



Intergroup District 17  
Ocala, Marion County, Florida

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

352-867-0660

# The Voice

Volume 29, Number 4

[www.aocalamarion.org](http://www.aocalamarion.org)

April 2012

**Intergroup District 17**  
3666A NE 25th Street  
Ocala, FL 34470  
In the N.E. 36th Ave  
Industrial Park  
Phone: 352-867-0660  
[aocalaintegroup@gmail.com](mailto:aocalaintegroup@gmail.com)

### Office Hours

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

**Get Involved. Next Meeting.**  
**Sunday, April 15, 2012**

Steering Committee 4:30pm,  
Intergroup Reps 5:15 pm  
St. Mark's United Methodist

**Intergroup District 17**  
**ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC**  
**Saturday, April 14, 2012**  
Carney Island Park, Ocklawaha

**Fun starts: 10:00 am**

**Speaker: 10:30 am**

**Lunch: Noon to 2:00 pm**

**Cake Auction, 50/50 Raffle**

**Adults \$6 Children \$4 Deadline**

**for ticket purchase: April 9th**

**Picnic Committee Meeting**

**Monday, April 9th, 7:00 pm**

**Intergroup Office**

**Refreshments served.**



**56th Annual**  
**Florida State**  
**Convention**



**August 1-5, 2012**  
**Innisbrook Resort**

Palm Harbor, Florida

[56.flstateconvention.com](http://56.flstateconvention.com)

### One member's voice

## On my way to a spiritual awakening

### A story of experience, strength, and hope

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

The Fourth Step of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous contains two very important words: *searching* and *fearless*.

**Searching** told me that I must look deeply into my life, and when I did, I discovered that often I had overlooked a lot of things. For example, I would not like to think of myself as a gossip, so I say, "I am only telling you this about him to keep you from being hurt."

I say, "I never steal," but did I ever waste time when I was supposed to be working and getting paid for it? In Step Four, I realized I needed to look more deeply into the motivation for my actions.

In the rooms of AA, I've heard many acronyms. HOW—honesty, openness, and will- ingness — is one of them. I look at my life

and try my best to be *honest* about what I have done, *open* in the sense that I don't attribute false motives to my actions, and I do all this *willingly*.

Another important word used in Step Four is **Fearless**. Faith is the antithesis of fear. I think it is important to realize that faith is a gift from my Higher Power. Whatever my concept of the HP is, I get well only through the relationship with my Higher Power that is built up by the progressive action of the steps.

For example, in Step Two, I "came to believe..." This belief becomes faith, which eliminates fear to a greater and greater extent. It is a scary thing to look at my life on my own, but with the grace of the Higher Power, I can make this searching and fearless inventory in Step Four and proceed to work the other steps.

I proceed with my program knowing that I

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### Tradition Four

## Respecting the spirit of the tradition

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

### THE FOURTH TRADITION (LONG FORM)

*With respect to its own affairs, each AA group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect AA as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.*

Wow, what a mouthful! But very descriptive. We in Marion County can be very proud of the brand of AA practiced here. Recently a local group decided to start a speaker meeting and serve ice cream, have a good speaker, and great fellowship on the last Friday of the month.

Give away free ice cream at an AA meeting, and we all know what will happen. This group also knew that another local group observed their birthday night on the last Friday of the month as well. Rather than create a

conflict between the two, the group decided to have its ice cream social on another night. That is the essence of Tradition Four.

I read somewhere that in AA every group has the right to be wrong. Somewhat facetious because who is to say the group is wrong.

Our fellowship mirrors our society and in this fast paced, sometimes rude atmosphere, AA has been inundated by the courts, treatment centers, and publicity with many diversified groups, many of which are

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## Congratulations April Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate a collective **375 years** — more than **136,875 days of sobriety**. One day at a time!

Beverly H	29 years	Marie B	6 years	Chris (CJ)	1 year
Jimmy G	29 years	Bill M	4 years	Larry H	1 year
Gil G	27 years	Judy M	4 years	Megan M	1 year
Sherry R	23 years	Ronnie S	4 years	Steph	1 year
Tim B	19 years	Brent Mc	3 years		
Liza W	17 years	Caroline m	3 years		
Anne S	16 years	Diane A	3 years		
Charley M	14 years	Jeff B	3 years		
Kevin D	14 years	Jeremy S	3 years		
Geno F	15 year	Rick L	3 years		
Rex C	13 years	Beth M	2 years		
Buddy S	12 years	Kim Mc	2 years		
Robert E (Bob)	9 years	Lauren	2 years		
Cree gM	8 years	Marshall F	2 years		
Caroline L	7 years	Mark S	2 years		
Fred C	6 years	Robert K	2 years		

**March Birthdays**

Carol W	20 years
Cindy L	24 years
Mary K	13 years
Lydia N	5 years
Martha	2 years
Andy	1 year

Deadline for birthdays is the 20th of the preceding month.  
 Email: [thevoice@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:thevoice@aaocalamarion.org)  
 Phone: 352-867-0660

### Join the Birthday Club Or Faithful Fivers



Celebrate your AA anniversary with a contribution to Inter-group. Give \$1.00 *or more* for each year of sobriety or \$5.00 a month. Keep our doors open.

