



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

July 2012

## Intergroup District 17

3666A NE 25th Street  
Ocala, FL 34470

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

[aaocalaintergroup@gmail.com](mailto:aaocalaintergroup@gmail.com)

### Office Hours

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

### Get Involved. Next Meeting.

**Sunday, July 8, 2012**

Steering Committee 4:30pm  
Intergroup Reps 5:15 pm  
Intergroup 17 Office

## 56th Annual Florida State Convention



Always to be There

August 1-5, 2012

Innisbrook Resort

Palm Harbor, Florida

Great speakers. Nonstop meetings. Banquets. Ice cream socials.

Golf. Tennis. 5K Run. Yoga.

Gilligans Island Contest. Much, much more. Good rooms available at nearby hotels.

Register today.

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

Service & Sobriety

Get Involved.

Learn more. All Welcome.

Intergroup 17 Monthly Meeting

Sunday, July 8, 4:30 pm Steering

Committee; 5:15 Representatives

3666A NE 25th Street, Ocala

District 17 Monthly Meeting

Thursday, July 26, 6:00 pm

St. Mark's UMC, 1839 NE 8th Ave.

The Voice by Email Free

Send your request to:

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

### One member's voice

## Only God can remove my fear

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

Step Seven: *Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings*

No matter what I achieved, my father felt compelled to remind me I could do better. He challenged me never to quit, never to yield, never to give up, and never to accept where I was. If I talked about my doubts, he told me I was wrong to feel that way. He rarely attended church and never talked about God having a role in anyone's life, much less his own.

Although I loved my father, he was complicated and demanding. During World War II, he served as a dentist on a ship in the Pacific. While he serving our country, his only sister committed suicide. They were particularly close. He blamed God for her death and was enraged that it took the Red Cross six months to notify him.

I idolized my mother whom I consider a saint. She was quick to praise and encourage me, listened more than she talked, and affirmed the naturalness of my doubts and fears. Having attended Catholic schools and celebrated a Mass daily, she carried a strong faith into her marriage to a non-practicing Baptist who would, after his customary pre-dinner cocktails, question in heated rhetoric my mother's reliance on God's power and the importance of an active church life.

I cannot explain why, but when it was time to choose between reliance on God and the power of self will, I put God on the shelf.

Having wholeheartedly adopted the power of my will, I set standards for myself and those around me that no human could meet, then judged everyone, including myself, by how we met those standards. In

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## Bill W on the importance of Tradition Seven

*Reprinted from the Grapevine, June 1948, by permission of AA World Services. Remember as you read, this was written 64 years ago, when a dollar went a lot further than today!*

*"The A.A. Groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contribution of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve its ideal: that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experi-*

*ence has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority."*

Our growth continuing, the combined income of Alcoholics Anonymous members will soon reach the astounding total of \$250,000,000, a quarter of billion dollars yearly [in 1948]. This is the direct result of A.A. membership. Sober we now have it, drunk we would not.

By contrast, our overall A.A. expenses are trifling. For instance, the A.A. General Office now costs us \$1.50 per member a

year [in 1948 dollars]. As a fact, the New York office asks the groups for this sum twice a year because not all of them contribute. Even so, the sum per member is exceedingly small. If an A.A. happens to live in a large metropolitan center where an intergroup office is absolutely essential to handle heavy inquiries and hospital arrangements he contributes (or probably should contribute) about \$5.00 annually. To pay the rent of his own group meeting place, and maybe coffee and doughnuts, he might drop \$25.00 a year in the hat. Or, if he belongs to a

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## Congratulations July Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate a collective **500 years** — half a century — which is more than **182,500 days** of continuous sobriety!

Gary F	36 years
Mary Jo H	34 years
Bob C	33 years
Bosch R	31 years
Pat C	24 years
Lori M	22 years
Bob B	20 years
Michelle M	20 years
Randy M	20 years
Marlene G	17 years
Paul B	15 years
Don M	14 years
Peggy B	8 years
Doe T	7 years
Ashley C	5 years
Jason B	5 years
John G	5 years
Kelly W	5 years
Marvin P	5 years
Mary T	3 years
Ganetta D	3 years
Rob P	3 years
Yvonne M	3 years
Alan R	2 years
Audra C	2 years
Craig K	2 years
Don T	2 years
Matt D	2 years

Matt V	2 years
Cameron M	1 year
John I	1 year
Nicki C	1 year

### June Birthdays

Jim Z	35 years
Pat M	30 years
Dox	25 years
Patti H	21 years
Tami A	8 years
Wade	6 years
Asa	5 years
Amie	4 years
Jay V	4 years
Jill	2 years
Stephan	2 years
Alycia	1 year
Jeanette	1 year
Mike L	1 year
Paige	1 year
Sean	1 year

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

## Mark Your AA Calendar Upcoming Events

**Fourth of July Picnic** July 4,  
 Lost & Found Club, Ocala, 1:30 pm, Suggested donation \$2. Side dishes/desserts welcome.  
 2315 NE 29th Terrace, Ocala

