

The Voice

Volume 28, Number 8

August 2011



One member's voice

Not easy. Not hard. Effective.

A story of experience, strength, and hope

Step Eight: *Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.*

It was imperative for me to remember that once I had hit my bottom and actually joined the Alcoholics Anonymous program that I had made a decision: I was willing to go to any length for victory over my alcoholism. Step Eight was a vital party of my sobriety journey.

My first bout with the steps of Alcoholics Anonymous was in a non-AA related facility where, after reading my "exact-nature-of-my-wrongs" list to the local clergy, I was encouraged to have a ritualistic, celebratory burning of what I had written.

After I was released from the facility, I began attending AA meetings believing that I had completed my program as far as the steps were concerned. Some time had

passed, when during a meeting I realized what had been my true bottom. It was that point at which ONE drink of alcohol had become more important to me than the love of my children.

After that realization I made a decision and commitment to myself that no matter what others thought or said, I was not going to drink again. I would go to meetings and tell the story of my bottom and help others to hit their bottoms too. I would be just fine doing it my way on my own, thank you.

Then after a few short months, I was blindsided by the overwhelming desire to drink. It was all I could think of. I was shocked, surprised, and quite emotionally debilitated. After all that progress on my own, how had I gotten back to that point? I was baffled and stunned. My so-called power

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**Come see
where
service
can start
for you!**

**Intergroup 17
Open House
Saturday, August 6
10 am to 2 pm
Details, page 7**

A quote for August About Step Eight

*It is the beginning
of the end of our
isolation from
our fellows and
from God.*

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 82

Tradition Eight

Freely you have received, freely give.

"Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers. "

The very basis of Tradition Eight is that our Twelfth Step work is given freely and that sharing our experience strength and hope is necessary for us to stay sober. The group conscience is made up of members of a group and all group activities are guided by our group conscience.

The group conscience elects individuals to serve as secretary, treasurer, General Service Representative, Intergroup 17 Representative, Grapevine representative, and facilitator. None of these individuals are paid to fill these positions.

In addition, our district — District 17 of the North Florida Area of AA — also has individuals serving in various volunteer positions. Again, these services are provided by individuals for no remuneration.

We do not hire counselors, physicians, psychologists, or other similar professionals to serve the group members nor to do Twelfth-Step work for Alcoholics Anonymous.

What about the "AA" clubs? These are private organizations that may make their facilities available for AA groups to hold AA meetings, often for a specified

rental fee. The private facility itself may hire service personnel to cook, clean, and do other administrative and maintenance functions, but these individuals are not employees of an AA group.

Our General Service Office requires administrative and clerical personnel to provide a wide range of much needed services to AA groups, the general AA membership, and cities and areas that want to start an AA group, central office, or intergroup. These employees provide support that helps us in our Twelfth-Step work.

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Congratulations August Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate anniversaries that add up to a collective **275 years**. That's more than **100, 375 days of sobriety**. One day at a time!

Pat D	31 years	Todd G	4 years	Roxanne	4 years
Gabe P	30 years	Andreie B	3 years	Christine	3 years
John W	24 years	Pamela	3 years	Joe M	2 years
Michael M	21 years	Alaisha M	2 years	Sandy	2 years
Joyce P	18 years	Clinton G	2 years	Brian	1 year
Leroy M	17 years	Carey C	1 year	Mickey	1 year
Rose B	14 years	Joy	1 year		
Faith V	13 years	Lourie J	1 year		
John G	10 years	Stuart L	1 year		
Mary T	8 years				
Rita W	8 years	JULY			
James F	5 years	Jimmy	24 years		
Shirley M	5 years	Rick P	7 years		
Steve C	4 years	Willie	5 years		

Please share your AA birthday with all. Deadline for September birthdays is August 20.

Email: thevoice@aaocalamarion.org
Or phone: 352-867-0660

Join the Birthday Club



Celebrate an AA anniversary—yours or another member's—with a contribution. 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

Not easy. Not hard. Effective.

Continued from page 1

of choice had truly been lost.

