



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 5

www.aocalamarion.org

May 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

Office Hours

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

Get Involved. Next Meeting.

Sunday, May 13, 2012

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

Intergroup District 17

Golf Tournament

Saturday, 9am, June 2
Lake Diamond Golf & CC



All invited

See back page or
Visit www.aocalamarion.org

56th Annual Florida State Convention



August 1-5, 2012
Innisbrook Resort

Palm Harbor, Florida

56.flstateconvention.com

One member's voice

Free to experience the joy

A story of experience, strength, and hope

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

Step Five of Alcoholics Anonymous is actually a three-part process – first admitting the exact nature of our wrongs to God, then to ourselves, and then to another human being. These are three separate admissions. Like all twelve of the steps, I consider Step Five an ongoing process.

We never really finish the steps. I have done the fifth step more than once, and my most recent time was probably my most thorough, even though I did not experience the “pink cloud” effect of earlier attempts.

It followed a fourth step closely directed by my sponsor, which I recommend. I did earlier fifth steps with a sponsor, but the prep work had been done without help. Not a wise decision. I needed guidance.

I never looked forward to my fifth steps with much anticipation. There was always a little fear, especially about revealing me to another human being no matter how trusted.

Admitting my flaws to God was relatively easy for me. I have always had a relationship with God, and it was a relief to release myself from all that baggage uncovered in Step Four. Of course, God knows our hearts, but it is necessary to actually lay all of our defects before our Higher Power to be free of them.

Admitting to myself the exact nature of my wrongs was actually harder than admitting them to God. I wanted to justify my actions. I wanted to blame persons, places and things rather than myself. It was hard to admit my culpability. Eventually I was able to see the way more clearly and finish

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Tradition Five

Directing our energy where it counts most

Each group has one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers

Since Alcoholics Anonymous began, Tradition Five has been questioned. Why, for example, since Dr. Bob also took sedatives, can we only discuss problems with alcohol at our group meetings? This was a decision made by Bill W and Dr. Bob at the very beginning that AA could not address itself to all the other addictions, but only to alcoholism. The very life of our fellowship requires its preservation.

Step Twelve says, however, to “practice these principles in all our affairs.” I believe this means we can

use the twelve step program as outlined in Alcoholics Anonymous to deal with other addictions. In fact, many other programs have adopted the twelve steps to apply to other addictions and problems, but as Alcoholics Anonymous, it is imperative that we follow Tradition Five and carry our message to alcoholics who are still suffering.

In a previous home group in another town, we had so many newcomers that we decided to have a beginners meeting in a smaller room at the same

time we had our main meeting.

However, when the meetings started, most of the individuals who had longer-term sobriety stayed in the big room, and only a few went to the small room to meet with the newcomers. In time, there were so many newcomers, they took over the large room and the individuals who did not want to be with the newcomers went into the small room.

This seemed counter to the principle and purpose of

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Congratulations April Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate a collective **423 years** — and **154,395 days of sobriety**. One day at a time!

Roger J	40 years	Mike P	8 years	April Birthdays Katie 12 years Tammy 8 years Esther 6 years Jack C 5 years Bree 3 years Brent M 3 years Loren E 3 years Ricky C 1 year
Andy H	30 years	Phillip S.	5 years	
Bill H	30 years	Andrea H	3 years	
Rich F	29 years	Bonnie S	3 years	
Steve P	27 years	Brennon	3 years	
Chuck H	26 years	Harry P	3 years	
Steve P	26 years	Norma B	3 years	
Priscilla P	25 years	Sam S	3 years	
John T	24 years	Lauren H	2 years	
Pam E	23 years	Tabitha M	2 years	
Tony E	20 years	Diego H	1 year	
Benjamin O	14 years	Jill R	1 year	
Kevin L	11 years	Manuel	1 year	
David S	9 years	Rebecca S	1 year	
Dolores C.	9 years			

