

The Voice

Volume 26, Number 9

September 2009



One member's voice

The person I am becoming

A story of experience, strength, and hope

Step Nine: "Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others."

After I came to in Marion county jail, and the alcohol had worn off, reality hit me. I had just gotten my third DUL.

Fear filled me. My children were in town visiting me from New Jersey. Thank God they were staying at my mom's. I called my mother. She said the children wanted nothing more to do with me. My ex would no longer allow me to see them until I got some help. My family was DONE with me!

Immediately I wanted to makes "amends." But it was

nothing more than alcoholic remorse. I begged and pleaded. I was desperate. Yet, I knew deep down the whole time that I was pleading, all I really wanted was a drink.

During my incarceration, I was required to take part in a rehab program that included the 12 Steps of AA. After working the first four, I "got it" that I was a drunk—plain and simple. I saw how alcohol had destroyed my life and my relationships with people I dearly loved. I recognized the poor decisions I had made, and I wanted to fix it immediately.

But how? I continued on through the next four steps. Tough for me as they were, those were the easy ones

compared to Step 9. Now it was truly time for action.

At first, I interpreted the part about making amends "except when to do so would injure them or others" as "except when it would hurt me." So, I started with the "easy" ones—meaning making amends to the people who would still talk to me. My boss was in recovery so I started with him.

Then I moved on to making amends to those who were no longer alive by writing letters. I went outdoors, where no one else was around. I closed my eyes and got a picture of the person in my mind. As I wrote, I poured out all the truth inside me.

Continued page 6

In this issue

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| One Member's Voice..... | 1 |
| September Birthdays..... | 2 |
| September by the Books..... | 2 |
| Service Opportunities..... | 3 |
| District 17 Corner..... | 4 |
| 53rd Convention Reports.... | 5 |
| How to Contribute..... | 7 |
| Meetings/Announcements... | 9 |
| Events/Celebrations..... | 7 |
| Contact Intergroup..... | 8 |



Coming in October.
Intergroup 17 Fall Picnic

Watch The Voice for details.
Visit www.aocalamarion.org
for updates and how to help.

A quote for September

It does not lighten our burden when we recklessly make the crosses of others heavier.

As Bill Sees It, page 277

Tradition Nine

AA, as such ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

By Bill W, from *The Grapevine* digital archives, January 1953

When Tradition Nine was first written, it said that "Alcoholics Anonymous needs the least possible organization." In years since then, we have changed our minds about that. Today we are able to say with assurance that Alcoholics Anonymous. . . AA as a whole. . . should never be organized at all. Then, in seeming contradiction, we proceed to create special service boards

and committees which in themselves are organized. How, then, can we have an unorganized movement which can and does create a service organization for itself? Scanning this puzzler, people say, "What do they mean, no organization?!"

Well, let's see. Did anyone ever hear of a nation, a church, a political party, even a benevolent association that had no member-

ship rules? Did anyone ever hear of a society which couldn't somehow discipline its members and enforce obedience to necessary rules and regulations? Doesn't every society on earth give authority of some of its members to impose obedience upon the rest and to punish or expel offenders? Therefore every nation, in fact every form of society,

Continued page 6

Congratulations September Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate anniversaries of our local AA family members that add up to a collective 463 years. That's more than 168,995 days of sobriety. One day at a time!

| | | | | | |
|------------|----------|-------------|---------|----------|--------|
| Fred S | 44 years | Brian | 5 years | Laurie J | 1 year |
| Sixto A. | 39 years | Allen P. | 3 years | Matt D | 1 year |
| Bob S | 37 years | Bobby D. | 3 years | Scott C | 1 year |
| Paula V | 30 years | Chris M. | 3 years | | |
| Carroll P. | 27 years | Donny P. | 3 years | | |
| Robin J. | 24 years | Keri M. | 3 years | | |
| Ruth T. | 23 years | Ted F. | 3 years | | |
| Kathy K. | 22 years | Cecilia B. | 2 years | | |
| John S | 21 years | James M. | 2 years | | |
| Stuart M | 21 years | Jennifer W. | 2 years | | |
| Bob K | 14 years | Ryan | 2 years | | |
| William J. | 14 years | Andrea R. | 1 year | | |
| Jim D. | 12 years | Cathy A | 1 year | | |
| Keith H | 8 years | Cynthia W. | 1 year | | |
| Bob T | 6 years | Holly W. | 1 year | | |

August

| | |
|------------|----------|
| Robin J. | 24 years |
| Dinah J - | 18 years |
| Michele I. | 15 years |
| Liz C - | 12 years |
| Mike S - | 11 years |
| James F - | 3 years |

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

September by the Books

STEP NINE

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

Yes, there is a long period of reconstruction ahead. We must take the lead. A remorseful mumbling that we are sorry won't fill the bill at all. We ought to sit down with the family and frankly analyze the past as we now see it, being very careful not to criticize them. ... We should not talk incessantly to them about spiritual matters. ... Our behavior will convince them more than our words."

