

The Voice

Volume 26, Number 5

May 2009



One member's voice

Building an arch

A story of experience, strength, and hope

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

When asked to write a piece on Step Five I had to reflect back on what it was like for me. I came into Alcoholics Anonymous willing to do whatever it took to stay sober. I was raised in the Catholic Church, so going into a confessional and telling a priest everything you had done since your last confession was not unusual. I had long since stopped going to church or telling a priest anything.

During my drinking, I was taken to a crisis unit where I ended up talking to a shrink for a couple of months. Then one day, he pronounced that I was well enough to go out and meet the

world. The bottom line was I had never told him anything about myself or my drinking problem. I only told him what I wanted him to know and think about me.

After taking the first four steps of the Alcoholics Anonymous program—and by now understanding honesty was the guiding principle for me as an alcoholic—I knew that I was actually going to have to sit down with my Fourth Step and share it with another human being. The Fifth Step is definitely an action step and taking it will mean that we have shared the exact nature of our character defects with another human being.

It is clearly pointed out in *The Big Book* of Alcoholics Anonymous, "If we
—Continued page 4

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-Coming this Month-

Intergroup 17 Spring Picnic
AA Jeopardy
Miracles in May Celebration
Celebrate Sobriety Canoe Trip
Full details page 7

A quote for May

"When we are honest with another person, it confirms that we have been honest with ourselves and with God."

As Bill Sees It, page 17

Intergroup 17 Spring Picnic

Sunday, May 31, 2009

11:00am to 3:00pm, Ray Wayside Park

All invited. Purchase tickets in advance - save a buck!



It picnic time again.

"GrillMaster Bob" will be serving up chicken, burgers, and hot dogs. There's side dishes and beverages too. Bring a dessert to share.

Intergroup 17 Auction. Please donate some nice stuff. We'll pick it up and store it until the picnic. This is **service work at its most fun!**

"DJ Ron" of *An Affair To Remember*, will provide our musical fun and games. (Yep! Bring your hoola-hoops!)

Like to play games? There will be a variety of games for children of all ages. And, you can win neat **prizes!** For the **big kids**—volleyball and horseshoes.

Ticket on sale May 4.

- Advance Tickets
- Adults - \$5
- Children - \$3
- Add \$1 if you pay at the picnic

Directions: Go east on Highway 40 past Silver Springs resort about 3 miles. Ray Wayside Park is on the right just before Ocklawaha Bridge.

Congratulations May Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate anniversaries of our local AA family members that add up to a collective 279 years. That's 101,835 days of sobriety. One Day at a Time!

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Dan J. | 26 years |
| "Footprints" Jack | 26 years |
| Rich F | 26 years |
| John B | 18 years |
| Kevin L | 8 years |
| Mike D | 7 years |
| David S | 6 years |
| Mike P | 5 years |
| Brandon | 4 years |
| Gene P | 4 years |
| Bryan A | 3 years |
| Crystal M | 3 years |
| Tom B | 1 year |
| Stacy W | 1 year |
| Steve K | 1 year |

April Birthdays

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| Cooch | 40 years |
| Posey | 28 years |
| Kelly T | 21 years |
| Charley Mc | 11 years |
| Tracy | 15 years |
| Liza W | 14 years |
| Rex C | 10 years |
| Sallie C | 7 years |
| Tammy H (#1) | 5 years |
| Fred C | 3 years |
| Joe M | 3 years |
| Brett | 2 years |
| Rene | 2 years |

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| Francine | 2 years |
| Tammy H (#2) | 2 years |
| Rick F | 1 year |

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

Join the Birthday Club

Celebrate your sobriety with a gift to Intergroup 17. Suggested donation: \$1 or more for each year. Send to address on back page.

DISTRICT 17 Corner

Check out these AA committees: Accessibilities; Archives; Cooperation with Professionals in the Community/ Public Information; Corrections; Grapevine; Literature; and Treatment. These too: Gratitude; Intergroup; and Workshops Subcommittee.

Curious to know what they do?
Come To Our Next Meeting!

