



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 6

www.aocalamarion.org

June 2012

Intergroup District 17

3666A NE 25th Street
Ocala, FL 34470

In the N.E. 36th Ave Industrial Park
352-867-0660

aocalaintergroup@gmail.com

Office Hours

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

Get Involved. Next Meeting.

Sunday, June 10, 2012

Steering Committee 4:30pm Inter-
group Reps 5:15 pm
St. Mark's United Methodist 1839
NE 8th Ave, Ocala

Intergroup District 17

Golf Tournament

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



All invited!

Non-golfers, come for lunch.

Call 352-867-0660 or visit
www.aocalamarion.org for details

56th Annual Florida State Convention



August 1-5, 2012
Innisbrook Resort

Palm Harbor, Florida

56.flstateconvention.com

One member's voice

On the road to a place of peace

A story of experience, strength, and hope

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

When I look back at my life 15 years ago, the only concern I had about defects of character was finding them in others and pointing them out. Never did I bother to look at my own shortcomings, mistakes, sins, or defects of character.

After the severe beating I took from alcohol and as a direct result of finding AA, attending meetings daily, getting a sponsor, and working the first five steps, I became "honest" about me. I became "open minded" to the concept that a power greater than myself could restore me to sanity. I became "willing" to do what was asked of me and to find and understand that power that members of the fellowship talked about and seemed to have in their lives.

After I took a fact-finding, fact-facing, moral inventory of myself — as the big book and my sponsor suggested — I had documented proof of the existence of my defects of character. And then, as I admitted — over a long eight-hour session — to God (as I then understood him), to myself, and to my sponsor, I saw my grosser handicaps.

I was astonished to find out how blind I was to what had been so obvious to others. I felt ill, but at the same time I had a great feeling of relief. For the first time in my life, I knew I was on the road to a place of peace, comfort, usefulness, and happiness that I had never experienced.

The very next Saturday, after a 7:30 am meeting, I started my Step Six assignment. I was at a library (Yes, me!), and I was surrounded by a lot of other people, who were not part of AA, but were also trying to learn,

Continued page 2—>

Tradition Six

Separating the material from the spiritual

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.

Let's take an imaginary trip back to 1939 and 1940 and think about people of our type working to discover a solution to the alcohol problem in the United States.

Try to imagine the ideas they had for helping others and, while you're at, how some of those ideas also involved ways to make money in the process. Imagine the controversy and the grandiose plans they had. Imagine the discord that grew up among them as they tried to carry out those plans.

In those early days, individuals and AA groups — many well intentioned —

came up with all kinds of schemes. One AA group built its own all-purpose center, which included a drying out section. Others built drunk farms, halfway houses, and other similar facilities. All of these endeavors failed. Of course, treatment and rehab facilities still exist and serve an important function, but none are endorsed or financed by AA as a whole.

This journey back in time helps us understand the essence of Tradition Six and how it protects AA from grandiose thinking and behaviors as well as from entrepreneurs, however well

meaning they may be.

It reminds us of that the group's purpose is to help the alcoholic who still suffers. All other outside issues can create "problems of money, property, and prestige" that will divert us from our primary purpose.

A deeper look at Tradition Six as it is expressed in its long form gives even more insight:

Tradition Six, Long Form

Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We

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Congratulations June Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate a collective **376 years** — and more than **137,240 days** of continuous sobriety!

Diane R	41 years
James N	28 years
Dave C	27 years
Rick D	27 years
Debbie T	25 years
Mike R	18 years
Roseanna S	19 years
Jerry G	17 years
Mike V	14 years
Don C	9 years
Sheila N	7 years
Mavis	6 years
Michael N	6 years
Steve M	6 years
Cory S	4 years

Julio C	3 years
Craig C	2 years
Bernie M	1 year
Ryan B	1 years

May

Danny S	53 years
Merrie Lou B	33 years
Dan J	29 years

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

Living Sober Summer Picnic
 Living Sober Group invites you to join the fun.



Sunday, June 24

5:00 pm fellowship hour 6:00 pm Dinner
 7:30 pm AA Anniversary Meeting

**Free to all. Donations accepted.
 50/50 Raffle.**

Please bring a side dish and/or dessert

First Congregational Church
 7171 SW Hwy 200, Ocala

On the road to a place of peace

Continued from page 1

grow, and better themselves. I was one of them.

I knew, for once in my life, I was trying to do God's will for me. It felt awesome, better than any feeling that booze or drugs had ever given me.

I remember being told that in order for God to enter my life, I had to clean house. I'm very grateful that doing that felt so great, because as an alcoholic I always want more of whatever makes me feel good.

From that point on, I tried to do just that. As a result of being entirely ready and entirely willing to have God remove my defects of character, he did just that and began to replace those defects with assets like, humility, forgiveness, gratitude, moderation, contentment, and willingness.

Having started, I continued the assignment of working on one defect a day and applying its antonym in my life. I did this along with doing a daily inventory and all with the help of my God-given sponsor and AA friends — my life preservers.