Alcoholics Anonymous, page 83

TRADITION NINE

A.A. as such ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

A.A. has to function, but at the same time it must avoid great wealth, prestige, and entrenched power which those dangers of necessarily tempt other societies. Though Tradition Nine at first sight seems to deal with a purely practical matter, in its actual operation it disclose a society without organization, animated only by the spirit of service—a true fellowship.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 175

CONCEPT NINE

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

Twelve Concepts for World Service, page 36

Bigger. Better. More information than ever.

www.aaocalamarion.org

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

Intergroup 17 online www.aaocalamarion.org Intergroup 17 online www.aaocalamarion.org Intergroup 17 online

Recovery. Unity. Service. Got it?

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!

AA's Legacy of Service

By Bill W.

Our Twelfth Step—carrying the message—is the basic service that the AA Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence.

Therefore, AA 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.

Hence, an AA service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer—ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to AA's General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service.

Services include meeting places, hospital cooperation, and intergroup office; they mean pamphlets, books, and good publicity of almost every description. They call for committees, delegates, trustees, and conferences. And, not to be forgotten, they need voluntary money contributions from the Fellowship.

Reprinted from the AA Service Manual by permission of AA World Services

**Tell someone you care.
You're proud of them.
Congratulations.
Happy Birthday. And more.**



Check out the full selection of special greeting cards, medallions, and much more at Intergroup 17.

Service Opportunities!

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.

Intergroup 17 Office Manager. Part-time position, fully rewarding service.

Intergroup 17 is seeking a qualified individual to serve as office manager. This is a paid, part-time position and an excellent service opportunity. See page 4 for more info.

Techies! Programmer for Intergroup 17 website.

Immediate need for a tech-savvy, service-minded volunteer to enhance the functionality of our website: www.aocalamarion.org. A tremendous service opportunity for carrying the message. See page 4 for more details, or call 352-867-0660.

Take the lead. District 17 Committee Chairs open.

Accessibilities

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

Grapevine/La Vina

District 17 is seeking a service-oriented individual to head up our efforts to educate the membership about AA's unique "Meeting in Print.."

See page 4 for more information, or call 352 207-8516, or come to our next meeting September 24.

Show your gratitude.

Volunteers needed for the 2009 District 17 Gratitude Dinner

If you're looking for service work mixed with a lot of fun, volunteer to work on the Gratitude Dinner Committee.

More info or questions? Call Francine: 352-390-7163.

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.

Got the remedy? Take it to the hospital.

Eddie F. is organizing meetings for hospital-bound members of our fellowship. Volunteers needed. 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.

Send a subscription.

Subscribe to *The Grapevine* in October or November, and you can send a second subscription to anyone for half-price. More details in *The Voice* next month or visit www.aagrapevine.org

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

District 17 Corner

Talented? Willing? Curious?

Service opportunities abound at District 17: Accessibilities. Archives. Cooperation with the Professional Community. Public Information. Corrections. Grapevine. Literature. Treatment. Gratitude Dinner. Workshops. And more.

Interested? Intrigued?

Attend the next District 17 meeting

**District 17 Monthly Meeting
Thursday September 24, 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

We need you. A special person to lead the effort to 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 September 24.

Intergroup Seeks Office Manager Part-time job. Full-fledged service.

Intergroup 17 is seeking a qualified individual to serve as office manager. This is a paid, part-time position and an excellent service opportunity.

Qualified applicants should have approximately two years of sobriety, be highly motivated for service, and have good organizational, interpersonal, and communications skills. The following is a summary of the job duties. A more detailed list is available from Intergroup.