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

Mark Your AA Calendar Upcoming Events

- The Woodstock of AA** May 4-6
22nd Spring Conference Cocoa Beach
 - Lost & Found Club Reopens** May 7
New location. 2315 NE 29th Terrace, Ocala
 - Annual Miracles in May Celebration** May 11
Weir Crazy Group, Summerfield/Weirsdale
 - Intergroup Monthly Meeting** May 13,
St. Mark's UMC, Ocala. Steering Committee,
4:30 pm Intergroup Reps meeting, 5:15 pm
 - FCYPAA 2012 Conference** May 25-27 Renais-
sance World Golf Village Resort, St Augustine
<http://fcypaa2012.com/>
 - District 17 Monthly Meeting** May 31,
6 pm St. Mark's UMC, Ocala.
 - Golf Outing, Intergroup 17** June 2,
Lake Diamond Golf Course.
 - North Florida Area Assembly** July 13-15
St. Augustine. www.aanorthflorida.org
 - 56th Florida State Convention** August 1-5
Innisbrook Golf & Spa Resort, Palm Harbor, Flor-
ida. More info at:
www.56.flstateconvention.com
- For more events and info, visit:
www.aaocalamarion.org**

The Weir Crazy Group 8th Annual "Miracles in May" Celebration

Wednesday, May 11th
 Celebrating the 77th year anniversary of the
 Meeting of Bill W and Dr Bob
6:00 pm Cookout 7:00 pm Speaker
Bambi H, Ormond Beach, FL

Hamburgers, hotdogs, soft drinks & coffee
 provided. Please bring your favorite
 side dish or dessert to share.

St Johns Church
 10495 Sunset Harbor Rd
 Summerfield/Weirsdale 34491

You might be interested.

Bill W

A new documentary tells the story of Wil-
 liam G. Wilson, co-founder of Alcoholics
 Anonymous, a man included in TIME Maga-
 zine's *100 Persons of the 20th Century*. Inter-
 views, recreations, and rare archival material
 reveal how Bill Wilson, a hopeless drunk
 near death from his alcoholism, found a way
 out of his own addiction and then forged a
 path for countless others to follow.

Learn more about this new film. View a
 trailer. Learn about showings and a forth-
 coming CD. www.page124.com

This film does not have any affiliation with or
 endorsement from Alcoholics Anonymous.

Free to experience the joy

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this part of Step Five.
 The hardest part of Step 5 for me
 was admitting my wrongs to another
 person. For the most recent one, done
 in the past few years, the step closely
 followed a fourth step as described in
 the *Big Book*. I identified my resent-
 ments, the cause and effect, and finally
 my part in them. I now needed to tell
 someone else about these resentments.
 I chose my sponsor as that person. You
 can choose a minister or a friend also,
 but it's best not to choose a family mem-
 ber. They are too close to the situation.
 Again, when admitting my wrongs
 to my sponsor, I wanted to blame exter-
 nals. I was also afraid of my sponsor's
 reaction to my story. How could she
 accept me after I confessed my wrong-
 doings? No one, I thought, could be as
 bad as me. I felt a lot of guilt.
 All my fears were unnecessary. My
 sponsor was great. There was no judg-
 ment or disgust. She listened politely
 and gave me support. She praised me
 for being able to identify my part in my
 resentments. The relief was immense. I
 was now freed up to continue my step
 work and experience the joy of the
 promises.

Faith V.
 May 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.*

Subscribe to The Voice by email

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

Service & Sobriety
District 17. Get Involved.
Learn more. Next Meeting. All Welcome.
Thursday, May 31, 6:00 pm
 St. Mark's UMC, 1839 NE 8th Ave.

District 17 Corner

Anonymity and the Internet

We observe all of A.A.'s principles and traditions on our websites.

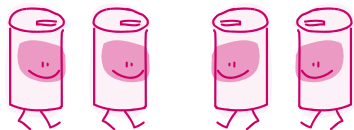
Since anonymity is "the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions," we practice anonymity on A.A. Web sites at all times. An A.A. Website is a public medium which has the potential for reaching the broadest possible audience and, therefore, requires the same safeguards that we use at the level of press, radio and film.

