

# The Voice

Volume 28, Number 9

September 2011



### One member's voice

## I don't' know. Must be magic.

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

Step Nine: *Made direct amends to such people wherever possible except when to do so would injure them or others.*

While all of the twelve steps are powerful spiritual tools, Step Nine to me is absolutely magical. There is no rational reason it ought to bring about the complete destruction of the ego's most potent weapon — guilt — but it does just that. And guilt's quiet little brother, shame, positively shrivels up like a salted garden slug. Rendered impotent, guilt and shame become but memories, like the shadows of a nightmare.

How does this miraculous transformation come about? I do not know. Must be magic. But knowing the mechanism of the transformation is as pointless as needing to know why the ship is sinking. Survival is all that matters. Just get your butt into a life-

boat and start rowing away before you get sucked into the whirlpool!

AA literature shows a very thorough and well-travelled course of action for navigating the tricky waters of Steps Eight and Nine. *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* describes the most common "reasons" for NOT making amends. And like many, if not most of us, I can easily relate to them, even while that devious little alcoholic mind is busy looking for loopholes.

With amends, every "easier, softer" path leads only to shoals and disaster. As with the other eleven steps, what is really important in Step Nine is the ACTION required. To the alcoholic mind, navigating these most unfamiliar waters seems to be disaster in the making.

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**Intergroup 17  
FALL PICNIC**  
**Sunday, October 9, 2011**  
**Carney Island Park**

**Food, fun, fellowship.**  
**Speaker. Cake Auction.**  
**50/50 Raffle**  
**Details page 6**

### A quote for September

*The spiritual life  
is not a theory.  
We have to  
live it.*

*Alcoholics Anonymous, page 83*

### Tradition Nine

## Spiritual Simplicity vs. Functional Simplicity

**AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.**

AAhhhhh, the paradox of AA's message. We ought not organize, but we must.

This is the essence of Tradition Nine. Do not tell us what to do, but lovingly suggest, and we respond. Such is the miracle of our spiritual program.

We must not organize our recovery program, but we must organize the carrying of the message. Or, as Bill W. put it. "Face chaos and uncertainty."

If someone had told me, as a newcomer to AA, where I had to fit in and what I had to do, I never would have

gotten sober.

How does a person whose life is too fatally unmanageable step into a strict organizational hierarchy? The truth is, he does not.

The true genius of AA's traditions is there are many spiritual guides that provide "wobble room" if you would, for the many different personalities and egos that come together.

The traditions are the results of experience, and we abide by them, not because we have to but because not to is to die.

We have two dictators in

AA. The first is booze. Disregarding the traditions or fighting one another will drive us to drink, and for us to drink is to die.

The second and most important dictator is love of Alcoholics Anonymous. The love of the program makes us want to fit in and not want to do anything to hurt one another. Thus Tradition Nine allows us to leave the program to spiritual simplicity while organizing from the group level all the way to GSO.

*Continued page 9—>*

## Congratulations September Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate anniversaries that add up to a collective **483 years**.  
That's more than **176,295 days of sobriety**. One day at a time!

Fred S	46 years	David M	3 years	Liz C	14 years
Judy K	39 years	Scott C	3 years	Mike S	13 years
Diane D	34 years	Brian K	2 years	Barbara F	11 years
Paula V	32 years	Greg M	2 years	Leslie M	8 years
Ruth T	25 years	Jeremy H	2 years	Holly M	7 years
Maria B	25 years	Hampton M	2 years	Jane W	5 years
John S	23 years	Jason V	2 years	Kim S	5 years
Ginger H	19 years	Matt B	2 years	Steve C	4 years
Bob K	16 years	Dawn	1 year	Jennifer	3 years
John B	14 years			Alan B	2 years
Bob T	8 years			JJ	2 years
James M	5 years	Tim D	30 years	David	1 year
Kelly M	5 years	Frank	22 years	Diana	1 year
Andrea	3 years	Ron	20 years	Mike F	1 year
Cynthia W	3 years	Leroy Mc	17 years	Stuart	1 year

### AUGUST

Please share your AA birthday with all. Deadline for October birthdays is September 20.  
Email: [thevoice@aaocalamarion.org](mailto: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**

## I don't know. Must be magic.

*Continued from page 1*

After all, to make amends requires admitting that I've made a mistake, that I was wrong! And I have spent a lifetime doing my best to never admit I was wrong about anything. People hurt me! I didn't hurt them except perhaps in retaliation. I have been the victim, not the perpetrator!