**Intergroup Monthly Meeting** July 8,  
 St. Mark's UMC, Ocala. Steering Committee, 4:30 pm Intergroup Reps meeting, 5:15 pm

**North Florida Area Assembly** July 13-15  
 St. Augustine. [www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org)

**We Give Up Group Anniversary Eat 'n Speak**, July 16, Ocala. Details facing page.

**District 17 Monthly Meeting** July 26,  
 6 pm St. Mark's UMC, Ocala. Facing page)

**56th Florida State Convention** August 1-5  
 Innisbrook Golf & Spa Resort, Palm Harbor, Florida. More info at:  
[www.56flstateconvention.com](http://www.56flstateconvention.com)

**26th Annual Tampa Bay Fall Roundup**  
 Aug 31 - Sept 3,  
[www.TampaBayFallRoundup.com](http://www.TampaBayFallRoundup.com)

More info at: [www.aacalamarion.org](http://www.aacalamarion.org)

### Books, cards, & more Intergroup 17 Bookstore

Hours  
 Monday-Friday, 10am to 5pm  
 Saturday, 10am to 2pm  
 3666A NE 25th Street, Ocala



## Only God can remove my fear

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other words, I was never good enough. The frustration of my constant internal battles and of my silent judgments of the people in my life caused increasingly unmanageable pain.

I didn't drink in high school. I considered myself an athlete and hated how my father mistreated my mother when he drank. During college, I learned that alcohol neutralized my shyness, so I drank at parties. Following graduation, I completed Army officer training school, then moved to Brussels, Belgium, for a two-year tour of duty. I was single, alone, and still shy, so I drank more often.

By the time I completed my military commitment, earned a graduate degree, and started my career, I was drinking daily. Alcohol had solved my shyness and solitude, so I applied it to the pres-

ures of marriage and children and to the pursuit of fame and fortune. But it was a solution that quietly eroded my peace of mind and became my life's biggest problem.

Almost forty years later, God saved my life with the miracle of surrender. The last three-and-a-half years, I worked to learn and apply the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous and the Twelve Steps, and to follow the guidance of my sponsor. It hasn't always been easy. Sobriety forced me to grow.

But willingness to experience the growth pains has convinced me that the chief activator of my problems is self-centered fear. I now recognize that my ego is my greatest enemy. For my entire life, I have fought daily self-centered fear, a gnawing knot in my gut that I am under attack, that I must be ready to fight to get what I want and to avoid losing what I have, and even friends can threaten my peace.

One day at a time over the last three-and-a-half years, I have come to

believe that only God can give me peace for only God can remove my fear. Each day, I humbly pray for God to make me a channel of His peace, to allow me to self-forget so that I will find, and to grant that I die to myself so that I may awaken to Eternal Life. I understand that only God can answer my prayers. Meanwhile I can only strive to take action as if He already has.

Wayne M  
 Summerfield, Florida  
 July 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.*

### 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](http://www.aa.org)

## District 17 Corner

### Corrections Committee Opens Up a Wide World of Service

#### True or False?

- ◆ Doing the right things for the right reasons is my way of controlling my selfishness and self-centeredness.
- ◆ I realize that my dependence on a Higher Power clears the way for peace of mind, happiness, sobriety?
- ◆ I pray each day to be helpful to others?
- ◆ I made a sincere commitment to service work?

#### Truth

“Nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics . . . follow the guidance of a Higher Power and you will presently live in a new and wonderful world; no matter what your present circumstances! (Big Book, page 89, 100)

#### Get Involved

There is action and more action. “Faith without works is dead.” To be helpful is our only aim.  
Women’s Corrections needs women chair people and men and women speakers. Contact Intergroup at 352-867-0660 for more information.

## Become an AA Pen Pal



Have you wanted to take on a service commitment but aren’t able to do so because you don’t drive or your work or family commitments conflict?

How About becoming an AA Pen Pal to those who are currently incarcerated in local corrections facilities? Your address is NEVER revealed. All correspondence is through the Intergroup 17 office.

Becoming an AA Pen Pal is fast and simple. Just 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 have questions or want more information, contact the corrections committee chairs through Intergroup 17 at 352-867-0660.

## Intergroup Insights

### Monthly Meeting Location Changed

Starting Sunday, July 8, the Intergroup Steering Committee and Group Representatives meeting will be held at the Intergroup Offices (see page 1 for times and address.) Your Intergroup Representative serves as your voice. Only one representative showed up last month. Please make sure yours is willing to serve.

#### After-Hours Team Needs You

Intergroup 17 has an urgent need for a member to take “hot line” calls on weekends, Saturday afternoon through Sunday night. It’s one of the most rewarding service positions you can fill: being the hand of AA when someone reaches out for help. Call to learn more and to volunteer 352-867-0660.

#### Golf Tournament Thank You

Thank you to all who participated in and helped with the First Annual Intergroup Golf Tournament at Lake Diamond CC. It was a huge success and we are looking forward to hosting it again this April when the weather is a little cooler.