- Devote at least 15 hours per week in the Intergroup office
- Establish office procedures; supervise volunteer staff
- Recruit, train, and schedule office and 24-hour hot-line volunteers
- Maintain Intergroup's 12th Step Call volunteer list
- Update and publish Ocala-Marion County *When-and-Where* list
- Assist in coordinating *The Voice* newsletter and Intergroup website
- Maintain the office checking account; ensure that bills are paid
- Manage inventory of AA literature and other for-sale items
- Participate in Intergroup 17 and District 17 meetings and activities



For more information, or to apply contact Intergroup 17 , 3666-A NE 25th Street, Ocala, FL 34470. Phone: 352-867-0660. Email: ocalaintergroup@msn.com.

Tell it through The Grapevine.

Volunteer needed to serve as District 17 Committee Chair for AA Grapevine/La Vina

District 17 is seeking a service-oriented individual to head up our efforts to educate the membership about AA's unique "Meeting in Print."

Time requirement is minimal. The rewards of helping to carry the message far and wide are great. To learn more, call 352 207-8516 or come to our next meeting September 24.

Intergroup 17 Call Center Report August 2009

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Meeting info requests | 68 |
| Office transactions | 45 |
| Visitors | 11 |
| Al-Anon* | 12 |
| Miscellaneous | 30 |

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 re-

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

An Experience You Must Not Miss. And a special report for those who did.

The 53rd Florida State Convention in Jacksonville last month drew almost 2,400 AA members, family, friends, and guests from Florida and across the United States. For five days, attendees took part in non-stop events—literally 24-hours-a-day—including speaker meetings, special interest workshops, ice cream socials, banquets, golf and horse-shoe tournaments, and much more. The theme was “An experience you must not miss.” If you did, here are some first-person reports from members of the local fellowship who were there. All would agree—don’t miss next year’s 54th at the Doral Golf Resort & Spa, Miami, August 11-15, 2010. <http://54.flstateconvention.info/>

A spiritual experience

This was my first Annual Convention. The speakers had wonderful stories and really knew how to share the solution. I also noticed a wonderful feeling of “belonging.” I have always been uncomfortable in large groups, but I was very comfortable in my own skin surrounded with 2400 other AAs in recovery.

There was a woman at the banquet Saturday night who had awakened from a blackout that morning only to find herself in a washroom at the Hyatt Hotel where 2400 alcoholics were attending the Annual Convention. She did not know how she got there.

The last thing she remembered was trying to drown herself in the ocean, but the water kept washing her to shore. People at the convention had 12th-stepped her and helped her all day. She was the newest AA at the sobriety countdown that night. She seemed at home and grateful and said from the podium that this had truly been a spiritual experience.

Heidi L

A truly great experience.

An experience you don’t want to miss! For me, all the speakers and meetings seemed to carry that theme. I heard them say, even in the event of tragedies, that with the help of Alcoholics Anonymous and by helping others, they didn’t have to drink. That made it a truly great experience in my personal recovery.

Larry B



Rewarding, powerful, energizing.

A first for me: Attending an AA convention. Not a first: Rewards received from the fellowship of AA. How rewarding, powerful, and energizing was the chance to be among more than 2,000 alcoholics in recovery, gathered for a singleness of purpose, *to stay sober!*

A common message was shared by all speakers—their experience, strength, and hope. Their messages said to me: You are not alone!

Each story described over and over again the insanity of this disease. I identified with many parts their stories, and I frequently thought, “Oh no, that happened to me too” or “Oh no, I did that too.”

I enjoyed the heartfelt emotion and laughter generated by each speaker. This reinforced the idea that with this way of living you don’t have to drink to have fun.

Jackie C

What a great feeling!

When going to the convention was first mentioned, I thought, “What the heck do I want to go to an Alcoholics Anonymous convention for? This is not for me!” Boy was I wrong. The first speaker talked about “singleness of purpose.” He was phenomenal.

Other speakers came from all over the United States, not just Florida. The overall message I walked away with was, “*I would never be alone ever again, as long as I had this program.*” What a great feeling! I know now that if I ever have the opportunity to attend another convention there will no doubt in my mind. It will be an experience that I don’t want to miss!

Theresa S

What a blessing!

John and I really enjoyed the Jacksonville location, with our room overlooking the water and the convenience of having The Landing right down the street. We were delighted with the overall hospitality at the Convention.

