

# The Voice

Volume 28, Number 6

June 2011



## One member's voice

### Those darn defects of character

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

Step Six: *Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.*

It's the step that "separates the men from the boys," or in my case "the women from the girls." So says *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* about Step Six.

I wish I could say that I looked forward to this step, but I would be lying. I thought that after completing Step Five with my sponsor, I surely deserved a break.

I was told what a great job I had done setting up my fourth step, and that my fifth step had gone really well, so surely I deserved a little break. Right?

No. I was immediately immersed into my Step Six without even realizing it. It actually happened while I did my fifth step

(sneaky). It was in that extra column of Step Four, the one that identified what was my part.

It was brought to my attention that I had clear patterns in my life, patterns that were based in self-centered fear. It did not take long for me to see that these behaviors and thought patterns would no longer work in this new sober life.

So here I was looking at my resentments and fears. What had been my part? Was I really the victim of circumstances? Did I play a role? What was it about my personality that caused me to be filled with self-centered fear and anger?

I started getting a resentment looking at my resentments. Ugh! This is when Step Six

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55th Florida State Convention

July 20-24, Orlando

See page 7 or visit:

[www.55.flstateconvention.com](http://www.55.flstateconvention.com)

## A quote for June

*The wise have always known that no one can make much of his life until self-searching becomes a regular habit.*

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 88*

## Tradition Six

### Keeping AA free of controversies and distractions.

An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

In 1945, an AA friend suggested that all this mass of experience might be codified into a set of principles which could offer tested solutions to all of our problems of living and working together and of our relating our society to the world outside. (From *Pass It On*, Page 306).

Bill W was able to name the potential threats to the survival of the fellowship. Simply, they were problems of property, prestige, and money. By 1946, the Fellowship had already had sufficient experience for Bill to believe that a solid tradition of non-affiliation, with no exceptions, was the only way to keep AA free of contro-

versy and distractions from our primary purpose.

Early AA members did have dreams of hospitals, clubs, education, and more, but after many discussions and experiences by the early groups, wisdom prevailed that AA could not be all things to all people, and a decision was made to keep our focus on our primary purpose.

Even in the 1980s, I personally witnessed the meaning of this tradition in living color. An AA club that held three to four meetings a day was owned and operated by a group of individuals who refused to separate the club

from the AA groups that met there.

The groups had no say in how the money collected was spent, and the owners refused to disclose to the groups the amount of money collected, and what the funds were used for. This culminated in a tremendous break between the AA groups and the club, and many AA members left to start groups at other locations. I understand that eventually the club and the AA groups were separated.

It was not a coincidence when John D. Rockefeller told Bill W. that money

*Continued page 5 —>*

## Congratulations June Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate anniversaries that add up to a collective **328 years**. That's more than **119,725 days of sobriety**. One day at a time!

Diane R	40 years	Raechelle P	2 years	Steve K	3 years
Warren	33 years	Sammy C	2 years	Brennon	2 years
Karol K	28 years	Charlotte C	1 year	Norma B	2 years
James N	27 years	Craig C	1 year	Brian	1 year
Rick D	26 years	Douglas D	1 year	Gail	1 year
Debbie T	24 years	John A	1 year	George	1 year
John P	21 years	Maria R	1 year	Laura	1 year
Patti H	20 years	Mimi T	1 year		
Roseanna S	18 years	Tamm H	1 year		
Mike R	17 years				
Jerry G	16 years	<b>May 2011</b>			
Mike V	13 years	Dan J	28 years		
Don C	8 years	James	8 years		
Kristine V-M	5 years	Jesse B	8 years		
Michael N	5 years	Tami A	7 years		
Steve M	5 years	Chris P	4 years		
Cory S	3 years	John S	4 years		
Julio C	2 years	Mike B	3 years		

Please share your AA birthday with all. Deadline for July birthdays is June 20.

Email: [thevoice@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:thevoice@aaocalamarion.org)

### Join the Birthday Club



Celebrate an AA anniversary—yours or another member's—with a contribution to help Intergroup 17 carry the message.