Today, I'm grateful God brought me to AA and put my sponsor in my life. I only hope I live long enough to show my gratitude by living the spiritual steps of AA and by being the best example I can be of God's power, God's love, and God's way of life to all I come in contact with as I continue to grow along my new journey of life.

John B
 Summerfield, Florida
 June 2012

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.

Mark Your AA Calendar Upcoming Events

Golf Outing, Intergroup 17 June 2,
 Lake Diamond Golf Course.

Intergroup Monthly Meeting June 10,
 St. Mark's UMC, Ocala. Steering Committee,
 4:30 pm Intergroup Reps meeting, 5:15 pm

Lost & Found Club Grand Opening June 16
New location. 2315 NE 29th Terrace, Ocala

Living Sober Summer Picnic June 24, Ocala.
 Details this page.

District 17 Monthly Meeting June 28,
 6 pm St. Mark's UMC, Ocala.

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,
 Florida. More info at:
www.56.flstateconvention.com

26th Annual Tampa Bay Fall Roundup Aug
 31- Sept 3, Tampa:
www.TampaBayFallRoundup.com

**For more info on these
 and other events, visit:
www.aaocalamarion.org**

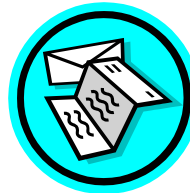
Lost & Found Club Grand Opening Party June 16, 2012

Festivities start 1 pm BBQ dinner 3 pm
 Free to all. Please bring a dessert to share.

New location: 2315 NE 29th Terrace
New phone: 352-622-2360

Group meeting space available. Please inquire.

Become an AA Pen Pal



Men and women who are inmates in the Marion County prison system need AA Pen Pals.

What a special gift you can give by sharing your experience, strength, and hope with someone with a long-term prison sentence, offering the hope of recovery and perhaps even becoming a visitor to someone who has no visitors. You might even have the opportunity of hearing a fifth step. When one alcoholic shares the message with another alcoholic the rewards are indescribable.

Becoming an AA Pen Pal is fast and simple. Your personal information and address are kept confidential. You can request the form for becoming a Pen Pal from your GSR or the Intergroup 17 Office. Return the completed form to Intergroup and an inmate pen pal will be assigned to you. If you'd like to learn more, contact the corrections committee chairs through Intergroup 17 at 352-867-0660 or attend the next District 17 meeting.

**Service & Sobriety
 District 17. Get Involved.
 Learn more. Next Meeting. All Welcome.**

Thursday, June 28, 6:00 pm
 St. Mark's UMC, 1839 NE 8th Ave.

eBooks from AA World Services

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

Get complete details at www.aa.org

District 17 Corner

What can we do for you?

District 17 needs your input on what type of workshops you would like us to sponsor. Past workshops and funshops have included:

- Chairing a meeting/meeting etiquette
- 12th stepping the wet drunks
- Sponsorship
- AA Jeopardy
- Meditation w/ demonstrations
- Service fair
- Traditions.

Other possibilities include:

- Quick view of the 12 Steps or in depth individual steps
- Spirituality- what and how
- AA literature
- Working with newcomers,
- Taking meetings to hospitals, hospice, and private homes,
- Long-timers table/Ask it basket
- 13th stepping
- Problems other than alcohol (singleness of purpose)
- Slip prevention

Please give us YOUR ideas and preferences. Call Intergroup at 352-867-0660 and leave a message for the DCM or e-mail your ideas to: district17@aaocalamarion.org

We're here to serve you! Thanks.

Rick D, DCM, District 17

Area 14 North Florida Area Assembly July 14-15, 2012 St. Augustine

GSRs plan now to attend.

All members welcome.
Full Details and Agenda Online
www.aanorthflorida.org/assembly_agenda

Books, cards, & more Intergroup 17 Bookstore

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



3666A NE 25th Street, Ocala
Phone: 352-867-0660
Email: aaocalaintergroup@gmail.com

Group News and Notes

Serenity Group - New Meeting Days

Open Discussion, Tuesday & Thursday 12 pm (Formerly Monday, Wednesday, Friday)
Episcopal Church of the Advent , 9641 I SW Highway 484 34481

How It Works Group - New Group

Open Big Book meeting, Tuesdays. 6 pm (beginning 5/29), Ocklawaha United Methodist Church, 13333 E Highway 25, Ocklawaha

Living Sober Group - Speaker Meeting

Sunday, June 10, 7:30 pm. June speaker: Yodie G. **Beginners Meeting** Needs support. Tuesdays, 7:30 pm. First Congregational Church, 7171 SW Hwy 200, Ocala

Headstart Group - New location.

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

Needs support. Lunch Bunch, Monday thru Saturday, noon. **New Attitudes**, Mon thru Thurs 8 pm, Fri thru Sun, 7:30 pm. Both groups meet at the new Lost & Found Club, 2315 NE29th Terrace, Ocala.

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

Three Questions and a Suggestion from the Corrections Committee

1. Have you ever been arrested as a result of your drinking?
2. Have you ever gotten a DUI?
3. Has your drinking led to a self-imposed jail/prison cell?