Yours in sober service,  
Connie C, Office Manager

## We Give Up Group Fourth Anniversary



### Eat ‘n Speak

Monday, July 16

Spaghetti Dinner 5:30 pm  
Guest Speaker Follows

Everyone cordially invited

Ascension Lutheran Church  
5730 SE 28th St , Ocala

## Justifying Alcoholism Isn't Lasting

### Sobriety Can Be

Alcoholics Anonymous is a society of alcoholics in action. Our literature tells us, “We must carry the message or else we can wither and those who have not been given the truth may die.”

It also says, “The joy of seeing newcomers grow reminds me of where I came from, where I am now and the limitless possibilities that lie ahead. I can’t keep it unless I give it away.”

One very special place to give it away is at the Marion County Jail by taking meetings to the inmates. To learn more about this vital and rewarding service opportunity, call 352-867-0660 or attending the next District 17 meeting, July 26 at St. Mark’s UMC.

## 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](http://www.aanorthflorida.org/assembly_agenda)

## Group News and Notes

#### Serenity Group - New Meeting Days

Open Discussion, Tuesday & Thursday 12 pm (Formerly Monday, Wednesday, Friday)  
Episcopal Church of the Advent , 96411 SW Highway 484 34481

#### How It Works Group - New Group

Open Big Book meeting, Tuesdays. 6 pm, Ocklawaha United Methodist Church, 13333 E Highway 25, Ocklawaha

#### Living Sober Group - Speaker Meeting

Sunday, July 8, 7:30 pm. July speaker: Dave.  
**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. 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.

## Contributions to Intergroup 2011/2012 Fiscal Year Totals

June 1, 2011 through May 31, 2012.

GROUP/MEETING NAME	May 2012	YTD	GROUP/MEETING NAME	May 2012	YTD
164 Pages		\$ 212.09	Lunch Bunch		147.50
Alive & Well		75.00	Mano Abierto		35.00
All You Need		180.41	Marion Oaks Group		1.69
Anonymity		150.52	McIntosh Group		20.00
As Bill Sees It		472.25	No Name Group		45.00
Belleview Eye Opener		200.00	Ocala Group		1,053.19
Belleview God's Way		402.94	Ocala Men's Group	41.03	441.03
Blichton Road Group	11.00	118.27	One Day at a Time	50.00	675.41
Breakfast Club	380.00	2,346.03	Primary Purpose		110.54
Cabin in the Woods		300.99	Serenity Group		50.00
Came to Believe		52.77	Shores Of Sobriety	75.00	174.27
Citra Group	10.00	13.17	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	70.00	202.10
Forest Group		85.07	Sundae Social Group	150.00	150.00
Forest Men's Group		116.22	TLC Group		2.79
Fort McCoy Group		42.59	Together We Can		5.00
Fountain of Gratitude	75.00	125.81	We Give Thanks		40.05
Free To Be		135.00	We Give Up	25.60	95.60
Grateful Gals		80.00	Weir Crazy	73.00	283.89
Happy Hour		130.00	Westside Recovery		45.00
Happy, Joyous & Free	306.44	2,616.97	YPG		200.00
Headstart	133.99	377.50	District 17		1,135.63
Healing Group		30.00	Birthday Club	86.00	554.00
It's Not Them		10.31	Double Nickel		5.00
Joy of Living		55.00	Faithful Fivers		55.00
Keep It Simple		355.65	Individual Members	36.73	612.57
Last Call		100.65	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,525.22</b>	<b>\$16,001.87</b>
Lifesaver		153.23			
Living Sober		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 May 2012

Meeting info requests	159
Office transactions	80
Twelfth Step Calls	7
Visitors	39
Al-Anon	6
Miscellaneous	121



**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**

## Bill W on the importance of Tradition Seven

*Continued from page 1*

club it could be \$50.00. In case he takes he squanders an extra \$2.50!

So, the A.A. member who really meets his group responsibilities finds himself liable for about \$5.00 a month on the average. Yet his own personal income may be anywhere between \$200. and \$2,000. a month — the direct result of *not* drinking.

"But", some will contend, "our friends want to give us money to furnish that new club house. We are a new small group. Most of us are still pretty broke. What then?"

I am sure that myriads of the A.A. voices would now answer the new group saying, "Yes, we know just how you feel. We once solicited money ourselves. We even solicited publicly. We thought we could do a lot of good with other peoples' money. But we found that kind of money too hot to handle. It aroused unbelievable controversy. It simply wasn't worth it. Besides, it set a precedent which has tempted many people to use the valuable name of Alcoholics Anonymous for other than A.A. purposes.

While there may be little harm in a small friendly loan which your group really means to repay, we really beg you to think hard before you ask the most

willing friend to make a large donation.

You can, and you soon will, pay your own way. For each of you these overhead expenses will never amount to more than the price of one bottle of good whiskey a month. You will be everlastingly thankful if you pay this small obligation yourselves.

When reflecting on these things, why should not each of us tell himself, "Yes, we A.A.s were once a burden on everybody. We were 'takers.' Now that we are sober, and by the Grace of God have become responsible citizens of the world, why shouldn't we now about face and become 'thankful givers'! Yes, it is high time we did!"