To join, send name, sobriety date, years of sobriety, and a donation—suggested is \$1, \$5, or \$10 for each year of sobriety to:

**Intergroup 17**  
3666A N.E. 25th Street  
Ocala, Florida 34470

## Those darn defects of character

*Continued from page 1*

became the *\_itchy* step for me. (You can fill in the missing first letter.)

I also was struggling with my reading in this step. I mean, there's only one paragraph in the *Big Book* — right? And I read the sixth step chapter in the *Twelve and Twelve*, but I was missing something there too.

So, I continued to struggle with this step, and I did what any good alcoholic does: I complained to my sponsor.

I had been in a particularly bad mood lately, letting life eat me alive, and I was sharing my troubles with her. I was telling her how hard it was to change; to be willing to be a different person. That *I* keep working on it, and that *I* am doing everything that *I* should be doing. I felt stuck and frustrated.

She looked at me and said, "Tammy, instead of you doing it, why don't you let God do it?"

And there it was. *I* was trying to change myself so much, that I had forgotten it was God who was going to make me "willing." God would remove these defects of character so long as I was willing.

Whew! What a relief. This wasn't about me being powerful enough to change me. That was God's job. I just

needed to be willing.

And that is when I realized I needed to go backward in my program to continue to move forward. I needed to go back into the *Big Book*.

So, I revisited two key chapters in *Alcoholics Anonymous*: "More about Alcoholism" and "We Agnostics." I spent many nights reading those two chapters.

The more I read, the more I realized that I had been compartmentalizing my life. I was willing to let God remove my compulsion to drink, but I was not willing to give God the job of my character defects. I had proven to myself that I could not stop drinking on my own (only after struggling in and out of AA), and that I was not trusting God. The rest of my life was mine to fix, including character defects.

And boy was I wrong! I realized that my faith and my trust had been lacking. One night reading "We Agnostics" a light bulb came on. I had read that chapter several nights in a row, but I obviously had glazed over several key parts, like that this book is "exactly" about finding a power greater than myself.

It further states that the book's "main object is to enable you (me) to find a Power greater than yourself which will solve your problem." (All my problems.)

It was in reading that key sentence that I felt a purpose; that my alcohol-

ism now made a little bit of sense to me.

You see, I had always lived my life on self-propulsion, only relying on myself. It was at that moment that I began to fully embrace what the "book" was about. I not only knew intellectually that I was an alcoholic, but I now began to really understand the purpose. God had really entered into my life.

Today, Alcoholics Anonymous is a vital part of me, and I can't imagine my life without it. It has given me direction, purpose, and most importantly a God with whom I have a relationship; whom I trust; and whom I am willing to allow to take away what used to be my most prized possessions, those darn defects of character!

Tammy H  
Ocala, Florida  
June 2011

The thoughts, expressions, and opinions expressed by the author are not necessarily the thoughts, expressions, and opinions of AA as a whole or Intergroup 17 Inc. Excerpts from *Alcoholics Anonymous*, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and other AA publications are reprinted with permission of AA World Services, Inc. and *The AA Grapevine*.

# June by the Books

## STEP SIX

*Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.*

Step Six necessary for spiritual growth.. The beginning of a lifetime job. Recognition of difference between striving for objective and perfection. Why we must keep trying. "Being ready" is all-important. Necessity of taking action. Delay is dangerous. Rebellion may be fatal. Point at which we abandon limited objectives and move toward God's will for us.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, pages 6-7*

The moment we say, "No, never!" our minds are closed against the grace of God. Delay is dangerous, and rebellion may be fatal. This is the exact point at which we abandon limited objectives, and move toward God's will for us.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 69*

Am I entirely ready to have God remove these defects of character? Do I know at long last that I cannot save myself? I have come to believe that I cannot. If I am unable, if my best intentions go wrong, if my desires are selfishly motivated and if my knowledge and will are limited---then I am ready to embrace God's will for my life.

*Daily Reflections, page 165*



**Want to live by the books?  
Then buy the books!**

Find a complete selection of AA conference approved literature available now at Inter-group 17 office,

Visit us at: 3666A NE 25th Street, Ocala, FL 34470. Phone: 352.867.0660. Cash or check sales only.