Hiding from my faults has become so second nature that only an expert surgeon could crack through my defenses. Luckily, such a surgeon is close at hand — my sponsor.

Having navigated these waters previously, he becomes my new captain. He helps me to look only at myself and ignore what was "done to me." He shows me, usually through the simple expedient of telling some of his own story, that I have not only minimized the harms I have done others, but simultaneously I have hurt just about everybody I've ever known. I was the best of men, I was the worst of men. No wonder people thought me insane!

Captain Sponsor, though, knows exactly how to clear the fog of self-induced hypnosis. It takes a bit of getting used to, this shift of perception. And few would do it at all except for one thing — fear of returning to alcohol.

Tentatively, a list of "possibles" is drawn up — people I may have harmed

— and also a list which includes almost everyone I ever knew, especially those I knew intimately. For many, this list begins with family, whether they are speaking to us or not.

Then there are the ones I owe money. They are the easiest to recall, according to the sponsor. He suggests that there may have been some I caused physical harm, perhaps in a car accident or a bar fight. What about my kids? I scared the hell out of them, punished them, verbally abused them, embarrassed them and then ignored or abandoned them. How do I make amends for those harms?

Friends I screwed over then abandoned without a word of explanation. Bosses I hated and denigrated. Co-workers I used or despised and gossiped about. What about all the people whose feelings I had hurt, inadvertently or on purpose? The list seemed endless, the task hopeless.

But Captain Sponsor keeps me at the wheel, guiding, suggesting, pointing out the difference between true harm and imaginary harm dreamed up by the alcoholic mind to keep guilt and shame alive.

"There is a way to make amends to everyone on your list", he says, though how is something hard to imagine. "Money could be repaid, if only a little at a time. Harms done to loved ones, friends, and co-workers could be alleviated, too. I could become trustworthy once again and perhaps those whose trust I violated could trust me again. The very act of making amends

changes the person to whom you are making it," he says.

"No longer can such persons see the rest of the world as untrustworthy and indifferent. You become a bright spot in their lives — someone who acknowledged his own part in harms done. Presto, the world is a little brighter for your efforts."

And so I set about these tasks, these amends, and commenced to try my best. Step Nine requires such great humility and perseverance that it is a wonder anyone ever completes the tasks they've voluntarily set. It would be so easy to just forget the whole thing, let sleeping dogs lie. But Captain Sponsor knows what I'm thinking. And he exhorts me to keep at it.

Eventually something amazing happens. Some spiritual programs call it a "paradigm shift." In AA, we call it a spiritual awakening. Perception changes from self focused to other focused. And those sterling promises we hear read at the beginning of every meeting begin to come true. And, if we are fortunate, someone pins a Captain label on us and calls us sponsor. The circle is then complete. But without Step Nine and its magic, it would never have happened.

Anonymous  
Ocala, Florida  
September 2011

*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.*

# September by the Books

## STEP NINE

*“Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.”*

A Tranquil mind is the first requisite for good judgment. Good timing is important in making amends. What is courage? Prudence means taking calculated chances. Amends begin when we join AA. Peace of mind cannot be bought at the expense of others. Need for discretion. Readiness to take consequences of our past and to take responsibility for well-being of others is spirit of Step Nine.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 7*

Good judgment, a careful sense of timing, courage, and prudence—these are the qualities we shall need when we take Step Nine.

After we have made the list of people we have harmed, have reflected carefully upon each instance and have tried to possess ourselves of the right attitude in which to proceed, we will see the making of direct amends divides those we should approach into several classes. There will be those who ought to be dealt with just as soon as we become reasonably confident that we can maintain our sobriety. There will be those to whom we can make only partial restitution, lest complete disclosures do them or others more harm than good. There will be other cases where action ought to be deferred, and still others in which by the very nature of the situation we shall never be able to make direct personal contact at all.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 83*

Above all, we should try to be absolutely sure that we are not delaying because we are afraid.