The hospitality room committee should receive kudos throughout the state for the amount of food brought in by members of the fellowship. We attended the dinners on both Friday and Saturday, and it is a special event for me personally to meet new people at my table each year, and then see the people next year at the convention.

Being active in the program we know many people in North and South Florida, but the part we both enjoyed most was seeing so many people from Ocala/Marion County. What a blessing, to know that AA is in good hands in Ocala.

John and Kathy P

Principle Nine

Continued from page 1

has to be a government administered by human beings. Power to direct or govern is the essence of organization everywhere.

Yet Alcoholics Anonymous is an exception. It does not conform to this pattern. Neither its General Service Conference, its Foundation Board, nor the humblest group committee can issue a single directive to an AA member and make it stick, let alone mete out any punishment. We've tried it lots of times, but utter failure is always the result. Groups have tried to expel members, but the banished come back to sit in the meeting place saying, "This is life for us; you can't keep us out."

Committees have instructed many an AA to stop working on a chronic backslider, only to be told: "How I do my Twelfth Step work is my business. Who are you to judge?" This doesn't mean an AA won't take advice or suggestion from more experienced members, but he surely won't take orders.

Who is more unpopular than the old-time AA, full of wisdom, who moves to another area and tries to tell the group there how to run its business? He and all like him meet the most stubborn resistance or, worse still, laughter.

At this junction we can hear a

churchman exclaim, "They are making disobedience a virtue!" He is joined by a psychiatrist who says, "Defiant brats! They won't grow up and conform to social usage!" The man in the street says, "I don't understand it. They must be nuts!"

But all these observers have overlooked something unique in Alcoholics Anonymous. Unless each AA member follows to the best of his ability our suggested Twelve Steps to recovery, he almost certainly signs his own death warrant. His drunkenness and dissolution are not penalties inflicted by people in authority; they result from his personal disobedience to spiritual principles.

The same stern threat applies to the group itself. Unless there is approximate conformity to AA's Twelve Traditions, the group too can deteriorate and die. So we of AA do obey spiritual principles, first because we must, and ultimately because we love the kind of life such obedience brings. Great suffering and great love are AA's disciplinarians; we need no others.

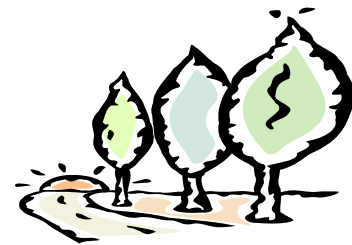
It is clear now that we ought never to name boards to govern us, but it is equally clear that we shall always need to authorize workers to serve us. It is the difference between the spirit of vested authority and the spirit of service; two concepts which are poles

apart.

Just as the aim of each AA member is personal sobriety, the aim of our services is to bring sobriety within reach of all who want it. If nobody does the group's chores, if the area's telephone rings unanswered, if we do not reply to our mail, then AA as we know it would stop. Our communications lines with those who need our help would be broken.

AA has to function, but at the same time it must avoid those dangers of great wealth, prestige, and entrenched power which necessarily tempt other societies. Though Tradition Nine at first sight seems to deal with a purely practical matter, in its actual operation it discloses a society without organization, animated only by the spirit of service. . . a true fellowship.

Excerpts reprinted by permission of AA Grapevine.



The Person I am Becoming

Continued from page 1

I read each letter out loud and asked God to carry it the person. Then I burned the letter. It was very cleansing to my soul. It gave my heart peace. I also wrote a letter to make amends to my higher power.

As I continued to make amends, other people I had forgotten from my past kept coming to my mind. I didn't know where they were or how to get in touch, so I simply said a prayer and admitted to my part and asked my higher power for forgiveness.

The more amends I made, the more courage I gained to do the tougher ones. There were some people I didn't know how to approach, or even if I should approach them at all. For this, I took my sponsor's advice. I didn't have fear, but I figured some were going to rip me a new one. And they did!

Because my parents still had a lot of hostility towards me, I wrote them a letter. It took a long time to write. I tried not to leave out any detail and wrote everything I could think of to clean my side of the street only! When I thought I was through, I asked God to show me any dust bunnies I might have missed and he did! I added them and finally sent this letter.

I didn't receive any response at all. A month went by, and I asked my stepfather if they had received it. He said they had, but that was all he said. It hurt, but I had to remember this was about cleaning my side of the street. It wasn't about me getting ANYTHING for saying sorry.