## TRADITION SIX

*An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.*

The great discovery of sobriety led me to feel the need to spread the "good news" to the world around me. The grandiose thoughts of my drinking days returned. Later, I learned that concentrating on my recovery was a full time process.

*Daily Reflections, page 189*

The unity, the effectiveness, and even the survival of AA will always depend upon our continued willingness to give up some of our personal ambitions and desires for the common safety and welfare. Just as sacrifice means survival for the individual alcoholic, so does sacrifice mean unity and survival for the group and for AA's entire Fellowship.

*As Bill Sees It, page 220*

### Tradition 6 Checklist

1. Should my fellow group members and I go out and raise money to endow several AA beds in our local hospital?
2. Is it good for a group to lease a small building?
3. Are all the officers and members of our local club for AAs familiar with "Guidelines on Clubs," which is available free from GSO?
4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor's advisory committee on alcoholism?
5. Some alcoholics will stay around AA only if we have a TV and a card room. If this is what is required to carry the message to them, should we have these facilities?

*Traditions Checklist*

## CONCEPT SIX

On behalf of AA as a whole, our General Service Conference has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

*Twelve Concepts for World Service, page 26*

This concept may appear to be contradictory; it may look like the collision of an irresistible force with an immovable object. On the other hand we see a Board of Trustees which is invested with complete legal power over AA's funds and services, while on the other hand we find that AA's General Service Conference is clothed with such great traditional influence and financial power that, if necessary, it could overcome the legal rights of the Board of Trustees. It can therefore give the Trustees directives and secure compliance with them — practically speaking.

*The AA Service Manual, page 29*

Excerpts from *Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and other AA publications are reprinted with permission of AA World Services, Inc. and *The AA Grapevine*.

### More new resources at Intergroup 17

**The 12 'n 12 Dictionary**  
More than 2,200 words and phrases explained.

**Emotional Sobriety: The Next Frontier**  
From the AA Grapevine, 43 stories.  
Soft cover and CDs.

**Plus a new collection of  
recovery-related greeting cards.**

Also check out our special-use publications and resources including DVDs for youth audiences (for loan), brochures in Braille, as well as other resources that can help make the message more accessible to all regardless of physical abilities.

## District 17 Corner

### District 17 Service Committees.

#### Many ways to carry the message beyond your group.

##### Carrying the Message to AAs in Correctional Facilities

In Marion County, AA members can help carry the message into the local jails and state prison system facilities by contacting the district corrections service coordinators. District 17 has split the men and woman into two positions. Volunteers must be preapproved to help take meetings into these facilities.

##### Bridging the Gap

Experience suggests that even though an inmate may have been participating in an AA group or meeting in a correctional facility, there is often anxiety about the transition to a regular AA group on the outside. With the constant reminder that AA has only sobriety to offer, many committees try to provide some additional personal contact, so this transition period can be made easier.

##### Carrying the Message to Alcoholics in Treatment Facilities

In trying to reach the alcoholic who is in a treatment facility or rehab, AAs work together, insofar as possible, by using suggestions from those who have had experience carrying the message into treatment facilities. AA guidelines provide a summary of shared experience of AAs who have carried the message into treatment facilities. A *Treatment Facilities Workbook*, available from the General Service Office, contains detailed information about carrying the message into treatment facilities, including ways to approach treatment center personnel, presentations and workshops, temporary contact programs, and other helpful information.

##### Accessibilities

While there are no special AA members, many members have special needs. For

the purpose of accessibilities service, we define AAs with special needs as persons who are blind or visually impaired; deaf or hard of hearing; chronically ill or homebound; the developmentally disabled; and many others who may have less apparent challenges.

##### Public Information (PI)

The purpose of PI service work is to provide accurate AA information to the public when requested. PI committees visit schools, businesses, and community meetings for this purpose. They also serve as resources for our friends in the local media, emphasizing our traditions of anonymity, singleness of purpose, and non-affiliation, as well as offering AA public service announcements to radio and television stations.

##### Communication with the Professional Community (CPC)

Members of this committees provide information about AA to those who have contact with alcoholics through their profession. This group includes health care professionals, educators, members of the clergy, lawyers, social workers, union leaders, and industrial managers, government officials, as well as those working in the field of alcoholism. Information is provided about where we are, what we are, what we can do, and what we cannot do.

