

The Voice

Volume 26, Number 4

April 2009



One member's voice

Keeping it green

A story of experience, strength, and hope

Step Four: Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves"

During my sobriety, I've experienced different attitudes and feelings about doing a fourth step. I can remember some fear and trepidation early on, and at the same time being really ready to jump in and find out what's going on in me so I can fix it.

My sponsor gave me copies of a form with several columns on it. I listed my resentments—who I was resentful at, the cause, and the areas that applied to me. I did pretty much the same for my fears and sex inventory. I did this all from a point of low self-esteem. I felt pretty bad about myself and my behavior, but I seemed to get some relief when I did a fifth step. So I

considered the exercise necessary punishment.

Around my fifth year of sobriety, I had a ton of resentments, did a fourth step again, and felt worse. All I could see was my lack of self-worth and low self-esteem with no solution. Having no faith in the writing process, over the next few years I just did a lot of talking with my sponsor and other friends in the program, but I never got to any root causes of my resentments.

A year after the break-up of a marriage, I still held some deep-seated resentments, and talking only helped on the surface. I knew it really wasn't working. Then, seemingly when I became very willing, I discovered a set of tapes and a workbook that laid out

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Spring into Action

Check out the pages of this month's Voice to make sure you don't miss any of the great services opportunities and activities coming up in April and May.

A quote for April

"The verdict of the ages is that men of faith seldom lack courage."

Bill W.
As Bill Sees It
Page 129

First-ever Ocala Roundup, April 25.

Food. Fellowship. Speakers. Noon to 4 pm. And it's free!



That's right. Happy, Joyous & Free group will host Intergroup 17's first Roundup on April 25 from noon until 4 pm at St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 3452 North East Silver Springs Boulevard.

What's a roundup?

You'll have to attend to really find out, but you can't go wrong with an AA event that includes free food, warm fellowship, inspiring speakers, and more.

Lunch is on the house

Intergroup 17 will provide the entrees for a good, old fashioned potluck at noon. Please bring a nice side dish, salad, bread or desert to share as we fellowship.

Inspiring speakers & more

- Arlene W., Al-Anon Speaker, 1:30 pm
- Shawn W., AA Speaker, 2:30 pm

Hats off to Happy, Joyous & Free

A big thank you to our hosts—Happy, Joyous & Free. If you're looking for service work, volunteers are needed for all sorts of Roundup related activities.

For more information, please call Jackie at 352-895-1588 or Cindy Mc at 352-425-6392.

Congratulations April Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate anniversaries of our local AA family members that add up to a collective 183 years. That's 129,575 days of sobriety One Day at a Time!

Jimmy G	27 years	Marie B	3 years
Gil G	25 years	Lourie J	2 years
Dan E	24 years	Matthew K	2 years
Sherry R	20 years	Richard E	2 years
Mike I	19 years	Rick L	1 year
Tim B	17 years	Ronnie S	1 year
Lisa W	14 years		
Tara	14 years		
Geno F	12 years	March	
Buddy S	9 years	Linda H	8 years
Will E	6 years	Greg B	3 years
Cree G	5 years		
Al W	4 years		
Caroline L	4 years		
Jim J	4 years		

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

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

District Corner

Next District 17 meeting. April 30.

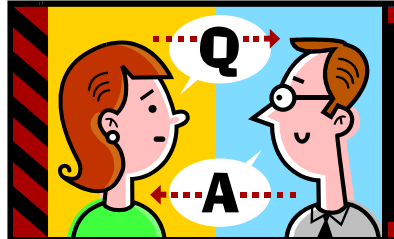
Group Service Representatives and anyone interested in service or just leaning what District 17 does, please come to the next district meeting. Thursday, April 26, 2009, 6:00 pm, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 1839 N.E. 8th Avenue, Ocala, FL. All are welcome to attend.

AA Grapevine is having a contest!

They're looking for one special word. Complete this sentence:
"AA Grapevine is ..."

Details at www.aagrapevine.org

The answer: AA Jeopardy. The question: Will you be there?



The classic TV game show played a whole new way.

Test your knowledge of AA. Win prizes. Learn something new.

Hosted by District 17
Lunch provided.
Please bring a dessert to share.

May 16, 2009
Noon to 3:00 pm

Druid Hills United Methodist Church
1712 SE Lake Weir Avenue
(Corner of 17th Street and Lake Weir Avenue)

NEED Something? Tried Intergroup 17?



Books, Medallions, Cards and Recovery-Oriented Gifts

Intergroup 17
3666 N.E. 25th Street
PH: 352-867-0660

Recovery House Cookout

April 25. 2 pm until ??

Ribs. Chicken. Hot dogs. Hamburgers. And more. No charge. Donations accepted to benefit house upkeep.

243 NW 4th Terrace, Ocala, FL
Behind Interfaith Building

Suggested donation: \$4

Service Opportunities.