**Envelopes are available at the Inter-group office or from your Inter-group Representative.**

### Mark Your AA Calendar Upcoming Events

- Intergroup Spring Picnic** April 14  
10:00 am to 4:00 pm Carney Island Park  
Tickets on sale now. Advance purchase only.
- Intergroup Monthly Meeting** April 15,  
St. Mark's UMC, Ocala. Steering Committee,  
4:30 pm Intergroup Reps meeting, 5:15 pm
- District 17 Monthly Meeting** April 26  
6 pm St. Mark's UMC, Ocala.
- 17th Annual Country Round-Up** April 27-28  
Ag Center 1424 Jackson Ave (Hwy 90) Chipley, Fl
- District 14 Service Fair** April 28 Triangle Club  
1005 SE Fourth Ave Gainesville, Fl
- The Woodstock of AA** May 4-6  
22nd Spring Conference Cocoa Beach
- FCYPAA 2012 Conference** May 25-27 Renais-  
sance World Golf Village Resort, St Augustine  
<http://fcypaa2012.com/>
- 56th Florida State Convention** August 1-5  
Innisbrook Golf & Spa Resort, Palm Harbor,  
Florida. More info at:  
[www.56.flstateconvention.com](http://www.56.flstateconvention.com)

**For more events and info, visit:  
[www.aaocalamarion.org](http://www.aaocalamarion.org)**

### Get Your Picnic Tickets Now While You still Can

Ticket sales end Monday, April 9.  
\$6 adult. \$4 children.  
Advance purchase only.

**Service & Sobriety  
District 17. Get Involved.**  
**Learn more. Next Meeting. All Welcome.**  
**Thursday, April 26, 6:00 pm**  
 St. Mark's UMC, 1839 NE 8th Ave.

### FCYPAA

**Pronounced:** Fiq-EE-paw; **(n)** An annual conference. **(v)** A group of young minded people trudging the road of happy destiny for a year culminating with a conference that goes 24/7 over a 3 day weekend to carry the message.

The Florida Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of younger minded men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problems and to recover from alcoholism. We do this by having events throughout the year around the state, and to have an annual conference where we can come together and fellowship, sharing our experience, strengths and hopes and carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Through our collective unity, and motivation of a conference, we bring that enthusiasm back to our local communities and reach out to the newcomers, as well as those still stick and suffering. We have no opinion on outside



### On my way to a spiritual awakening

*Continued from page 1*

have turned my will and my life over to the care of God, as I understand Him in Step Three. I cannot do these steps on my own. It is only through the grace of God that I can do it. I can look at my life with trust in my Higher Power. I know that whatever comes up from this fearless search, it will help lead to a relationship with my HP and a spiritual awakening.

The first three steps are actually two miracles and then a decision. Having made a decision to turn my will and my life over to the care of God, with a sense of trust, I put Step Three into practice.

Step Four is the beginning of carrying out that decision. I first have to know and admit what my life has been like, and then in the next steps I act on this knowledge. The whole essence of Step Four is to be "into action" to carry out the decision made in Step Three.

Step Four is really the beginning of the action. I am on my way to a spiritual awakening, a relationship with my Higher Power—I am getting well.

Anonymous  
April 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 Inter-group District 17, Inc.*

### Subscribe to The Voice by Email

Send an email with "Free Voice" in the subject line to: [thevoice@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:thevoice@aaocalamarion.org)

### eBooks from AA World Services

Read the *Big Book* and *12 & 12* on your iPod and Apple iPhone. Free AA eReader app.

## District 17 Corner

From the Archives Committee

### Keeping District 17 history alive. Share your memories and memorabilia in the tradition of Bill W.

*"We are trying to build up extensive records which will be of value to a future historian...It is highly important that the factual material be placed in our files in such a way that there can be no substantial distortion...We want to keep enlarging on this idea for the sake of the full length history to come..."*

Bill W., 1957

The idea for organizing an historical collection of the Fellowship's records came from AA co-founder Bill W. in the early 1950s. His far-reaching vision outlined an archival message that is still sound today. Historical records help us to sift through our day-to-day experience in recovery and reach back for the shared experience from the past.