##### Learn more

More information about these areas of service can be attained from the District 17 service coordinator in person at District 17 meetings, or:

Email: [district17@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:district17@aaocalamarion.org)  
Or visit AA website: [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

Rick D, District 17 DCM

Service descriptions taken from AA Guidelines available online at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org).

##### District 17 Officers & Service Coordinators

DCM: Rick D  
Alternate DCM: Melissa B  
Secretary: Alison C  
Treasurer: Tim B  
Accessibilities: Ricky B  
Archives: Vacant  
Bridging the Gap: Vacant  
CPC/PI: Michelle Y  
Corrections, Women: Sherry R  
Corrections, Men: Bob L  
Grapevine: Lydia N  
Intergroup: John P  
Literature: Max R  
Treatment: William J

##### Group GSRs

164 Pages Group: Barbara B  
All You Need: Ken W  
Anthony: Lisa E  
Breakfast Club: Barbara K  
Cabin in the Woods: Shelly O  
Came to Believe: John D  
Conscious Contact: Jim B  
Forest Group: Petra H  
Free to Be: Jenn A  
Happy, Joyous & Free: Rick F  
Headstart: Patti B  
Keep It Simple: Tina T  
Last Call: Seth R  
Living Sober: Diane I  
Mano Abierto: Benjamin O  
Men's Group: Bob L  
New Attitudes: Coral M  
No Name Group: Lisa E  
Ocala Group: Hunter B  
Shores of Sobriety: Rafael Q  
Sober Yankees: Ginger H  
Sobriety in Marion Oaks: John S  
Summerfield Group: Peter P  
Together We Can: Kathy B  
We Give Up: Carol W  
Weir Crazy: Jennifer M  
Young People's Group: Billy C

To contact a District 17 officer, service chair, or GSR, call 352.867.0660 or email: [district17@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:district17@aaocalamarion.org)

### Get Your Group On! Stay Connected and Current. Meetings. Dates. Times. More.

Ensure that AA, District 17, and Intergroup 17 have current, accurate information about your group. Please submit all new and changed information in writing at the next District 17 meeting, or by email to: [district17@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:district17@aaocalamarion.org)

Download the group information/change form at: [www.aaocalamarion.org](http://www.aaocalamarion.org) Click on Meetings.

Stay Linked.  
Individual sobriety depends on AA unity.

**Service & Sobriety**  
**District 17. Get Involved.**  
**Service Opportunities**  
**Archives Service Coordinator**  
**Bridging the Gap**  
**Gratitude Dinner committee**

**Learn more**  
**Next Meeting. All Welcome.**

**Thursday, June 30, 6:00 pm**  
St. Mark's United Methodist  
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala, FL

**GSRs. Mark your calendars!**  
**North Florida Area Assembly**  
**July 9-10, St. Augustine**

## Group Contributions to Intergroup 17 April 2011

Intergroup 17's fiscal year runs June 2010-May 2011.  
Contributions below are from June 1, 2010 through April 30, 2011 only.  
Please report any errors or discrepancies to Intergroup 17.