Because of certain external circumstances beyond my control, I fortunately did not drink. But having fully recognized my lack of power, I became willing to join AA, to serve AA, and to work the remaining suggested steps of the AA program of recovery.

However, I ran into a problem when it came to Step Eight. The Big Book indicates that we should have a list of all persons we have harmed, the one we made when we took inventory in Step Four. But oh no! Yet another kick to my already battle-scarred ego. I had already burnt my written inventory "ritualistically" as I'd been told.

So I succumbed to the idea that perhaps a sponsor could be of help, and I got one. He suggested that if I really wanted to continue on with the recovery solution. I might want to complete another written inventory He also suggested that this time I might want to use the outline from the *Big Book*.

With some resistance I complied and after writing my inventory, I followed through with my Steps Five, Six, and Seven of my journey. This time, I was able to complete my eighth step using the list from my fourth step inventory.

It was easy listing the names of those I had harmed as far as pen and paper were concerned. The bigger pill to swallow was the knowledge I gained from an honest, in-depth look at the human im-

pact my character flaws had on those I had harmed, the ones who cared for and loved me.

As I looked back at my list, I could see how I was trapped in fear and full of self-pity, resentments, selfishness, and self-centeredness. My delusional ambitions and demands on others were heart wrenching to my innermost self. I always thought I was much better than I really was.

My sponsor suggested that I remove some of those on my list because they were double dumb. He said that I might be wanting to punish them, get revenge, or just scold. That I might be just slightly forgetting for a moment that this eighth step list was of people I had harmed, not the other way around.

To just sum up this step, after looking at Step Eight at this point of my spiritual journey, it's obvious that for me to have gained a daily reprieve from choosing alcohol over the love of humanity, my family, friends, and those yet to come to the program that I needed to be willing, honest, and open minded about the full impact of my past destructive behavior and attitudes.

I needed a solution to my drinking problem. I needed to invest in my recovery. I needed to bring about a more positive change in my life. I needed to find serenity not only with myself, but with others. And I needed to seek out a power greater than myself.

I must say, for the most part, that has come to pass. My old AA mentor once said, "These steps are not meant to be easy, not meant to be hard, no not at all, they are meant to be effective."

I also want to say that I'm grateful not to have missed out on Step Eight as a result of some ritual. From my heart to yours, may the Great Spirit of AA be your shining light.

Frank L
Ocala, Florida
August 2011

Freely you have received

Continued from page 1

The premise that we should "give back" is clearly stated in our book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, when it says, "Freely you have received, freely give".

If an individual AA members chooses to work as a professional in the field of alcoholism and recovery, that is a personal choice. When they attend AA meetings, however, they are just individual alcoholics talking with another.

Some people choose to run farms, half-way houses, and detox centers for recovering alcoholics. These are privately run facilities and not affiliated with Alcoholics Anonymous World Services or any AA group.

As members of AA, we are here to share our experience, strength and hope and strive to make love and service our goal.

Prepared by Diane R

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

August by the Books

STEP EIGHT

“Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.”

Now we need more action, without which we find that “Faith without works is dead.” Let’s look at Steps Eight and Nine. We have a list of all persons we have harmed and to whom we are willing to make amends. We made it when we took inventory. We subjected ourselves to a drastic self-appraisal.

Now we go out to our fellows and repair the damage done in the past. We attempt to sweep away the debris which has accumulated out of our effort to live on self-will and run the show ourselves. If we haven’t the will to do this, we ask until it comes. Remember it was agreed at the beginning we would go to any lengths for victory over alcohol.

Probably there are still some misgivings. As we look over the list of business acquaintances and friends we have hurt, we may feel diffident about going to some of them on a spiritual basis. Let us be reassured. To some people we need not, and probably should not emphasize the spiritual feature on our first approach.

We might prejudice them. At the moment we are trying to put our lives in order. But this is not an end in itself. Our real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us. It is seldom wise to approach an individual, who still smarts from our injustice to him, and announce that we have gone religious.