The District 17 Archives Committee asks your help and support in continuing to expand our local archives with group history forms, old or out-of-print AA-related literature, flyers, newsletters, medallions and more — anything that relates to our local history and enriches our traditions.

Contact Chis H, Archives Service Chair at Intergroup: 352 867-0660.

### Location Changes for AA Groups

As of Sunday, April 15, The Lost & Found Club, 339 NE Sanchez Ave. will close. New meeting sites for the Lunch Bunch, Acceptance, and New Attitudes groups will be published in the *When and Where* and online as they become available.

### Respecting the spirit of the tradition

*Continued from page 1*

not alcoholic in focus.

The result has been that for the first time in the history of AA our membership is declining. People show up at meetings and show disrespect for group conscience.

If a group asks no profanity at meetings, in the spirit of Tradition Four, we should respect that — like it or not. If the group conscience is to keep discussion to

## Group News and Notes

### Headstart Group. New location.

Monday—Saturday, 7:30 am; Sunday, 9:00 am. Unity Place, Ocala.

### Bellevue Group. Needs support.

6:30pm, Friday, Bellevue Lions Club

**Grupo Nueva Vida. New location,** days, and time: Friday, 7:30 pm, Blessed Trinity, 5 SE 17th St,

**Last Call Group. Time change.** Friday and Saturday changed from 11 pm to 10 pm. Now meets 7 days a week, 10 pm at CATS.

**Living Sober. Needs support.** 7:30 pm Step meeting Friday nights. Congregational Church, 7171 SW State Road 200, Ocala

**Ocala Group. Friday nights Discontinued.** 8 pm Friday night speaker meeting only has been discontinued. All other meetings continue as usual.

For more information on groups and meetings visit [www.aocalamarion.org](http://www.aocalamarion.org) [thevoice@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:thevoice@aaocalamarion.org)

## WHAT IS IT?

It's plastic. It's white. It has a pink label. What does it do? It collects spare change. It accepts paper money, too.



## ANSWER

It's the "pink can." All money collected in the "pink can" goes to buy AA literature for the men and women in prison/jail in Marion County.

You can pick up a "pink can" for your group at Intergroup or ask your GSR to pick one up at the next District 17 meeting.

our problems with alcohol and not discuss other issues, or addictions, in the spirit of this tradition, we should respect that.

I recently attended an AA meeting in North Carolina. I listened for a bit and decided that I would not like to be involved in this brand of AA.

In the past I would have left in a huff or worse yet said rude things about the way these people practiced the program. But, I needed a meeting, and in the spirit of Tradition Four, I relaxed and listened with respect and stayed until

## Intergroup Insights

April 15th not April 9th (the usual 2nd Sunday of the month) will be the Steering Committee meeting at 4:30 pm and Intergroup Representative meeting at 5:15 pm at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. We are here to do many services in the district and we need to hear from your group or you. **Everyone in AA has a voice, and we welcome your voice.** Coffee and refreshments always served.

Last weekend I attended the Area 14 Assembly in St. Augustine. There was so much to learn from all the different workshops. I attended the CPC, Treatment, Service Jeopardy, Archives workshops, lunch with the Delegate, and even the Conference Agenda Items meeting. I was able to speak one on one with Cecilia R, Area 14 Delegate, and Marilyn B, the Alternate Area Delegate about our Intergroup office. Service in AA is fun. Come join us.

Your Office Manager in sobriety, Connie C.

## Lost & Found Club Moving

After 26 years of service, it is with a heavy heart that we must say goodbye to the Lost & Found Club's current location. The memories will last a lifetime, but when one door closes, God opens another one.

Our next journey will begin in a few weeks when our new location is finalized, and we can announce it to the fellowship. We hope to see many of you come back and others come for the first time to the new Lost & Found Club,

Thanks to all for the past few weeks of reflection and fun. May our next location bring many more years of meeting the needs of alcoholics who want to get and stay sober.

Deanne L, President, Lost & Found Club

the end of the meeting.

There are hundreds of meetings in our area. I do not have to go from meeting to meeting, taking each groups inventory or even works insisting on inserting my ideas about what AA should be or should not be.

If I don't like one meeting, there is always another. It is nice to be an adult and to respect and understand the essence of this tradition.

*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 .*

## Group Contributions to Intergroup February 2012

June 1, 2011 through February 29, 2012.