Next came my three teenage children, who felt extremely hurt—they had every right to be. I called each separately, praying to God for his strength before each call to ask. My children spoke open and honestly. They

said hurtful things, but as they said the truth, I admitted to it. The time had come for no more lies, no more secrets. I sat there with tears pouring out of my eyes, but felt happy at the same time that they were letting all their anger out. It was healing for all of us.

Since then, my children have not said much about the past. If something comes up, we just talk about it. My parents have yet to mention anything about the letter, but I can tell they see the person I am becoming. Just last month, my mother came to a meeting to give me my three-year medallion. My family is healing.

Kim L
Ocala, Florida
September 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

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

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 large and small make a difference. Send to:

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

THANKS!

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

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

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 11th Step Group | | Lunch Bunch | |
| 17th Street Group | | Mano Abierta | |
| 164 Pages Group | \$ 54.95 | Marion Oaks Group | |
| ACOA | | McIntosh Group | |
| ALANON | | New Attitudes | |
| Acceptance | | New Beginnings, Dunellon | |
| Alive and Well | | No Name Group | |
| All You Need | | Nueva Vida | |
| Anonymity Group | | Ocala AM Men's Group | 302.00 |
| As Bill Sees It, The Villages | | Ocala Group | 496.04 |
| Bellevue Eye Opener | | Ocklawaha AM Group | |
| Bellevue Group | 100.14 | 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 | 79.84 | Faithful Fivers | |
| Headstart Group | 74.67 | Individuals | |
| It's In The Book | | | |
| Keep It Simple | 308.00 | Total | \$2,512.07 |
| Last Call Group | | | |
| Last House On The Block | | | |
| Life Is Good Sober | | | |
| Life Saver Group | 00.15 | | |
| Living Sober | 193.60 | | |

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



*A season of gratitude.
A season to give back.*

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

New Meetings

The Come As You Are

Women's Group

New! Big Book study, first Tuesday of each month

New! Speaker Meeting, last Tuesday of each month

Thursday Night Step Group

Closed Step Meeting

Thursdays, 8 pm

South Ocala Baptist Church

2907 SE 52nd St, Ocala, FL

Conscious Contact Group 4th Anniversary Celebration 7 pm, Wednesday, September 16

All are invited to attend and to share in the celebration with a piece of birthday cake.

The format is an in-depth step study followed by a 20 minute guided meditation.

The discussion is always stimulating, and the meditations contribute to a restful state of mind and, sometimes, deep insights.

Meetings are held at 7 pm every Wednesday evening following the Wednesday Happy, Joyous and Free Group meeting at St. Mathews Lutheran 3452 NE Silver Springs Blvd.

Mark Your Calendar

See details elsewhere in this issue or link to more information



9/4-7 Tampa Bay Fall Roundup

www.tampabayfallroundup.com

9/12 Newcomers Workshop, Jacksonville

9/13 Intergroup 17 meeting

9/16 Conscious Contact 4th Anniversary

9/24 District 17 meeting

10/9-11 North Florida Area Assembly,
www.aanorthflorida.org/events/NEWCOMER3area.pdf

10/10 Start a New Life 1st Anniversary

10/?? Intergroup Fall Picnic

10/31 YPG Halloween Party

11/21 District 17 Gratitude Dinner

11/25 Weir Crazy 6th Anniversary

Special Events and Celebrations

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 soon 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. More info to come.

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

When brimming with gratitude, one's heart-beat must surely result in outgoing love, the finest emotion that we can ever know."
As Bill See's It (page 37)

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!

Want to get involved? Attend the next YPG business meeting September 5 at 5:30 pm.

September at the Lost and Found Club 339 NE Sanchez Avenue

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

9/5 Saturday: Monthly Dance. DJ, Big Red. 9 pm—midnight.

9/12 Saturday: Bake Sale. 9 am- noon. Donated baked goods appreciated.

9/12 Saturday: Bingo!!!!!! 9 pm-??

9/19 Saturday: Yard Sale. 9 am- noon. Donated items appreciated.

9/19 Saturday: Bingo!!!!!! 9 pm-??

9/20 Sunday: Ice Cream Social. 2:30 pm-4 pm Make your own sundae. Adults \$3/ Children \$2

9/26 Saturday: Bingo!!!!!! 9 pm-??

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

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.
Call Intergroup to learn more.
352 857-0660

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



**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, September 13, 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.

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

Stamp