When we use digital media, we are responsible for our own anonymity and that of others. When we post, text, or blog, we should assume that we are publishing at the public level. When we break our anonymity in these forums, we may inadvertently break the anonymity of others.

For more information on anonymity online see the AA pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" and the October 2010 issue of *AA Grapevine*.

Rick D. DCM District 17

Pink Can FAQs



What is a Pink Can?

Money collected in the Pink Cans is used to purchase AA literature for inmates in correctional facilities in Marion County.

How does it work?

It's simple. Just make a motion at your next home group business meeting to have a Pink Can available. If your group approves, your GSR can get your Pink Can from the Intergroup office or at the next District 17 meeting.

What else should I know?

- The Pink Can has a long history in AA.
- All money collected in the Pink Cans is used to purchase AA approved literature.
- The Pink Can does not replace Seventh Tradition donations, it is a voluntary outreach program that groups can help support.

Put a Pink Can to work in your group now.

Intergroup Insights

The Spring Picnic

Not only was it a blast, it was also a tremendous success in terms of attendance and much needed financial support for Intergroup.

Thank you to everyone who contributed. Those who worked to clean up at the Carney Island site so the parking fee could be waived, the cooks, servers, the generator guy, the coleslaw and cake auction contributors, the raffle ticket team, the face painter, and the piñata contribution. And of course, there was our speaker, the readers, the DJ and his assistant, the setup and breakdown team, the beverage servers, all those who sold tickets and everyone who bought them. Thank you very much from the Intergroup Steering Committee and office team.

Golf anyone?

The next fun event in the works is the first annual Intergroup Golf Tournament, which will be on June 2nd, Saturday, at Lake Diamond Golf Club. It's a 9:00 am shotgun start, four-person scramble format, with an entry fee of \$35.00. Included is a continental breakfast, range balls, greens fees, golf cart, lunch, prizes, fun, and fellowship.

Happier birthdays

A special thank you to the members of the Birthday Club, who make a contribution each year on their AA anniversary and to the Faithful Fivers, who pledge \$5 a month. Some groups now distribute Birthday Club envelopes (available from Intergroup) at their anniversary celebrations each month to make contributing even easier. So please, consider making a personal contribution to Intergroup 17 if you can. Every contribution, large or small, helps us meet our financial obligations.

Do we have a service position for you!

That's not a question. It's a statement of fact. There are so many different ways you can be of service locally to Alcoholics Anonymous not only at Intergroup but also at the District level. Call or stop by the Intergroup office, and I will gladly assist you in finding a way to give back to this wonderful fellowship.

Gratefully sober in service,
Connie C, Intergroup Office Manager

Group News and Notes

Lost & Found Club - Reopening Monday, May 7. New location. 2315 NE 29th Terrace, Ocala, FL 34470

Headstart Group - New location. Monday - Saturday, 7:30 am; Sunday, 9:00 am. Unity Place, Ocala.

Bellevue Group. Needs support. Friday, 6:30pm, Bellevue Lions Club

Grupo Nueva Vida - New location, days, & time Sunday, 5:30, Friday, 7:30 pm, Blessed Trinity, 5 SE 17th St,

Living Sober - Needs support. Friday, 7:30 pm, Step Study, First Congregational UCC, 7171 SW State Road 200, Ocala

For more information on groups and meetings visit www.aacalamarion.org
Send news to: thevoice@aacalamarion.org

TRADITION FIVE

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Tradition Five. As a group, our primary purpose is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to alcoholics who are still suffering.

As an individual member, I believe it is my responsibility to carry the message of hope to other alcoholics. Can I carry this message to people who use drugs, gamble, overeat? Only if I have personal experience with these matters. But it is the primary purpose of the Alcoholics Anonymous groups to carry its message to alcoholics only.