Alcoholics Anonymous, pages 76-77

TRADITION EIGHT

Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage non-alcoholic. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual AA Twelfth-Step work is never to be paid for.

Tradition 8 Checklist

1. Is my own behavior accurately described by the Traditions? If not, what needs changing?
2. When I chafe about particular Tradition, do I realize how it effects others?
3. Do I sometimes try to get some reward—even if not money—for my personal AA efforts?
4. Do I try to sound in AA like an expert on alcoholism? On recovery? On medicine? On sociology? On AA itself? On psychology? On spiritual matters? Or, heaven help me, even on humility?
5. Do I make an effort to understand what AA employees do? What workers in other alcoholism agencies do? Can I distinguish clearly among them?
6. In my own AA life, have I any experiences which illustrate the wisdom of this Tradition?
7. Have I paid enough attention to the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*? To the pamphlet *AA Tradition. How it Developed*?

“Twelve Traditions Checklists,” page 4

CONCEPT EIGHT

The trustees [of the General Service Board] are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.

- Do we understand the relationship between the two corporate service entities (A.A. World Services, Inc., the A.A. Grapevine) and the General Service Board?
- How can the business term “custodial oversight” apply to the trustees’ relationship to the two corporate service entities?
- Does my home group subscribe to GSO’s bimonthly newsletter Box 4-5-9? *The AA Grapevine*? Do I?

“Concepts Checklist,” service material from the General Service Office

We finally learned what the business world well knows; that we could not, at the level of top management, run a large, active and full-fledged business entity with loose-jointed committees and departments.

However, experience dating from our earliest days strongly suggest that future Trustees and service workers, in the supposed interests of accounting simplicity, tax savings, and hoped-for efficiency, will be periodically tempted to go in for concentration and consolidations of one kind or another. Should this be again attempted, we know that the risk of making an administrative shambles out of the total operation will be great indeed.

These observations are not intended to bar any future needful change. It is urged only that we avoid unnecessary repetitions of those painful experiences and mistakes of the past which sometimes resulted from too much concentration of money and authority.

*AA Service Manual,
Twelve Concepts for World Service*

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*.

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

Find a complete selection of AA conference approved literature available now at the Intergroup 17 office,

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



District 17 Corner

How clear is your group conscience? How about a searching and fearless inventory — of your group?

Many groups periodically hold a “group inventory meeting” to evaluate how well they are fulfilling their primary purpose: to help alcoholics recover through AA's suggested Twelve Steps of recovery. Some groups take inventory by examining our Twelve Traditions, one at a time, to determine how well they are living up to these principles.

The questionnaire below, compiled from A.A. shared experience, may be useful in arriving at an informed group conscience. Groups will probably wish to add questions of their own.

Service & Sobriety
District 17. Get Involved.
Service Opportunities
 Archives Service Coordinator
 Gratitude Dinner committee
 Treatment Service Coordinator
 Cooperation with the Professional Community/
 Public Information
Learn more
Next Meeting. All Welcome.

Thursday, August 25, 6:00 pm

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

AA Group Inventory

1. What is the basic purpose of the group?
2. What more can the group do to carry the message?
3. Is the group attracting alcoholics from different backgrounds? Are we seeing a good cross-section of our community?
4. Do new members stick with us, or does the turnover seem excessive? If so, why? What can we as a group do?
5. Do we emphasize the importance of sponsorship? How effectively? How can we do better?
6. Are we careful to preserve the anonymity of our group members and other A.A.s outside the meeting rooms? Do we also leave the confidences they share at meetings behind?
7. Do we take the time to explain to all members the value to the group of keeping up with the kitchen/housekeeping chores and other essential services that are part-and-parcel of our Twelfth-Step efforts?
8. Are all members given the opportunity to speak at meetings and to participate in other group activities?
9. Mindful that holding office is a great responsibility not to be viewed as the outcome of a popularity contest, are we choosing our officers with care?
10. Are we doing all we can to provide an attractive meeting place?
11. Does the group do its fair share toward participating in the purpose of AA — as it relates to our Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service?
12. What has the group done lately to bring the A.A. message to the attention of professionals in the community—the physicians, clergy, court officials, educators and others who are often the first to see alcoholics in need of help?
13. How is the group fulfilling its responsibility to the Seventh Tradition?