If you answered "No" to these questions, you may consider them experiences you haven't had "yet." If you answered "Yes," you already have valuable experience.

The *Big Book* tells us, "The tremendous fact for every one of us is that we have discovered a common solution."

This is the message we carry to those who suffer from alcoholism. If you have continuous sobriety for one year or longer, you can come share your experience, strength, and hope by helping take AA meetings to the men and women in our local correctional institutions.

To learn more about this vital and rewarding service opportunity, call 352-867-0660 or attending the next District 17 meeting, June 28 at St. Mark's UMC.

Want to learn more about service opportunities?
Visit www.aaocalamarion.org



Intergroup 17 maintains a list of speakers willing to be of service to local groups. The Happy, Joyous, & Free Group began the list, which is now being maintained by Intergroup.

Your anonymity will be protected; only the Intergroup office manager will have the complete speaker list.

If you'd like to volunteer your services as a speaker, please give us your name, home group name, sobriety date, and contact information (phone/and or email address):

- By email: aaocalaintergroup@gmail.com
- By phone: 352-867-0660.

Separating the material from the spiritual *Continued from page 1*

think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to AA should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An AA group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to AA, such as clubs or hospitals, which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the AA name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, AA managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside AA – and medically supervised. While an AA group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An AA group can bind itself to no one.

That's pretty self-explanatory. We follow this and all the traditions first because if we don't, we get drunk and destroy our program. Then, we follow them because we love AA and never want to do anything to hurt our fellowship. I love the concept of spiritual submission.

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. Excerpts from Alcoholics Anonymous reprinted by permission of AA World Services.

Contributions to Intergroup April 2012

June 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012.

GROUP/MEETING NAME	APR 2012	YTD	GROUP/MEETING NAME	APR 2012	YTD
164 Pages	\$ 16.24	\$ 212.09	Lunch Bunch		147.50
Alive & Well		75.00	Mano Abierto	35.00	35.00
All You Need		180.41	Marion Oaks Group		1.69
Anonymity	0.52	150.52	McIntosh Group		20.00
As Bill Sees It	225.00	472.25	No Name Group		45.00
Belleview Eye Opener	50.00	200.00	Ocala Group	14.13	1,053.19
Belleview God's Way	100.00	402.94	Ocala Men's Group		400.00
Blichton Road Group	12.00	107.27	One Day at a Time		625.41
Breakfast Club		1,996.03	Primary Purpose	0.54	110.54
Cabin in the Woods	100.00	300.99	Serenity Group	50.00	50.00
Came to Believe		52.77	Shores Of Sobriety		59.27
Citra Group	2.35	3.17	Sisters of Serenity		75.00
Come As You Are		10.00	Sober Yankees		200.00
Conscious Contact		77.56	Start a New Life		200.00
Eleventh Step		63.72	Strength in Numbers		132.10
Forest Group		85.07	TLC Group		2.79
Forest Men's Group	40.00	116.22	Together We Can		5.00
Fort McCoy Group	0.55	42.59	We Give Thanks	0.05	40.05
Free To Be	125.00	135.00	We Give Up	20.00	70.00
Fountain of Gratitude		50.81	Weir Crazy	65.00	210.89
Grateful Gals	45.00	80.00	Westside Recovery		45.00
Happy Hour	80.00	130.00	YPG		200.00
Happy, Joyous & Free	703.17	2,310.53	District 17	2.73	1,135.63
Headstart	0.41	243.51	Birthday Club	181.00	459.00
It's Not Them	10.00	10.31	Double Nickel	5.00	5.00
Healing Group		30.00	Faithful Fivers		55.00
Joy of Living	55.00	55.00	Individual Members	42.28	575.84
Keep It Simple		355.65	Total	\$ 1,946.20	\$14,476.65
Last Call		100.65			
Lifesaver		153.23			
Living Sober	105.23	175.73			

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 April 2012

Meeting info requests	133
Office transactions	68
Twelfth Step Calls	7
Visitors	41
Al-Anon	9
Miscellaneous	106



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 Insights

Desk volunteers needed

Intergroup District 17 is in need of a desk worker for the Friday afternoon shift, 2-5 pm. We also need an "After Hours" call helper for Friday, 5 pm-10 am Saturday and for Saturday 2 pm-Monday 10 am. One year of continuous sobriety is required to fill these positions. Call Intergroup to volunteer: 352-867-0660.

Something special for someone special

If you are looking for a special gift for a special someone, Intergroup 17 has rings, bracelets, earrings, key chains, medallion holders, book covers, specialty medallions, and pins in stock. Visit us!

A grateful word

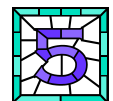
We at Intergroup 17 are so grateful to all who volunteer their time and talents to our work here. Thanks also to all who help keep our doors open with Birthday, Faithful Fiver, and group contributions. Giving back what was so freely given to us is how it works.

Service in early sobriety

If you are a newcomer and looking for a service commitment, discuss it with your sponsor and then call me at 352-867-0660. We will help you find a service spot that's just right for you.

Gratefully yours in sober service,
Connie C, Office Manager

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.