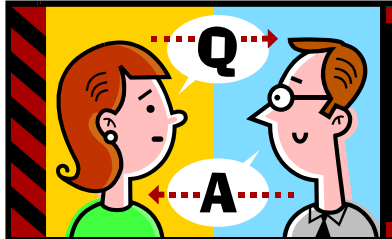
**Thursday
May 28 @ 6:00pm
St. Marks UMC**

NEED Something? Tried Intergroup?



Books, Medallions,
Cards and
Recovery-Oriented
Gifts
**Intergroup 17
3666 N.E. 25th Street
PH: 352-867-0660**

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.

~Saturday~
May 16, 2009
Noon to 3:00pm

Druid Hills United Methodist Church
1712 S.E. Lake Weir Avenue - Ocala, FL
(Corner of 17th Street and Lake Weir Avenue)

THANK YOU Happy, Joyous, & Free

And to all the super dedicated members and other volunteers who gave their time and energy in service to make the 1st Ocala Round-Up Meeting on Saturday April 25 such a resounding success.



Hats off to all who helped and attended. Let's do it again sometime!

Service Opportunities!

Do it outdoors. Help with the Spring Picnic. Sunday, May 31.

Help out with the auction. Lead a kids' game. Grill a chicken. Dish up some beans. Clean up afterwards. Mix service and play, and feel good about it. Call Chris: 209-1904.

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 Office, 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:
ocalintergroup@msn.com
 Or call 352-867-0660

May by the Books

STEP FIVE

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

Somehow, being alone with God doesn't seem as embarrassing as facing up to another person. Until we actually sit down and talk about what we have so long hidden, our willingness to clean house is still largely theoretical. When we are honest with another person, it confirms that we have been honest with ourselves and with God.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 60

TRADITION FIVE

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

A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.

The A.A. Service Manual page 5

Faith is more than our greatest gift; its sharing with others is our greatest responsibility. May we of A.A. continually seek the wisdom and the willingness by which we may well fulfill that immense trust which the Giver of all perfect gifts has placed in our hands.

AA Grapevine, April 1961

CONCEPT FIVE

"Throughout our world services structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that the minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered."

The "Right of Appeal" recognizes that minorities frequently can be right; that even when they are in error they still perform a valuable service when they compel a thorough-going debate on important issues. The well-heard minority, therefore is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry minority.

The Twelve Concepts for World Service, page 8

Groups! Put the *Where and When* On your Tradition Five checklist.

Is your group's *Where and When* meeting information accurate? Up-to-date? Even there?

One way to keep the Fifth Tradition alive and to fulfill your group's primary purpose "to carry the message" is to make sure others know when you meet and where. That's why Intergroup 17 publishes *Where and When*, the complete schedule of AA meetings in Ocala and Marion County.

The alcoholic who still suffers, the newcomer to AA, or even the old-timer just passing through town will have a lot easier time finding you and receiving "the message" if you make information about your meeting easily available.

To check out your listing, visit the Intergroup 17 website at www.aaocalamarion.org or pick up a printed copy at Intergroup office. If you need to make a correction and create a new listing, submit your information by email to ocalaintergroup@msn.com, telephone 352-867-0660, or mail to the office (address on back cover).

BUILDING AN ARCH

—Continued from page one

skip this vital step, we may not overcome drinking." As I said, I was willing to do anything, because by the time I got to the Fifth Step I was starting to experience a new way of life and was not about to give it up for anything. I was not in favor of taking this step with my sponsor. I loved her but felt she was too old for me to tell her some of my inventory.

I was blessed at the time with a gal named Pat from California who was a member of my group. I felt that Pat was open-minded, and I needed that assurance. I prayed before disclosing myself to Pat.

She was just the right person for me. She was younger than my sponsor, but when I shared the secret that I would have "gone to the grave with," she shared a similar life experience of hers with me. I felt awed and relieved. From that point forth I had no problem telling her the whole story.

I felt such relief after taking this step. I no longer had to walk in shame and embarrassment. To be entirely honest with another human being frees us from the power of our past to hurt us. Bill W. wrote, "We can look the world in the eye. We can be alone at perfect peace and ease. Our fears fall from us." These I believe, are the Fifth Step Promises.