Intergroup 17 Spring Clean Up.

Sunday, April 19. Grab a mop. Dust a shelf. Help get our office in shape. And feel good about it. Rick B: 352.789.9557

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). 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.

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.

Take Meetings at 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

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 Offices, or coordinate a group effort through your GSR. Just think: recycling not only saves trees, it might help save a drunk.



Publicize your service opportunity.

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

April by the Books

STEP FOUR

"Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves."

Step four is our vigorous and painstaking effort to discover what these liabilities in each of us have been, and are. We want to find exactly how, when and where our natural desires have warped us. We wish to look squarely at the unhappiness this has caused others and ourselves. By discovering what our emotional deformities are, we can move toward their correction. Without a willing and persistent effort to do this, there can little sobriety or contentment for us. Without a searching and fearless moral inventory, most of us have found that the faith which really works in daily living is still out of reach.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, pp. 42, 43

TRADITION FOUR

"Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A. A. as a whole."

Over the years, every conceivable deviation from our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions has been tried. That was sure to be, since we are so largely a band of ego-driven individualists. Children of chaos, we have defiantly played with every brand of fire, only to emerge unharmed and, we think, wiser. These very deviations created a vast process of trial and error which under the grace of God, has brought us to where we stand today

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 146

CONCEPT FOUR

"Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "RIGHT OF PARTICIPATION," taking care that each classification or group of or world servants be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge."

Twelve Concepts of World Service, p. 17

Help us clean up our act! Intergroup 17 Spring Cleaning.

Spend a few hours helping get the Intergroup 17 office in tip-top shape. It's a great service opportunity and a wonderful way to share some constructive time with members of the fellowship.



Sunday, April 19. Volunteers needed.

3666-A NE 25th Street, Ocala, FL

To volunteer, call Rick B: 352-789-9557

~First Contact~



"Is this AA? Well, um.....

I think I might have a drinking problem..... Can you help me?"

Can YOU? Will YOU?

Yes YOU can!

Sign up. We'll show you what to do next.

Come to Intergroup 17 meeting. Sunday, April 12, 5:15 pm. St. Mark's United Methodist, 1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala. Thanks.

KEEPING IT GREEN

Continued from page one

the fourth step in a way I had never seen it.

I started reading from the bottom of page 60 where it says, "The first requirement is that we be convinced that any life run on self-will can hardly be a success." I had to see from my inventory where I had been playing a role and when a person, institution or principle was not in alignment with my wishes a resentment resulted.

It was important for me to identify the characters or roles I had assigned myself to play, and those I had assigned to others. Next to these I could list my associated fears (that would become my fear inventory). I learned that unless the characters—which I didn't even know I was playing—die, and I see myself and others as children of God, I would never be able to make amends. I then saw clearly how the fourth step sets the stage for the next five steps.

I also learned that I couldn't progress until I saw the positive side of the statement "my troubles are of my own making." (It helps me to bring *The Big Book* into the first person.) The only person that really needed to change was me. This is referenced on page 66 of *The Big Book* when "we turned back to our list" and looked at it from an entirely different angle.

So I had an important consideration to make and realization to come to: Where have I done the same thing to another person that I resented when it was done to me. That one exercise started the process of setting me free from the delusion—self-dishonesty—that others had done me wrong. That was the part I didn't want to see: That I had done some of the same stuff at different times of my life to others. Egos are like that. We want to think well of ourselves, but we know deep down that there may be more to the story. Therein lies the source of that continual irritability and moods. I could then look, in order, at my self-seeking actions, my selfish attitudes, my dishonesty (the lies I tell myself), and my underlying fears. And there it was: My fears drive the delusions that result in my attitudes that are behind my actions.

Since I already had the fears on paper, I asked myself why I had them. For each answer I asked the same question until I whittled the list down to only one or two basic fears. Whatever the basic fears happen to be, the bottom line is that self-reliance fails us. That's the point.

All this stuff I've written in my inventory is the result of seeing that first requirement on page 60 that I be convinced that *my life* run on *my will* can hardly be a success.

That's what all the writing showed me. Until I put it down in black and white, I couldn't see it. I also saw clearly how I fooled myself about the value of holding onto a lot of the stuff in my inventory. As the Big Book says, "If the owner of the business is to be successful, he cannot fool himself about values."

I don't have space here to explain fully this wonderful and liberating exercise, but the main idea seems to be that when I became willing and had the right teachers, the Big Book came alive for me. When I see how it all fits together, I have a new experience. That's the key: Keeping it green and always having a current experience with the fellowship, the steps, and the God who I don't understand, but who understands me and gives me light when I am willing to receive it.

By Al C.
Ocala, Florida. April 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

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 to be there. For that I am responsible.