Excerpted from the GSO approved pamphlet P-16, "The AA Group" pg. 27

District 17 Officers & Service Coordinators

DCM: Rick D
 Alternate DCM: Melissa B
 Secretary: Alison C
 Treasurer: Tim B
 Accessibilities: Carson F
 Archives: Open
 Bridging the Gap: Andy K.
 CPC/PI: Open
 Corrections, Women: Sherry R
 Corrections, Men: Bob L
 Grapevine: Lydia N
 Intergroup: Ruth
 Literature: Max R
 Treatment: Open

Group GSRs

164 Pages Group: Barbara B
 Anthony: Lisa E
 Breakfast Club: Barbara K
 Cabin in the Woods: Shelly O
 Came to Believe: John D
 Conscious Contact: Jim B
 Free to Be: Jennifer A
 Happy, Joyous & Free: Rick F
 Headstart: Max R (alt)
 Keep It Simple: Tina T
 Living Sober: Diane I
 Mano Abierto: Benjamin O
 Men's Group: Cory S
 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
 Together We Can. Kathy B
 We Give Up: Carol W
 Weir Crazy: Jennifer M
 Young People's Group: Pamela Z

To contact a District 17 officer, service chair, or GSR, call 352.867.0660 or email: 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
 Download the group information/change form at: www.aaocalamarion.org Click on Meetings.

District 17 is Self-Supporting. Send group donations to District 17 P.O. Box 3081, Ocala, FL 34478

See GSO guidelines for group donations, page 5.

Group Contributions to Intergroup 17 June 2011

**Intergroup 17's fiscal year runs June 2011-May 2012.
Contributions below are from June 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.
Please report any errors or discrepancies to Intergroup 17.**

GROUP NAME	\$ June '11 Contributions	Contributions 6/1/11-6/30/11	GROUP NAME	\$ June '11 Contributions	Contributions 6/1/11-6/30/11
164 Pages Group	\$ 140.00	\$ 140.00	Living Sober Group		
Acceptance			Lunch Bunch Group		
Alive and Well			Men's Group Ocala	62.50	62.50
All You Need Group			New Attitudes Group		
As Bill Sees It			No Name Group		
Belleview Eye Opener			Ocala Group		
Belleview God's Way			One Day at a Time		
Belleview Group			Primary Purpose Group		
Breakfast Club	485.00	485.00	Shores of Sobriety	1.16	1.16
Cabin in the Woods			Serenity Group		
Came To Believe	17.62	17.62	Sober Yankees		
Citra Group			Start A New Life		
Come As You Are			Strength In Numbers		
Conscious Contact			Summerfield Group		
Forest Group	20.00	20.00	Sundae Social Group		
Forest Men's Group			TLC Group, The Centers		
Fountain of Gratitude			Together We Can	5.00	5.00
Free To Be			We Give Up		
Grace Group			We Give Thanks		
Grateful Gals			Weir Crazy		
Grupo Mano Abierta			Westside Recovery		
Happy Hour Group			Young People's Group		
Happy, Joyous & Free	323.87	323.87	Zion-Blichton Group	10.00	10.00
Headstart Group	25.30	25.30	Archives		
Healing Group			District 17	.24	.24
In the Woods			Birthday Club (personal)		
It's In The Book			Double Nickel (personal)		
Keep It Green			Faithful 5-ers (personal)	5.00	5.00
Keep It Simple	78.85	78.85	Individuals (other)	22.72	22.72
Last Call Group			Total	\$1,197.26	\$1,197.26
Lifesaver Group					

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.

District 17, June 30, 2011 Meeting Minutes Highlights

- 21 officers, GSRs, and guests present.
- DCM called meeting to order. Secretary and Treasurer Reports read and approved.
- Accessibilities, Treatment and CPCPI service chairs tendered resignations; new service chairs sought.
- Men's corrections: processed six new applications, three approved. More volunteers needed
- Intergroup: Open house being planned; Spring Picnic netted \$1400; contributions still very low.
- Old Business
- Status report on group conscience on changing the use of the word "queers" in the 12&12.Groups to provide input at July meeting.
- Service fair being planned.

