



Intergroup District 17
Ocala, Marion County, Florida

The Hand of AA
24-Hour Hotline
365 Days a Year

352-867-0660

The Voice

Volume 29, Number 2

www.aocalamarion.org

February 2012

Intergroup District 17

3666A NE 25th Street

Ocala, FL 34470

~ in the N.E. 36th Ave
Industrial Park ~

Phone: 352-867-0660

Email: aaocalaintergroup@gmail.com

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 10 am to 5 pm

Saturday 10 am to 2 pm

Get Involved. Next Meeting.

Sunday, February 12, 2012

Steering Committee 4:30pm,

Intergroup Reps 5:15 pm

St. Mark's United Methodist

1839 NE 8th Ave, Ocala

One member's voice

In my weakness He is strong

A story of experience, strength, and hope

Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

For many years I sat with my son in a little church believing that God had abandoned me, but hoping that maybe He would save my son. Week after week, hearing the message and knowing that as good as it might sound, I believed it did not apply to me.

It would take many years and some very devastating circumstances before I would come to believe in the God of my understanding. I will never understand why it took such a tragedy before I would entertain the idea that God could and would restore me to sanity.

As a child growing up in an alcoholic home I vowed that life would be different for me. The only problem was that the One who could make it different, I did not believe in.

Standing on the edge of the Salt River, on When I was eight years old, my mother married "Buzz," and he loved my brother and me. I felt safe for the first time in a very long time because he wouldn't let my mother hit us anymore. He was a stay-at-home dad, and one day we made a trip to the river. I swam after a ball and the undertow was too strong, and I was taken down river around some cliffs before I could get out.

As I was coming back around the cliffs,

Continued page 2—>

Intergroup's
**ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC
FUN. FELLOWSHIP. FOOD.**
Sunday, April 14, 2012
Carney Island Park, Ocklawaha

Fun starts: 10:00 am

Speaker: 10:30 am

Lunch: Noon to 2:00 pm

Tickets

Adults: \$6 Children: \$4

Purchase early. No on-site tickets.

Picnic Committee Meeting

Monday, Feb 13, 7:00 pm

Intergroup Office

Refreshments served.



Help Wanted.

No pay. Great benefits.

Free lunch.



Explore your possibilities.

District 17 Service Fair

Saturday, March 17

Noon to 4 pm

Church of Christ

2750 SE Maricamp Rd

Lunch provided.

Tradition One

Guided by the hand of God, as we understand him.

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He many express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern.

In the original long form, Tradition Two did not mention anything about leaders being trusted servants. As AA experience evolved, it became apparent we could not set anyone above anyone else if we were to live in peace and survive.

In the beginning there were so many rules and strong opinions that AA was almost a closed society. The group big wigs dictated who could come, who couldn't – AL ANON women were delegated to the kitchen and only "real alcoholics" were welcome. And there were leaders to decide who "real alcoholics" were. It became apparent that we would not grow and/or possibly survive under those conditions.

The word "ultimate" is

very important to understanding and implementing this tradition. We can disagree; we can argue and try to prove our own point. But ultimately one person, one vote with the minority given a further hearing, and then spiritual obedience.

Wow! What a concept and what a way to live. In my early years of recovery, I was a GSR and I fought the good fight for many of my ideas and other's that I agreed with. After the fight, if we lost I would be angry, sometimes bitter and resent the winners.

I resigned from district service because I was too immature mentally and spiritually to understand there are no winners or losers in spiritual growth. To-

day, after a "loss," I am at peace knowing that God's will is prevailing.

As newcomers, our first experience in trusting authority is usually with a sponsor relationship. Next, we come to trust Alcoholics Anonymous. As we evolve the more, we see that the group conscience is best for us and the fellowship in most cases. We become more trusting of the process.

It is comforting to know that the hand of God as we understand Him is guiding us individually and, just as important, guiding our fellowship.

Prepared by Bob C. The thoughts, expressions, and opinions of individuals who write for The Voice are not necessarily those of Intergroup 17 or Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

Congratulations February Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate a collective **383 years** — more than **139,795 days of sobriety**. One day at a time!