GROUP NAME	\$ Apr '11 Contri- butions	Contri- butions 6/1/10- 04/30/11	GROUP NAME	\$ Apr '11 Contri- butions	Contri- butions 6/1/10- 04/30/11
164 Pages Group	\$ 45.50	\$354.05	Living Sober Group		87.00
Acceptance		50.00	Lunch Bunch Group		159.05
Alive and Well		75.00	Men's Group Ocala		81.00
All You Need Group	45.00	165.00	New Attitudes Group		76.83
As Bill Sees It	210.00	634.51	No Name Group	38.25	162.00
Belleview Eye Opener		27.86	Ocala Group	123.94	1,498.32
Belleview God's Way		28.26	One Page at a Time		2.58
Belleview Group		150.20	Primary Purpose Group	33.00	127.00
Breakfast Club		2,120.84	Shores of Sobriety		30.00
Cabin in the Woods		150.00	Serenity Group		1.01
Came To Believe	0.17	25.42	Sober Yankees		265.05
Citra Group	3.64	6.15	Start A New Life		175.15
Come As You Are		30.00	Strength In Numbers		19.00
Conscious Contact		99.37	Summerfield Group		6.36
Forest Group		121.79	Sundae Social Group		1.00
Forest Men's Group		100.00	TLC Group, The Centers		.35
Fountain of Gratitude	40.00	302.10	Together We Can	3.40	3.40
Free To Be		71.08	We Give Up	16.00	143.40
Grace Group		10.44	Weir Crazy		143.00
Grateful Gals		21.00	Westside Recovery		15.00
Grupo Mano Abierta		25.00	Young People's Group		169.83
Happy Hour Group		90.00	Zion-Blichton Group	16.00	97.64
Happy, Joyous & Free		3,966.25	Archives		
Headstart Group	24.83	309.91	District 17		443.85
Healing Group		80.00	Birthday Club (personal)	28.00	223.00
In the Woods		25.00	Double Nickel (personal)		
It's In The Book		60.00	Faithful 5-ers (personal)	5.00	70.00
Keep It Green		10.00	Individuals (other)	5.46	528.11
Keep It Simple		161.03			
Last Call Group		5.75			
Lifesaver Group		650.00	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$639.19</b>	<b>\$14,454.94</b>

## How Groups and Individuals Support the Work of AA

Group contributions fund the work of Intergroup 17 and other areas of AA General Services. Many groups choose to 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 General Service Office
- 10 percent to North Florida Area Conference
- 10 percent to District 17

### Group contributions

**Intergroup 17**  
3666A NE 25th Street  
Ocala, FL 34470

**The General Service Office**  
P.O. Box 459  
6035 E. Tudor St.  
New York, NY 10164

**NFAC**  
P.O. Box 8983  
Jacksonville, FL 32239-8983

**District 17**  
P.O. Box 3081  
Ocala, FL 34478

## Intergroup 17 Financial Statements

Monthly financial statements for Intergroup 17 are available for review at the Intergroup 17 office during regular office hours. Please telephone in advance: 352-867-0660.

## Keeping AA free of controversies and distractions

*Continued from page 1*

would destroy AA and refused to provide monies for the organization of Alcoholics Anonymous. He did offer \$5,000 for the first printing of the *Big Book*.

As with all aspects of our program, I believe that the individuals who

started Alcoholics Anonymous were inspired and the result was our unparalleled organization. History records the many groups started to help alcoholics: Salvation Army, The Emmanuel Movement, The Washingtonians, the Oxford Group, and many more. All of these organizations no longer exist, probably because one or more of the program components of fellowship, recovery program, spiritual program, service work, and sobriety were missing

until, of course, Alcoholics Anonymous was founded in 1935.

I am ever grateful for the program of Alcoholics Anonymous and the principles embodied in the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

*Prepared by Diane R. The views, expressions, and opinions presented here are those of the author and not necessarily those of Alcoholics Anonymous or Intergroup 17 Inc.*

## Group Meetings News, and More

### Looking for a local meeting?

Choose from more than 140 meetings a week.

**When and Where online!**  
[www.aocalamarion.org](http://www.aocalamarion.org)

Print copies available through home groups or at Intergroup 17 office.

**Here's just a sampling. Find scores more online.**

#### Beginners Meetings

Tuesdays

**Living Sober Group**

**Your support requested!**

Living Sober beginners meeting  
7:30 pm every Tuesday  
Congregational Church  
7171 SW State Rd 200, Ocala

#### Meditation

Wednesdays

**Conscious Contact**

7:00 pm every Wednesday  
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church  
3452 NE Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala

#### Spanish Speaking

Wednesdays

**Grupo Nueva Vida**

7:00 pm Wed, Thurs, Sat, Sun  
150-A SW 23rd Ave. (1/2 block South of Ft. King), Ocala

Fridays and Saturdays

**Grupo Mano Abierta**

7:00 pm Monday & Friday  
St. John's Methodist Church  
12390 West SR328

#### Eat 'n Speak

**Keep It Simple Group**

Last Thursday of the month  
Eat: 7:00 pm Speaker: 8:00 pm  
Small fee for meal  
Ascension Lutheran Church  
5730 SE 28th Street, Ocala

