to a faith that works. Again and again, I decide that I'm willing to do God's will. And every time I make the decision, God places the opportunity in front of me and gives me the strength to do it. If I could do it myself, I wouldn't really need God would I? I could just figure out what's right and do it. There may be people who can do that, but I've proven that I'm not one of them. I need God.

Every time I become willing to accept an unacceptable situation, person, place or thing; every time I become willing to see the other person's point of view when I'm sure they're wrong; every time I become willing to help someone when all I want is someone to help me; every time I become willing to forgive some jerk, I am applying Step 3 in my life.

When I become willing to do one of these things, it is not because I have already accepted, or reconsidered, or helped, or forgiven, or whatever. I have only decided to

be willing. And sometimes I'm only willing to become willing.

When I become willing, it isn't because I am "spiritual." It is because I'm practicing some spiritual principles I've learned in AA. In fact, it usually doesn't feel very spiritual. It usually feels like, "OK God, I don't want to, but I guess I'm willing. Please help me."

That is all it ever takes. God does the rest for me as long as I don't lose my resolve and shut the door. I become willing because I know that I must. It's what I've learned to do in AA. And now that I've practiced it for a while, I've seen the results and I've never regretted it. I've seen miracles happen. This is a faith that works.

*Donna P
Ocala Group
Ocala, Florida
March 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

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

Send group contributions to:

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

District 17
P.O. Box 3081
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

Some individual members choose to 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 large and small make a difference. Send to:
Intergroup 17
P.O. Box 1192
Ocala, FL 34478

THANKS!

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

Ocala-Marion Country Group Contributions to Intergroup 17—from June 2008

Group	Fiscal YTD	Group	Fiscal YTD	Group	Fiscal YTD
2nd Step Group	\$ 50.00	Grace Group	\$.22	Primary Purpose	\$ 42.00
11th Step Group		Grateful Gals	\$ 84.00	Shores of Sobriety	\$ 70.00
17th Street Group		Happy Highlanders - Dunnellon		Sisters of Serenity - Ocklawaha	
164 Pages Group	\$ 11.00	Happy Hour Group	\$ 100.00	Start A New Life	\$ 11.55
ACDA		Happy, Joyous & Free	\$ 117.78	Steps and Promises	
ALANON	\$ 90.00	Headstart Group	\$ 461.19	Stop Whining and Sober Up	\$ 50.00
Acceptance	\$ 0.21	It's In The Book		Strength In Numbers - Belleview	
Alive and Well	\$ 30.00	Keep It Simple	\$ 200.21	Summerfield Group	
Anonymity Group		Last Call Group		Sundae Social Group	\$ 175.00
As Bill Sees It - The Villages	\$ 481.05	Last House On The Block		TLC Group - the Centers	\$.34
Belleview Eye Opener Group	\$ 80.00	Life Is Good Sober - The Refuge		TenBroek Group	
Belleview Group	\$ 190.00	Living Sober	\$ 474.19	Unity Group	
Bonfire Group - The Refuge		Lunch Bunch	\$ 250.31	We Give Thanks	\$ 115.00
Breakfast Club	\$ 2315.18	Mano Abierta		We Give Up	\$ 79.00
Came To Believe	\$ 10.40	Marion Oaks Group		Weir Crazy - Summerfield	\$ 375.00
Citra Group	\$ 25.00	McIntosh Group		Young People's Group - YPG	\$ 10.00
Come As You Are		New Attitudes	\$ 142.33		
Conscious Contact		New Life Group	\$ 20.83	BIRTHDAY CLUB	\$ 21.00
Experience, Strength & Hope		No Name Group	\$ 30.00	DOUBLE NICKELS	\$ 20.00
Forest Group	\$ 225.00	Nueva Vida		FAITHFUL FIVERS	\$ 10.00
Ft. McCoy Group	\$ 70.48	Ocala AM Men's Group	\$ 505.00	INDIVIDUALS	\$ 64.06
Fountain of Gratitude - Salt Springs	\$ 170.00	Ocala Group	\$ 1943.41		
Free To Be		Ocklawaha AM Group		DISTRICT 17	\$ 776.00
God's Way Group	\$ 10.78	One Page At A Time			

Local Events and Meetings of Interest

Ocala/Marion County

For a complete listing of the more than 170 meetings of AA per week in Ocala/Marion county visit:

www.aaocalamarion.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, FL

Saturday

Eat 'n Speak

Ocala Group

Last Saturday of the month

Eat: 7:00pm Speaker: 8:00pm

Small fee for meal

EVERYONE INVITED!

St. Mark's United Methodist

1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Spanish Speaking

Grupo Mano Abierta

7:00pm every Saturday

2082 Walnut Street

Dunnellon, FL

Sunday

Intergroup 17 Monthly

5:15 pm second Sunday of month

Intergroup reps. Everyone welcome.