Camden	47 years	Charlotte S	1 year	Ron K	12 years
MaryAnn D	37 years	Chris R	1 years	Jackie C	3 years
Pete L	34 years	Donna D	1 year	Billy "Turbo"	2 years
Tom I	30 years	Justin W	1 year	Cindy L	1 year
Joe H	27 years	Lynn F	1 year	Curtis	1 year
Diane B	24 years	Matt T	1 year	Michael S	1 year
Brenda P	15 years	Ronnie G	1 year	Cindy L	1 year
Doug L	7 years	Steve N	1 year	Curtis	1 year
Jane T	7 years			Jeff L	1 year
Nancee B	7 years				
Andy K	6 years				
Jeff D	6 years	Burke	33 years		
Phil M	5 years	Marcie J	25 years		
Walter K	5 years	Juan O	16 years		
Pam B	3 years	Benjamin O	13 years		
Sue Ellen	3 years	Gary C	12 years		

JANUARY 2012

Deadline for birthdays is the 20th of the preceding month.
Email: thevoice@aaocalamarion.org
Or phone: 352-867-0660

Join the Birthday Club

Celebrate your AA anniversary—with a contribution. Send name, sobriety date, years of sobriety, and a donation — suggested is \$1.00 or more for each year of sobriety to:

Intergroup District 17
3666A N.E. 25th Street
Ocala, Florida 34470
Envelopes now available

Mark Your AA Calendar Upcoming Events

- **Grupo Mano Abierta Ninth Anniversary, February 11**, Meeting 7:00 pm, Dinner 8:30 pm. St. John's Methodist 12390 NW Hwy 328, Ocala, All invited.
- **Intergroup Monthly Meeting February 12**, St. Marks UMC, Ocala. **Steering Committee**, 4:30 pm **Intergroup Reps meeting**, 5:15 pm
- **Picnic Committee Meeting February 13**, **Intergroup Office**, 7 pm
- **District 17 Monthly Meeting February 23**, 6 pm. St. Marks UMC, Ocala.
- **Serenity Weekend Women's Spring Conference, March 2-4**, Cocoa Beach, www.leestapesandcnds.com
- **Sober Yankees Group Second Anniversary, March 6**, details to come.
- **District 17 Service Fair, March 17**, Noon to 4:00pm, Church of Christ, 2750 SE Maricamp, All invited.
- **North Florida Area Assembly March 31-April 1, 2012**, St. Augustine, More info: www.aanorthflorida.org/assembly_agenda
- **Intergroup Spring Picnic, April 14**, 10:00 am to 4:00pm, Carney Island Park, Tickets on sale now. Advance purchase required.
- **56th Florida State Convention August 1-5, 2012**, Innisbrook Golf & Spa Resort, Palm Harbor, Florida. More info at www.56.flstateconvention.com

Groups. Are you planning a event?

Send your information to *The Voice* for publication. Reach our nearly 400 subscribers. Deadline for each issue is the 20th of the preceding month. Send to: thevoice@aaocalamarion.org

In my weakness, He is strong

From page 1

I saw someone in the river, and it was not until I saw my brother running along the riverbank screaming that I realized that Buzz had drowned.

Standing on the edge of the Salt River, on June 13, 1977, I believed with all certainty that God could not or would not help me. If I was going to make it, it was up to me to take care of myself. Believing that with hard work and perseverance anything was possible, I set out to prove that I was in charge of my life. Consequently, insanity began at a very young age.

In elementary school they informed my mother that I had some problems and needed medication. High school came and the label "emotionally disturbed" was attached to me.

At the time this was good as less was required of me, and they did not want to upset me. At age twelve I had begun self-medicating, and my circumstances seemed to justify my need to do so. There was something wrong with me, and a pill could fix it. I was well on my way to becoming the person that I thought I was never going to be.

In 1992, my son was born, and with that a newfound purpose for my life. As a single parent, once again it was all up to me. I would be both mom and dad to him, and we would be happy.

Applying my belief that hard work

could accomplish anything, I set out to be the best mom ever. Looking back today, it is unfortunate that I spent so many years trying to go it alone when that was never going to be possible.

In 2006, my sentence to prison — a direct result of my alcoholism — proved to be the only way that God could get my attention. He met me there and walked me back through my life. All of those years when I believed that I was alone, I was never alone. He had been there always, and if I would just surrender He could and would help me.

At this point having nothing to lose I decided to entertain the idea that maybe this power greater than myself could restore me to sanity. After 14 months in treatment, and intensive working of the steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, my life would never be the same. On June 13, 2008, exactly 31 years to the day that part of me had died on the side of the river, I returned home to my son whole, filled with the understanding that nothing could ever separate me from the love of God.

In my weakness He is strong. I believe that it is the heart of God that everyone would come to believe in the power of His love.