GROUP NAME	FEB 2012	YTD	GROUP NAME	FEB 2012	YTD
11th Step Group		\$ 63.72	Living Sober Group	\$ 35.00	\$ 70.05
164 Pages Group		\$ 167.50	Lunch Bunch	\$ 85.00	\$ 147.50
Alive & Well Group	\$ 25.00	\$ 75.70	Marion Oaks Group		\$ 1.69
All You Need Group	\$ 135.41	\$ 180.41	McIntosh Group		\$ 20.00
As Bill Sees It Group		\$ 397.25	New Attitudes Group		\$ 0.27
Belleview Eye Opener		\$ 150.00	No Name Group		\$ 45.00
Belleview God's Way		\$ 5.02	Ocala Group	\$ 30.73	\$ 941.72
Breakfast Club Group	\$ 297.92	\$ 1,563.76	Ocala Men's Group		\$ 200.00
Cabin in the Woods		\$ 200.00	One Day at a Time		\$ 625.41
Came to Believe Group		\$ 48.37	Primary Purpose		\$ 110.00
Citra Group		\$ 5.22	Shores Of Sobriety		\$ 59.27
Come As You Are Group		\$ 10.00	Sisters of Serenity		\$ 75.00
Conscious Contact Group		\$ 77.56	Sober Yankees		\$ 160.00
Experience, Strength & Hope		\$ 0.34	Start a New Life		\$ 200.00
Forest Group	\$ 65.00	\$ 85.07	Strength in Numbers	\$ 68.00	\$ 78.10
Forest Men's Group		\$ 76.22	Together We Can		\$ 5.00
Fort McCoy Group		\$ 40.68	We Give Thanks		\$ 40.00
Free To Be Group		\$ 10.00	We Give Up Group		\$ 50.00
Fountain of Gratitude		\$ 50.00	Weir Crazy Group	\$ 37.00	\$ 145.89
Fresh Start		\$ 0.26	Westside Recovery Group		\$ 45.00
Grace Group		\$ 0.07	Young People's Group		\$ 200.00
Grateful Gals Group		\$ 35.00	Zion Blichton Group		\$ 72.12
Happy Hour Group		\$ 50.00	District #17, Total		\$ 1,128.03
Happy, Joyous & Free		\$ 1,607.36	Birthday Club	\$ 3.00	\$ 170.00
Headstart Group		\$ 203.47	Double Nickel Group		\$ 5.00
Healing Group		\$ 30.00	Faithful Fivers	\$ 10.00	\$ 50.00
It's Not Them		\$ 0.31	Individual Members	\$ 221.00	\$ 545.67
Keep It Simple Group		\$ 355.65	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 993.29</b>	<b>\$ 11,233.88</b>
Last Call Group		\$ 100.00			
Life Saver Group		\$ 153.23			

### How Groups and Individuals Support the Work of AA

Below is the financial guideline AA World Services suggests to groups who have an Intergroup office in their area.\*

**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

\*From Self-support pamphlet: Where Money & Spirituality Mix, AA General Service Conference approved literature

### Intergroup 17 Call Center February 2012

Meeting info requests	106
Office transactions	73
Twelfth Step Calls	8
Visitors	39
Al-Anon	17
Miscellaneous	78



**First Contact**

**"Can YOU?"**

**Yes YOU can!**

**Will YOU?**

**Say "Yes" to answering 12th Step calls.  
One year sobriety is required.**

**Learn more.**

**Call 352-867-0660**



## I am responsible. One member's view of AA's Future.

*The following letter, written by our Area Alternate Delegate to the AA World Services General Service Conference, appeared in the March issue of the newsletter of Nature Coast Intergroup, Inverness. The message can serve as inspiration to all.*

**To the Editor:**

I was overwhelmed with sadness when I read in the [Nature Coast] Journal that our [Nature Coast] Intergroup Store will close on April 1st.

I just returned from the Delegates Get-Together in Atlanta, where I heard our S.E. Regional Trustee give the latest General Service Board Report. AA World Services & Grapevine are suffering from decreasing contributions, declining subscriptions, and escalating costs. At our January Assembly, in St. Augustine, Area 14's Financial Report for 2011 showed group contributions were down more than \$12,000.

On the flight back to Florida, I quietly contemplate how I could possibly make a difference in AA's future. I decided I would accept the challenge, not as an Area Officer, but as a member of the fellowship, to do more. As a sober member of this fellowship I decided to not only remember my last drunk, but to recall how much I spent on that

drunk. When I was drinking I always found the money I needed. GSO asks its members to send \$1 for every year of sobriety; I decided to send \$2. They are suggesting \$2 in the basket; I decided to give \$3. They also suggested instead of buying sponsees' & your sponsor a card for their anniversaries. to make a contribution to a service entity. I like that idea and I am going to start practicing that suggestion. I never want the next generation not to have AA.

*"I am responsible . . . When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible."*

This says it all. I am responsible!

Marilyn B.

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