To be relieved from fear was wonderful. Of course, I felt closer to my higher power and to the people in Alcoholics Anonymous. I felt as though we had taken this trip together—the people that had gone before me and the people that I knew would continue to come after me.

There is another part of the Fifth Step that is so very satisfying and rewarding that I hope none of you will miss it. For anyone who has enjoyed a life of sobriety and has had an opportunity to sponsor others in the program and hear their Fifth Steps, you know just how special this experience is.

~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!



Just say "Yes" to answering
12th Step calls,
we'll show you the rest.

Learn more at the next
Intergroup 17 Meeting
Sunday, May 10 @ 5:15 pm
St. Mark's United Methodist
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala, FL

I sponsor women today who hear Fifth Steps and call afterwards, so amazed at how gratified they are to be of service to others and experience being happily and usefully whole. When you are allowed to hear a Fifth Step you truly experience God's grace in your fellow man's life.

The Big Book says: "Carefully reading the first five proposals, we ask if we have omitted anything, for we are building an arch through which we shall walk a free man at last. Is our work solid so far? Are the stones properly in place? Have we skimmed on the cement put into the foundation? Have we tried to make mortar without sand?"

Kathy P.
Ocala, Florida. May 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 2008

| Group | Fiscal YTD | Group | Fiscal YTD | Group | Fiscal YTD |
|--------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| 2nd Step Group | \$ 50.00 | Grace Group | \$.22 | Primary Purpose | \$ 84.00 |
| 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 | \$ 21.00 | Happy Hour Group | \$ 100.00 | Start A New Life | \$ 33.60 |
| ACOA | | Happy, Joyous & Free | \$ 717.78 | Steps and Promises | |
| ALANDN | \$ 60.00 | Headstart Group | \$ 632.99 | Stop Whining and Sober Up | \$ 50.00 |
| Acceptance | \$ 100.21 | It's In The Book | | Strength In Numbers - Belleview | |
| Alive and Well | \$ 45.00 | Keep It Simple | \$ 200.21 | Summerfield Group | |
| Anonymity Group | | Last Call Group | \$ 50.00 | Sundae Social Group | \$ 276.36 |
| 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 | \$ 631.34 | Unity Group | |
| Bonfire Group - The Refuge | | Lunch Bunch | \$ 357.42 | We Give Thanks | \$ 140.00 |
| Breakfast Club | \$ 2919.18 | Mano Abierta | \$ 25.00 | We Give Up | \$ 124.89 |
| 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 | \$ 125.00 |
| Experience, Strength & Hope | | No Name Group | \$ 103.35 | DOUBLE NICKELS | \$ 50.00 |
| Forest Group | \$ 225.00 | Nueva Vida | | FAITHFUL FIVERS | \$ 10.00 |
| Ft. McCoy Group | \$ 100.48 | Ocala AM Men's Group | \$ 505.00 | INDIVIDUALS | \$ 97.35 |
| Fountain of Gratitude - Salt Springs | \$ 210.28 | Ocala Group | \$ 2903.50 | | |
| 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.

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*

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

Driving Directions!



No canoe? You can still get to the picnic on wheels. 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.

**Intergroup 17
ANNUAL PICNIC**

Sunday, May 31, 2009



**Ray Wayside Park
Boat Basin**

Lunch: 12:00 noon

Auction: 1:00pm

Tickets

Available starting Monday, May 4
Intergroup Office
Or ask your Intergroup Rep

Purchase tickets in advance and save!

Adults: \$5 Children: \$3

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

Food. Fun. Games.

On the grill.

Chicken. Burgers. Hot dogs.

Plus sides and beverages.

Bring a dessert to share.

**Back by popular demand.
Intergroup 17 Auction**

Got some nice stuff just sitting around.
Put it up for auction to benefit Intergroup.
Bring some cash to bid on your favorite things!

Auction Items Pick-up

Donations are being accepted now.
For pick up and storage until the picnic,
Call Intergroup 17 @ 867-0660
Or Cindy Mc @ 425-6392
This is service work at its most FUN!



**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, May 10, 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