Kelli S
February 2012, Ocala, Florida

The views, expressions, and opinions presented in these pages by individual members are those of the authors and not necessarily those of Alcoholics Anonymous or Intergroup District 17, Inc.

**Want more information about AA and the local fellowship? Meetings? Service?
Visit www.aaocalamarion.org**

Intergroup Insights

Greetings to everyone,

My name is Ken W. I have the pleasure of serving as your Treasurer for Intergroup District 17. Thank you for allowing me to serve. This is my second "hitch," and I am very grateful to be back. My job includes reporting to the fellowship in various ways.

Intergroup's ONLY PURPOSE is to serve the AA groups and individuals in District 17 (and any others if they ask), by providing materials, When and Where printings (updated constantly), instant availability of books, literature, pamphlets and other reference materials, also non-AA items such as medallions, cards, jewelry as the groups wish.

Also "The Voice" monthly newsletter, AAWS International meeting, personal contact info, services, group information, group registration forms, communication with AAWS, Area 14 and District 17 committees, service committees, picnics, service opportunities, website, telephone accessibility, 12 Step call list, and treatment information as well

as (and the most important); **a point of contact for the drunk just coming in** (24 hours, 7 days a week).

While we are very fortunate that we have a long list of volunteers who graciously and happily volunteer a great deal of time, there are recurring expenses (such as Ocala Electric, our landlord and others) who are not motivated (never mind dependent) by a higher power and therefore require immediate payment. Tradition Seven clearly says we are dependent on our members and groups for this money.

I know times are tough. Many groups are having tough meeting their expenses, but some are not, the Nature Coast Intergroup (and many others) are depleting their prudent reserve and considering closing their bookstore!

Our prudent reserve is depleted from \$5200.00 to \$2200.00, which is less than six weeks of costs! After implementing many cost-cutting measures in an ongoing effort to use cash wisely without cutting basic services, the glaring problem remains: Intergroup needs more of the groups that it serves to contribute money.

I respectfully request, ask, plead with each of you reading this letter to consult with your group's Treasurer and

contribute whatever portion of funds are available. Each group is autonomous on this, and if you need it, free AA pamphlets F3 and F96 offer help.

You can also contact me and other committee members through Intergroup, and often many long-timers are also available for questions. There are also the Faithful Fivers, Birthday Club, and other contribution guidelines for individuals.

Please don't let "the other guy" respond to this request. Each of you needs to carry this message to your group (as I did) that is responsible to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. For Intergroup to continue supporting your effort on this Fifth Tradition, we need every group to respond. No contribution is too small.

Thank you, and thank you in advance for your help. Without it, Intergroup District 17 will no longer be able to provide the materials and services mentioned above.

Ken W
Intergroup District 17, Treasurer

District 17 Corner

From the District 17 DCM We Cannot Skimp

With the realization that AA must steer clear of outside contributions in order to maintain its autonomy and independence came that understanding that the money necessary for AA's survival would have to come from individual AA members and groups. As Bill W put it in 1957, "Our spiritual way of life is safe for future generations if, as a Society, we resist the temptation to receive money from the outside world

But hits leaves us with a responsibility — one that every member ought to understand. We cannot skimp when the

treasurer of our group passes the hat. Our groups, our areas, and AA as a whole will not function unless our services are sufficient and their bills are paid.

"When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts, we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat, we give a token that we are grateful for our blessings and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer."

Prepared by Rick D, District 17 DCM

Reprinted from *The Language of the Heart*, page 221, with permission of AA World Services.

Help carry the message to women inside looking out.

Our *Big Book* reminds us to "ask that we be given strength and direction to do the right thing no matter what the personal consequences maybe."

District 17 Corrections Committee needs women willing to chair, speak, and participate in AA meetings in local women's prison.

The institutions require volunteers to have three years of sobriety and be off probation, parole, and paper for three years.

Let's pull together and help these women who are on the "inside looking out." The Big Book says, "When we sincerely took such a position, all sorts of remarkable things followed."

To learn more or volunteer, contact Lori M through Intergroup 17. Phone: 352 867-0660.

Men Needed Too.

The corrections committee also seeks men for similar service in local men's prisons. Contact Bob L at Intergroup.

Service & Sobriety
District 17. Get Involved.
Open Service Positions
Archives Service Coordinator
Cooperation with the Professional
Community/Public Information
Learn more. Next Meeting. All Welcome.
Thursday, February 23, 6:00 pm
St. Mark's UMC, 1839 NE 8th Ave.