#### 164 Pages Women's Meeting

Last Monday of the month  
6:00 pm  
Ocklawaha United Methodist  
13333 East Hwy 25, Ocklawaha, FL

### New & Newer Meetings

#### New Group

**Together We Can**

Open Discussion  
Fridays, 7:00 pm  
220 Marion Oaks Drive  
Ocala, FL

#### New Group

**Sobriety in Marion Oaks**

Open discussion, Mondays, 7:00 pm  
Community Congregational  
15056 SW 29th Terrace Road  
Ocala, FL

#### Grapevine meeting.

**Sober Yankees**

Second Tuesday, 7:00 pm  
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
5200 SW SR200, Ocala. FL

#### Speaker meeting.

**Ocala Group**

Fridays, 8:00 pm  
St. Mark's United Methodist  
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala, FL  
Desserts welcome!

#### New 12&12 meeting

**Headstart Group**

Mondays, 7:30 am  
Lost & Found Club  
339 NE Sanchez Avenue  
Ocala, FL

#### One Day at a Time

Monday through Friday, noon  
5884 SW 60th Avenue, Ocala, FL

#### Loose Horse Group

Fridays, 7:00 pm  
Friendship Baptist Church  
15115 Gainesville Road  
Reddick, FL

#### Westside Recovery Group

Wednesdays & Thursdays, 5:30 pm  
Open Discussion  
Ocala Family Resource Center  
215 NW Martin Luther King Jr. Ave  
Ocala, FL

#### 164 Pages Group

Women's Meeting, Mondays 6:00 pm  
Eat 'n Speak, last Monday of month  
Ocklawaha United Methodist  
13333 East Hwy 25, Ocklawaha, FL

#### A Vision For You

Mondays, 7:00 pm, Open Discussion  
Florida Highlands Baptist Church  
10891 SW 155th St, Dunnellon, FL

#### Needs Your Support

**Keep It Green, Summerfield**

Fridays 8:00 pm  
Sunset Harbor Baptist Church  
9200 SE Sunset Harbor Rd.  
Summerfield, FL

### Group News and Meeting Changes

#### Expanded Schedule. 7 days a week.

**Last call Group**

Sunday-Thursday at 10pm; Friday & Saturday at 11pm. CATS, 730 SE Osceola, Ocala, FL

#### Time change. Format change.

**Experience, Strength, and Hope**

Fridays, 7:00 pm, *Big Book* study  
Church of Christ, 2750 SE Maricamp Road, Ocala, FL

#### Lifesaver Group

Monday-Saturday, noon, 7365 SW 38th St, Suite 206, Ocala, FL

#### New Meeting Location

**Belleview Eye Opener.**

Thursday, 8:00 am. St Paul's Parish PNCC, corner of Rte. 441 & SE 53 Court, Belleview 34420 as of March 30. Behind the Kangaroo gas station on 441.

#### Summerfield Group

Monday (Beginners) & Thursday (Step), 7:30 pm, Mulberry Grove Recreational Center, 8445 SE 165th Mulberry Lane, The Villages, FL

# Special Events, Celebrations, Notices

## Eat 'n Speak Meetings

**Keep It Simple**

**Thursday, June 30**

**Dinner 7:00 pm Speaker 8:00 pm**

Ascension Lutheran Church  
5730 SE 28th Street, Ocala

## 164 Pages Group, Women's Meeting

**Last Monday of the Month  
6:00 pm**

Ocklawaha United Methodist  
13333 East Hwy 25, Ocklawaha, FL

## Speaker Meetings

### Living Sober Group

**Sunday, May 8, 7:30 pm**

**Speaker: Pam V**

Congregational Church, 7171 SW State Rd 200  
Ocala, Florida

### Ocala Group

**Every Friday, 8:00 pm**

**Desserts welcome**

St. Mark's United Methodist Church  
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala, Florida

## Breathe Easy

**29 non-smoking meetings weekly  
day and night\***

**Lost & Found Groups say  
Come home again or  
for the very first time.**

**Acceptance Group** Seven days a week, 5:30 pm

**Anonymity Group** Sundays, 11:00 am

**Headstart Group** Monday-Sat 7:30 am; Sunday 9:00 am

**Live, Laugh & Love** Sun 1:00 pm women/closed

**Lunch Bunch Group** Monday-Saturday, noon

**New Attitudes** Mon-Thurs, 8:00 pm, Fri-Sun, 7:30 pm

### Lost & Found Club

**339 NE Sanchez Avenue  
Ocala, FL**

\*All meetings non-smoking and handicap accessible. All meetings are open except as noted.