**Plug into
Intergroup 17
online**



Explore www.aocalamarion.org
When & Where online
Service opportunities
Upcoming events
Resources for recovery
The Voice, current & back issues
Subscribe to The Voice by email
Free. Anonymous. Send request to:
thevoice@aaocalamarion.org

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

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 meeting

Total Surrender Group

Thursdays, 7:00 pm
Fort King Presbyterian Church
13 NE 36th Avenue
Ocala, FL

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

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

Discontinued

Lifesaver Group

All meetings discontinued.
Check the *When & Where* for other groups and meeting options.

Discontinued (until further notice)

We Give Up Group

Thursday meetings have been discontinued. Monday meetings are still being held. Please join us. Ascension Lutheran Church, 5730 SE 28th Street, Ocala

New meeting location

Bellevue Eye Opener

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

Special Events, Celebrations, Notices



Everyone Invited
Intergroup 17
Open House
Saturday, August 6
10 am to 2 pm

Reconnect with Intergroup. Learn more about service. Refreshments served.

3666A NE 25th Street
Ocala, FL 34470
 Phone: 352-867-0660.

New Meeting
Total Surrender Group
Thursdays, 7:00 pm
 Fort King Presbyterian Church
 13 NE 36th Avenue, Ocala
Everyone Welcome

Speaker Meetings

Living Sober Group
Sunday, August 14, 7:30 pm
Speaker: Scott

Congregational Church, 7171 SW State Rd 200
 Ocala, Florida

Ocala Group

Every Friday, 8:00 pm
Speaker & Dessert

8/05 Dan J 8/12 Carol W
8/19 Cree gM 8/26 Eddie F

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

Breathe Easy

29 non-smoking meetings weekly *

Lost & Found Club

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

339 NE Sanchez Avenue, Ocala, FL

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

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 others for publication.

Inside Intergroup

Open House, August 6, 10 am to 2 pm

Preparations are in full swing for the Intergroup 17 Open House, Saturday, August 6. Steve S and James N have tirelessly patched and painted the walls. They look so good, I don't want to hang anything on them. Come see for yourself and enjoy much more including the local AA Archives and our fully stocked shelves of AA literature, card, gifts, and recovery-related items.

Refreshments will be served from 10 am to 2 pm. Our newest volunteer Kate S is helping make the punch. Everyone please come and enjoy the goodies and fellowship.

Fall Picnic Committee forming

It's definite. Ron R will be returning as DJ for the event, so get your electric slide, macarena, and hokey pokey legs in shape. First discussion of the picnic will take place at the Sunday, August 14 Intergroup Representative meeting, 5:15pm at St. Mark's

United Methodist Church. Your suggestions and service are always welcome.

Treatment and Archives Service

District 17 has openings for service coordinators for Treatment, Archives Chairs, and Cooperation with the Professional Community/Public Information. All of these committees are integral to Intergroup's work in answering inquiries about treatment, meetings, and more. We also house the District 17 Archives, and preserving the history of AA in Marion County is crucial to the alcoholic who has yet to come through AA's doors. Passing on the message of hope that freedom from alcohol is possible to anyone is what our founders ask of us.

From all the volunteers, officers, and trusted servants at Intergroup 17, thank you for the privilege of being of service,

Connie C,
 Office Manager, Intergroup 17

AA Men

**Share your experience,
 strength, and hope.**

Phoenix House Men's Meeting
Friday Nights, 7:00 pm
15681 North US Highway 301
Citra, Florida

Carry the message.
Personal recovery depends on
AA unity.

For more information, contact Intergroup:
 352-867-0660

Eat 'n Speak Meetings

Keep It Simple

Thursday, August 25
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

Plan Ahead.