News from the Literature Committee
eBooks from AA World Services

- Read the *Big Book* and *12 & 12* on your iPad and Apple iPhone
- Free AA eReader App
- Android and other apps coming soon

Get complete details at www.aa.org

Group Contributions to Intergroup December 2011

June 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

GROUP NAME	DEC '11	YTD	GROUP NAME	DEC '11	YTD
164 Pages Group		167.50	Lifesaver Group		153.23
Alive and Well	0.70	50.00	Live, Laugh & Love		
All You Need Group		45.00	Living Sober Group		35.05
Anonymity Group	\$150.00	\$150.00	Lunch Bunch Group		
As Bill Sees It		247.25	Marion Oaks Group		1.69
Bellevue Eye Opener		100.00	McIntosh Group		20.00
Bellevue God's Way		5.02	New Attitudes Group		0.27
Bellevue Group			No Name Group		45.00
Breakfast Club		1,265.84	Ocala Group	116.66	910.99
Cabin in the Woods	0.99	200.00	Ocala Men's Group		200.00
Came To Believe	4.40	52.77	One Day at a Time		525.41
Citra Group		0.82	Primary Purpose Group		39.00
Come As You Are			Shores of Sobriety		59.27
Conscious Contact		77.56	Sisters of Serenity		75.00
Eleventh Step Group		\$ 50.00	Sober Yankees	60.00	160.00
Experience, Strength & Hope			Start A New Life		200.00
Forest Group		20.07	Stop Whining & Sober Up		
Forest Men's Group	0.65	75.57	Strength In Numbers		10.00
Fort McCoy Group		40.68	Summerfield Group		
Fountain of Gratitude			Sundae Social Group		
Free To Be		10.00	TLC Group, The Centers		
Fresh Start		.26	Thursday Night Step Group		
Grace Group		0.07	Together We Can		5.00
Grateful Gals		35.00	We Give Up		50.00
Grupo Mano Abierta			We Give Thanks		
Grupo Nueva Vida	50.00	50.00	Weir Crazy		60.09
Happy Hour Group			Westside Recovery		
Happy, Joyous & Free	363.09	1,225.80	Young People's Group	100.00	200.00
Headstart Group	58.91	161.87	Blichton Road Group	11.00	72.12
Healing Group		30.00	District 17	708.41	928.03
Into Action Group			Birthday Club (personal)	58.00	92.00
It's In The Book			Double Nickel (personal)	5.00	5.00
It's Not Them Group		.31	Faithful Fivers (personal)		35.00
Keep It Green			Individuals members	8.50	163.39
Keep It Simple		355.65			
Last Call Group		100.00			
			Total	\$1,696.31	\$8,990.95

How Groups and Individuals Support the Work of AA

Below is the example of allocation of group contributions provided by AA World Services in the information pamphlet:*

**"SELF-SUPPORT:
WHERE MONEY & SPIRITUALITY MIX"**

- 50% Intergroup District 17 Inc.**
3666A NE 25th Street
Ocala, FL 34470
- 30% AA General Service Office**
P.O. Box 459
6035 E. Tudor St.
New York, NY 10164
- 10% North Florida Area Conference**
5205 N. Sonora Terrace
Beverly Hills FL 34465
- 10% District 17**
P.O. Box 3081
Ocala, FL 34478

*AA General Service Conference approved literature

Intergroup 17 Call Center December 2011

Meeting info requests	103
Office transactions	57
Twelfth Step Calls	9
Visitors	14
Al-Anon	11
Miscellaneous	42

**56th Annual
Florida State
Convention
August 1-5, 2012
Innisbrook Resort
Palm Harbor, Florida
56.flstateconvention.com**

Nine-Year Anniversary Grupo Mano Abierta



Saturday, February 11, 2011
Meeting 7:00 pm Dinner 8:30 pm
All welcome.
St. John's Methodist
12390 NW Hwy 328



Live by the books? Buy the books!

Intergroup carries a great selection of AA conference approved literature and other recovery related items including a variety of medallions, book cov-

ers, cards, pins, book-marks and gift items at affordable prices.
Bookstore Hours
Monday-Friday, 10 to 5
Saturday, 10 to 2
3666A NE 25th Street, Ocala

The Voice by email for free.

Send an e-mail with "Free Voice" in
the subject line to:
thevoice@aaocalamarion.org



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