Ocala-Marion County Group Contributions to Intergroup 17—from June 2009

Group	Fiscal YTD	Group	Fiscal YTD	Group	Fiscal YTD
2nd Step Group	\$ 50.00	Grace Group		Primary Purpose	\$ 64.00
11th Step Group		Grateful Gals	\$ 84.00	Shores of Sobriety	\$ 180.00
17th Street Group		Happy Highlanders - Dunnellon		Sisters of Serenity - Ocklawaha	
164 Pages Group	\$ 11.00	Happy Hour Group	\$ 100.00	Start A New Life	\$ 33.60
ACOA		Happy, Joyous & Free	\$ 617.78	Steps and Promises	
ALANDN	\$ 60.00	Headstart Group	\$ 596.85	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	
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	\$ 25.00	We Give Up	\$ 99.89
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	\$ 256.20		
Conscious Contact	\$ 629.94	New Life Group	\$ 20.83	BIRTHDAY CLUB	\$ 99.00
Experience, Strength & Hope		No Name Group	\$ 76.35	DOUBLE NICKELS	\$ 40.00
Forest Group	\$ 225.00	Nueva Vida		FAITHFUL FIVERS	\$ 10.00
Ft. McCoy Group	\$ 100.48	Ocala AM Men's Group	\$ 505.00	INDIVIDUALS	\$ 72.21
Fountain of Gratitude - Salt Springs	\$ 210.29	Ocala Group	\$ 2531.47		
Free To Be	\$ 30.00	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

New Groups & Meetings

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

"No Name Yet" Group

Open meeting, 7:30pm

Every Friday

9200 Sunset Harbor Road

Summerfield, FL

Info: Mike G. 352-245-3272

Lifesaver Group

Open meeting, 12:00 noon

Monday through Saturday

Recovery Road at CornerStone Ctr.

6789 SW Highway 200

Ocala

Special Events

See details elsewhere
in this issue.

Sunday, April 19

Intergroup 17 Spring Clean-up

Saturday, April 25

Intergroup 17 Roundup

St. Matthews, Noon to 4 pm

Recovery House Cookout

2 pm until. Ocala

Wednesday, May 13

5th Annual Miracles in May
w/EiR crazy gRoUp, Summerfield

Saturday, May 16

AA Jeopardy

Druid Hills, Noon to 3 pm

Sunday, May 31

Spring Picnic, Intergroup 17

Ray Wayside Park

2nd Bi-Annual Celebrate Sobriety

Silver Springs Canoe Trip

Special Invitation 11th Step Meeting

Sundays, 8 pm

South Ocala Baptist Church

2907 SE 52nd Street, Ocala, FL

Closed Meeting

**wEiR CRAzY Group
presents
5th Annual
Miracles In May Celebration
Wednesday, May 13, 2009**

6:00 pm Cook Out

The wEiR crazy GrOup will provide hamburgers, hot dogs,
soft drinks & coffee

Please bring a covered dish or dessert.

7:00 pm a Very Special Speaker

Cecilia R.
Cocoa, Fl

Bring your favorite chair or blanket

The wEiR crazy GrOup
St. Johns Lutheran Church
10495 Sunset Harbor Rd ,
Summerfield/Weirsdale, FL

For More Info

Michelle M 352-303-7334 or Michelle Y 352-216-0304

*"The Age of Miracles is still with us,
Our own recovery proves that!"*

The Big Book, page 153

**Intergroup 17
ANNUAL PICNIC
Sunday, May 31, 2009**

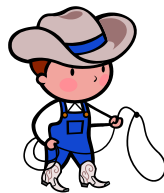


**Mark Your Calendar!
Ray Wayside Park
Boat Basin**

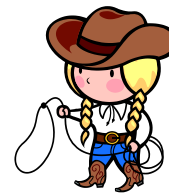
FOOD, FUN, and GAMES for the Kids

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.**



**THE OCALA
ROUNDUPS
BEGIN**



**FIRST INTERGROUP 17 ROUNDUP
SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2009
FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP
NOON to 4:00 PM**

EVERYONE'S INVITED TO JOIN IN!

LUNCH ON THE HOUSE

Grab your plate at noon.
Entrees provided by Intergroup 17.
Please bring a side dish, salad,
bread, or desert to share

SPECIAL SPEAKERS

1:30 Arlene W, Al-Anon
2:30 Shawn W, Alcoholics Anonymous

HOSTED BY

Happy, Joyous & Free Group

LOCATION

St. Matthews Lutheran Church
3452 North East Silver Springs Boulevard
Ocala, FL

MORE INFORMATION

Jackie: 352-895-1588
Cindy Mc: 352-425-6392

Canoe to the Picnic!



**2nd Bi-Annual Celebrate Sobriety
Silver Springs Canoe Trip**

Sunday, May 31

Bring your own or rent a canoe.

Meet at Wilderness RV Park: 9:16 am

Canoes in the water and trip prayer: 10:00 am

Rentals: 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



**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.
3666-A NE 25th Street
Ocala, Florida 34470**

Stamp