Upcoming Area Events

Intergroup 17 Open House
 Saturday, August 6, 10 am to 2 pm, Intergroup Office,
 3666A NE 25th Street, Ocala. **All invited.**

Intergroup 17 Monthly Meetings
Steering Committee, Tuesday, August 9, 4:30 pm,
 Intergroup Office, 3666A NE 25th Street, Ocala
Monthly Intergroup reps meeting, Sunday, August
 14, 5:15 pm, St. Marks UMC, 1839 NE 8th Avenue.
Everyone welcome at all meetings

District 17 Monthly Meeting
 Thursday, August 25, 6 pm. See page 4 for more details.

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

Your local source for

AA literature & more

Are you hearing things? You could be.
Check out these AA World Services CDs

Voice of Our Co-Founders
Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions
Three Legacies by Bill W

Plus our expanded collection of
recovery-related items.

Also ask about 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.



Intergroup 17 Meetings Everyone invited!

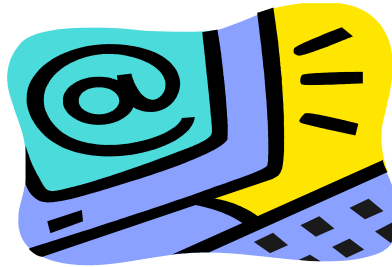
Open to all. Learn more about AA, Intergroup 17, the great opportunities for service work, and more.

Sunday, August 14, 5:15 pm
St. Mark's UMC

1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Steering Committee meets Tuesday, August 9,
4:30 pm. Intergroup office, All invited.
For more information: 352-867-0660

Free Subscription.
The Voice by e-mail.



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Send an e-mail
with "Free Voice" in
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thevoice@aaocalamarion.org

The Voice by e-mail is sent anonymously in PDF format. No one else can see your email address. Requires Adobe Reader software. Free download available at www.adobe.com. Printed copies available at Intergroup office.

Intergroup 17 Ocala-Marion County Florida

3666A NE 25th Street
Ocala, FL 34470

Phone: 352-867-0660.

www.aaocalamarion.org

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 10 am to 5 pm

Saturday 10 am to 2 pm

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

Service. The Third Legacy.

Take meetings to nursing homes, hospitals, and more.

Some members simply can't get to a meeting because of physical limitations. The Accessibilities Committee seeks volunteers to take meetings to shut-ins, nursing homes/ALF residents, and hospitals. Call Intergroup to learn more. 352 867-0660.

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.

Women are waiting now for "Corresponding" sponsors.

There's a waiting list for women to correspond with other women alcoholics currently serving time. Can be done with complete anonymity. Contact Deb L or Sherry R through Intergroup 17 at 352-867-0660.

District 17 seeks service committee chairs and more.

Positions open for Archives, Gratitude Dinner, Treatment, and more. (See page 4)

Carry 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 Meetings 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 by email: nihasz@hotmail.com

Publicize your group's service opportunities in The Voice. Call 352 867-0660 or email to thevoice@aaocalamarion.org

Intergroup 17 Call Center June 2011

Meeting info requests	104
Office	56
Twelfth Step Calls	11
Office Visits	35
Al-Anon*	8
Miscellaneous	52

*Calls requesting information relating to Al-Anon Family Groups are promptly and respectfully referred to the appropriate local and national 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 June:

- 164 Pages Group
- Breakfast Club
- Came to Believe
- Forest Group
- Happy Joyous & Free
- Headstart Group
- Keep It Simple
- Men's Group Ocala
- Shores of Sobriety
- One Day at a Time Group
- Together We can
- Zion-Blichton Group

All who have contributed 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 also thanks all who volunteer their time so freely to make our service possible: Alison C, Arlene H, Bill J, Bosch R, Diane M, James N, James Ni, Jeff D, Kate S, Kathy B, Kathy P, Max R, Mike G, Peggy N, Phil H, Rafael Q, Sandy A, Steve C, Toni Marie C

If we've left anyone out, we sincerely apologize. Every minute of service makes a difference and is sincerely appreciated.

Connie C, Intergroup 17 Office Manager