## AA and the Armed Services Call for Stories

Share your experience. Deadline July 15.  
Contact The Voice to learn more:  
[thevoice@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:thevoice@aaocalamarion.org)

## DISCLAIMER

The Voice newsletter is published by Intergroup 17 Ocala-Marion County, Florida, and is created by alcoholics for alcoholics. Articles in the newsletter written by individual members of Alcoholics Anonymous are expressions of their own experiences and opinions and not necessarily those of Intergroup 17 or AA as a whole. The Voice editorial committee reserves the right to accept, edit, or decline information submitted by members or

## Young People's Group Invites You to Celebrate 76 Years of Sobriety



## Founder's Day Dance Saturday, June 11

8:30 pm — 11:00 pm

Drinks and music provided  
Please bring finger foods to share  
(appetizers or desserts)

**\$3 at the door. Children free.**

**Work the steps with your sponsor/  
Dance them with YPG**

St. Mark's United Methodist Church  
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala



## 55th Florida State Convention

**July 20-24, 2011  
Orlando, Florida**

Inspiring speakers.  
Informative workshops.  
Invigorating activities.

**PLUS**

**AA's Got Talent  
Bring your talent!  
Bring your vote!**



**Information & registration  
[www.55.flstateconvention.com](http://www.55.flstateconvention.com)**

## Inside Intergroup

### Greetings from Intergroup 17!

Saturday, May 7, many of us attended District 17's Twelfth Stepping the Wet Drunk Funshop at Unity Place. The meeting room was crowded and much learning and fun was had by all. Thanks to all who signed up as 12th Step volunteers.

### Spring Picnic a Success

Intergroup's May 22 Spring Picnic netted bit more than \$1400 to help Intergroup 17 carry the message.

THANK YOU, thank you to: Burke and Dave (cooks), Kathy B (facilitator), Alan B (volunteer coordinator), Monte B (auctioneer) and his helpers, Seth R (DJ extraordinaire), Rick D (anything we need guy), Ricky B (donating The Book That Started It All), Diane R (piñata), Carney Island staff, the dessert makers, raffle ticket sellers, food and drink servers, set-up and clean-up crews, and all who sold and bought tickets.

All of us at Intergroup are honored to be of service. Stop by and say, "Hi." We'll keep the AA lights on for you.

Connie C, Intergroup 17 office manager

## Plan Ahead. Upcoming Area Events

### Intergroup 17 Monthly Meetings

**Steering Committee**, Monday, June 6, 4:30 pm, Intergroup Office, 3666A NE 25th Street, Ocala

**Monthly Intergroup reps meeting**, Sunday, June 12, 5:15 pm, St. Marks UMC, 1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala,

**Everyone welcome at all meetings**

### Founders' Day Celebration/Tallahassee

June 3 - 5, 2011, Tallahassee, 32303. Info and register at: <http://www.foundersdayflorida.org>

### Founders' Day Dance/Ocala

June 11, 2011, Sponsored by Young Peoples Group. See ad this page.

### Founders' Day Celebration/Akron, OH

June 10-12 2011, Akron, Ohio, Info at: <http://foundersdayregistration.akronaa.org>

### District 17 Monthly Meeting

**Thursday, June 30, 6 pm**  
See page 4 for more details.

### North Florida Area Assembly

July 9-10, 2011, St. Augustine.  
For more information and hotel reservations:  
[www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org)

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### 16th Annual SE Region

**Woman to Woman Seminar**  
August 26-28, 2011, Naples, FL., Register at: PO Box 11351, Tallahassee, FL 32302

### Florida Conference of Young People in AA

September 23-25, 2011, Cocoa, Florida  
<http://fcypaa.net>



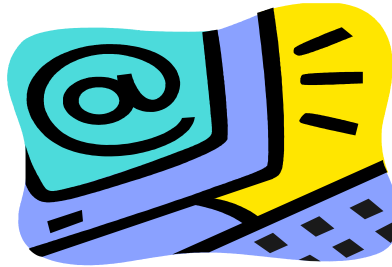
## Intergroup 17 Meetings Everyone invited!