Often, those who are suffering from other addictions come to AA because they feel comfortable. These individuals come to the meetings and listen, but generally do not share out of respect for Tradition Three and Tradition Five and the statement read at the beginning of many of our group meetings, the blue card.

As a fellowship we know that we must not be diverted. It is our experience as alcoholics that makes us of unique value to our fellow alcoholics. We can approach these sufferers as no one else can. We shall direct our energies where they count most.

Prepared by Diane R. The thoughts, expressions, and opinions of individuals who write for The Voice are not necessarily those of Intergroup 17 or Alcoholics Anonymous. Excerpts from Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age and Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions reprinted by permission of AA World Services.

Group Contributions to Intergroup March 2012

June 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012.

GROUP NAME	FEB 2012	YTD	GROUP NAME	FEB 2012	YTD
11th Step		63.72	Lunch Bunch		147.50
164 Pages	28.00	195.85	Marion Oaks Group		1.69
Alive & Well		75.00	McIntosh Group		20.00
All You Need		180.41	No Name Group		45.00
Anonymity		150.00	Ocala Group	97.34	1,039.06
As Bill Sees It		247.25	Ocala Men's Group	200.00	400.00
Belleview Eye Opener		150.00	One Day at a Time		625.41
Belleview God's Way		302.94	Primary Purpose		110.00
Breakfast Club	400.19	1,996.03	Serenity Group	50.00	50.00
Cabin in the Woods		200.99	Shores Of Sobriety		59.27
Came to Believe		52.77	Sisters of Serenity		75.00
Citra Group		5.22	Sober Yankees	40.00	200.00
Come As You Are		10.00	Start a New Life		200.00
Conscious Contact		77.56	Strength in Numbers	54.00	132.10
Forest Group		85.07	TLC Group	0.15	2.79
Forest Men's Group		76.22	Together We Can		5.00
Fort McCoy Group	1.36	42.04	We Give Thanks		40.00
Free To Be	125.00	135.00	We Give Up		50.00
Fountain of Gratitude		50.81	Weir Crazy		145.89
Fresh Start	0.67	0.93	Westside Recovery		45.00
Grateful Gals		35.00	YPG		200.00
Happy Hour		50.00	Blichton Road Group	10.00	95.27
Happy, Joyous & Free		1,607.36	District 17	\$4.56	1,132.90
Headstart	39.63	243.10	Birthday Club	82.00	278.00
The Healing Group		30.00	Faithful Fivers	10.00	60.00
Keep It Simple		355.65	Individual Members	5.54	533.56
Last Call		100.65	In memory, David D	10.00	10.00
Lifesaver		153.23	Total	\$ 1,208.79	\$ 12,464.75
Living Sober		70.05			

How Groups and Individuals Support the Work of AA

Below is the financial guideline AA World Services suggests to groups that 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 Where Money & Spirituality Mix, AA General Service Conference-approved literature

Intergroup 17 Call Center March 2012

Meeting info requests	145
Office transactions	81
Twelfth Step Calls	11
Visitors	50
AI-Anon	4
Miscellaneous	98



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



Intergroup 17 Golf Outing Saturday, June 2

Lake Diamond Golf Course
9:00 am Shotgun Start
Four Person Scramble
\$35 per person

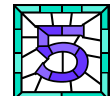
Help to support the work of Intergroup District 17.

Includes: Golf, range balls, cart, continental breakfast, lunch 2pm, and prizes.
50/50 Raffle. Long drive. Closest to the pin. Form you own foursome if possible.
Field is limited to 15 teams.

Not a golfer? Join us for lunch. \$6. Reserve in advance by calling Intergroup.

Lake Diamond Golf & Country Club, 16 Golfview Drive, Ocala 34472

Join the Birthday Club. Become a Faithful Fiver.



Birthday Club

Celebrate your AA anniversary with a contribution to Intergroup. Give \$1.00 or more for each year of sobriety

Faithful Fivers

Pledge \$5.00 a month to help Intergroup carry the message.

Envelopes available at the Intergroup office
or from your Intergroup Representative.