St. Mark's United Methodist

1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Newer Meetings

"No Name Yet" Group

Open meeting, 7:30pm

Every Friday

9200 Sunset Harbor Road

Summerfield, FL

Info: Mike G. 352-245-3272

Lifesaver Group

Starting March

Open meeting, 12:00 noon

Monday through Saturday

Recovery Road at CornerStone Ctr.

6789 SW Highway 200

Ocala

Special Invitation

One Page at a Time Group

Big Book Study Meeting

Sundays, 4:00 pm

Unity Place

525 NE Sanchez Ave, Ocala, FL

New Groups



Monarch Overcomers Group

Tuesday through Friday

6:00 pm

15509 SW 34th Ct. Rd.

Marion Oaks

More info: 352.207.6011

Day by Day Group

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm

200 SW 40th Lot 12

Ocala, FL

More info: 352-629-2894

New Beginnings Group

Fridays 7:30 pm

Sunset Harbor Baptist Church

9200 SE Sunset Harbor Road

Summerfield, FL

More info: 352-283-0778

An attitude of gratitude The Belleview Group

A special thanks to Intergroup and all who have helped spread the news of our new address:

Belleview Lions Club

5850 Lillian Circle

Belleview, FL 33420

(On Lake Lillian)

Fridays 5 pm, 6:30 pm, & 8pm

Mondays 8 pm

Y'all come see us now!

Intergroup 17 ANNUAL PICNIC



**Sunday
May 31, 2009**
Mark Your Calendar!
Ray Wayside Park
Boat Basin

FOOD, FUN, and GAMES
for the Kids

There will be an **AUCTION** this year! So start thinking about donating some nice stuff that's has just been sitting around doing nothing. **NO JUNK PLEASE.** Details on times, tickets, activities, and how and where to donate auction items coming soon.

Join the Intergroup 17 Birthday Club

Celebrate an AA anniversary—yours or another member's—with a contribution to help Intergroup 17 carry the message to other alcoholics in Ocala and Marion County.

To join, send name, sobriety date, years of sobriety, and a donation—suggested is \$1 for each year of sobriety.

Make checks payable to and send with celebrant's information to:

Intergroup 17
3666-A N.E. 25th Street
Ocala, Florida 34470



INTERGROUP 17 1st Round-Up Speaker Meeting



Hosted by
**Happy, Joyous &
Free Group**

**Saturday
April 18, 2009**
St. Matthews Lutheran Church
3452 N.E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Ocala, Florida

Detailed flyers coming soon!

Check out Intergroup 17 online
www.aocalamarion.org

Regional Events and Meetings

**Lake Sumter Intergroup
Back to Basics Workshop**
March 28, 2009
Leesburg Community Center
109 East Dixie Avenue
Leesburg, FL

Intensive one-day workshop led by Wally P. of Tucson, Arizona. Modeled on the original Beginners Meeting format from the 1940s. All Twelve Steps in one day.

Registration fee: \$25. Dinner and speaker: additional \$15. Each fee increases \$5 after March 28, 2009. Registration forms available at Intergroup 17, Ocala. For more information, contact Rhonda H. at 352-787-3340 or 352-504-1953.

**North Florida Area
Conference of
Alcoholics Anonymous
Area Assembly**

April 3-5, 2009
Paramount Resort Conference Center
2900 SW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL.
See details page 4.

Plan Ahead
53rd Florida State Convention
July 29th - August 2, 2009
Jacksonville, Florida

Speakers from around the U.S.A.
Marathon Meetings
Family Workshops
Young People Meeting
Buffet Friday
Golf Tournament
Horseshoes Tournament
Comedian Jeff Allen
5k Run/Walk
Ice Cream Socials

Dances and Entertainment
Non-English Speaking Meetings
Grapevine
Dr. Bob's Archives
Old Timers Meeting
Meditation Meetings
Al-Anon & Alateen
More information:
www.53.flstateconvention.com

Book your hotel room now!
www.jacksonville.hyatt.com

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront
225 East Coastline Drive,
Jacksonville, Florida, USA 32202
Tel: +1 904 588 1234
Fax: +1 904 634 4554

Publicize your special events or meetings in The Voice. Send complete details including contact information to ocalaintergroup@msn.com or call: 352-867-0660.



**Intergroup 17 Meetings
You're invited!**

Anyone interested is urged to attend and learn more about all the great opportunities for service work within our local AA community.

Next Meeting

Sunday, April 12, 5:15 pm
St Mark's United Methodist
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Intergroup Reps., please send your contact info to:
ocalaintergroup@msn.com or call
352-867-0660.

**Intergroup 17
Ocala-Marion County
Florida**

3666-A N.E. 25th Street, Ocala, Florida 34470
Phone: 352-867-0660 Fax: 352-867-7819
Email: ocalaintergroup@msn.com

Hours of operation

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

Website

www.aocalamarion.org

24-Hour Hotline

352-867-0660

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 sent by e-mail is in PDF format and can be read using Adobe Reader. Free download available at www.adobe.com. Printed copies available at Intergroup office.

**INTERGROUP 17, Inc.
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Ocala, Florida 34470**

Stamp