Open to all. Learn more about AA, Intergroup 17, the great opportunities for service work., and more.

Meet **Connie C**, our new  
**Office Manager at the next meeting**  
**Sunday, June 12, 5:15 pm**  
**St. Mark's UMC**  
**1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala**

Steering Committee meets Monday, June 6, All invited. Intergroup office, (address—>)

## Free Subscription. The Voice by e-mail.



### Subscribe for free.

Send an e-mail  
with "Free Voice" in  
the subject line to:

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## Intergroup 17 Ocala-Marion County Florida

3666A NE 25th Street  
Ocala, FL 34470  
Phone: 352.867.0660.

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

### Office Hours

Monday-Friday 10 am to 5 pm

Saturday 10 am to 2 pm

**Office closed Memorial Day**

**Monday, May 30, 2011**

**24-Hour Hotline**  
**365 days a year**  
**352-867-0660**

## Service. The Third Legacy.

### Intergroup 17. Geek needed for website! Desk volunteers too.

Intergroup is looking for a computer savvy volunteer to help construct an online meeting finder for our website.

Also needed: help in staffing the office. Please volunteer. Call for more information. 352 867-0660. Ask for Connie or leave name and number.

### District 17 seeks service committee chairs and more.

Positions open for Archives, Bridging the Gap, Gratitude Dinner, and more. (See page 4)

### "Corresponding" sponsors.

Learn how you can serve as a "corresponding" sponsor to other women alcoholics currently serving time. Sponsorship can be done with complete anonymity. Contact Deb L or Sherry R through Intergroup 17 at 352-867-0660.

### Treatment Committee seeks volunteers.

Great opportunities for service on the frontlines of recovery. Help take meetings to treatment centers in our area. Even if you don't chair, your presence is a message in itself. Attend the next District 17 meeting. (Page 4)

### Take the message to local correctional institutions.

Meet a critical need. Applications for men's and women's prison meetings available at Intergroup 17 office. Call 352-867-0660. Or attend the next District 17 meeting. (Page 4)

### County Jail Women's Meet- ings Need Your Support

Help take meetings to women in Marion County Jail. Learn more about how you can help. Contact Nancy I through Intergroup or email: [nihasz@hotmail.com](mailto:nihasz@hotmail.com)

Publicize your group's service opportunities in The Voice. Call 352 867-0660 or email to [thevoice@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:thevoice@aaocalamarion.org)

### Intergroup 17 Call Center April 2011

Meeting info requests	88
Twelfth Step Calls	3
Office Visits	46
AI-Anon*	11
Miscellaneous	40

\*Calls requesting information relating to AI-Anon Family Groups are promptly and respectfully referred to the appropriate local resources.

### Attitude of GrAAttitude

Intergroup 17 is fully self-supporting. The majority of our financial support comes from the generosity of our local AA groups. A tremendous thank you to the 12 groups that contributed \$1 or more to Intergroup 17 in April, including:

- 164 Pages Group
- All You Need Group
- As Bill Sees It Group
- Citra Group
- Fountain of Gratitude Group
- Headstart Group
- No Name Group
- Ocala Group
- Primary Purpose Group
- Together We Can Group
- We Give Up Group
- Zion-Blichton Group

All who have helped support Intergroup 17 with financial contributions this year are gratefully acknowledged on page 5. If your group has yet to contribute, please consider doing so. It is greatly needed.

Intergroup 17 thanks all who volunteer to make our service possible: **Alison C, Arlene H, Bill J, Diane M, Helen, Jack, James N, Jeff D, Kathy B, Kathy K, Kathy P, Lew, Mike G, Peggy N, Phil H, Rafael Q, Bosch R, John P, Max R, Sandy A, Toni Marie C.**

If we've left anyone out, we sincerely apologize. Let us know, we'll make amends. All help is sincerely appreciated..

Connie C, Intergroup 17 Office Manager