For the readiness to take the full consequences of our past acts, and to take responsibility for the wellbeing of others at the same time, is the very spirit of Step Nine.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 87*

## TRADITION NINE

Each AA group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary.

The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our AA Tradition and the receivers of voluntary AA contributions by which we maintain our AA General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our overall public relations and the guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the AA Grapevine.

All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in AA are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

*Tradition Nine, Long Form  
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 191*

The General Service Conference, the board of trustees, and group committees cannot issue directives to AA members of groups. AA's can't be dictated to—individually or collectively. Absence of coercion works because unless each AA follows suggested Steps to recovery, he signs his own death warrant. Same condition applies to the group. Suffering and love are AA's disciplinarians. Difference between spirit of authority and spirit of service. Aim of our services is to bring sobriety within reach of all who want it.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 12*

**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,

## CONCEPT NINE

No matter how carefully we design our service structure of principles and relationships, no matter how well we apportion authority and responsibility, the operating results of our structure can be better than the personal performance of those who must man it and make it work. Good leadership cannot function well in a poorly designed structure . . . Weak leadership can hardly function at all, even in the best of structures.

A leader in AA service is therefore a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him and help with his job.

Good leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, any where. Consequently, good leadership will often discard its own cherished plans for others that are better, and it will give credit to the source.

Our leaders do not drive by mandate, they lead by example. We say to them, “Act for us, but do not boss us.”

*“The Twelve Concepts for World Service,”  
pamphlet, page 8*

## Concept IX Checklist

- Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
- Do we discuss how we can best strengthen the composition and leadership of our future trusted servants?
- Do we recognize the need for group officers? What is our criteria for election? Do we sometimes give a position to someone “because it would be good for them?”
- Do I set a positive leadership example?

*“Concepts Checklist,” page 3*

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## District 17 Corner

Get ready for a great fall season. AA Jeopardy, Area Assembly, Gratitude Dinner, and much, much more.

### District 17, July, 2011 Meeting Minutes Highlights

- 22 officers, GSRs, and guests present.
- DCM called meeting to order. Secretary and Treasurer Reports read and approved.
- Bridging the Gap seeks volunteers for Phoenix House meetings.
- Intergroup needs desk help. New group formed: "Total Surrender, Thursdays, 7 pm, Ft. King Presbyterian, 13 NE 36th Ave, Ocala.
- Literature: Local member submitted a story for consideration for AA & Armed Services pamphlet.
- Men's corrections: processed six new applications, three approved. More volunteers needed
- Accessibilities: Carson F elected new service chair.
- Old Business: Groups voted 7 to 6 against taking action regarding the use of the word "queers" in 12 & 12. Gratitude dinner committee to be formed. Need chairs for CPCPI and Treatment committees.

### Area 14 North Florida Area Assembly October 15-16, 2011 St. Augustine

**GSRs plan now to attend. All members welcome.**

Tentative Schedule. Subject to Change.

#### Saturday October 15, 2011

8:00 am - 5:30 pm Registration  
 9:00 am - 4:15 pm Workshops  
 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Dinner  
 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm Agenda items meeting

#### Sunday October 16, 2011

8:00 am - 9:00 am Registration  
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Business Meeting

#### Full Agenda Online

[www.aanorthflorida.org/assembly\\_agenda](http://www.aanorthflorida.org/assembly_agenda)

#### Location and Hotel Reservations

The Renaissance Resort,  
 500 South Legacy Trail,  
 St. Augustine, Florida 320921  
 Tel: 904-940-8000

Link to online booking at:  
[www.aanorthflorida.org/assembly\\_agenda](http://www.aanorthflorida.org/assembly_agenda)

## Show Some Gratitude.



### The District 17 Gratitude Dinner Committee Needs You.

Hey you, grateful members. It's time to show up, line up, and sign up for the Gratitude Dinner Committee.

We need a chairperson to lead the effort and lots of others to sell tickets, plan the menu, secure a speaker, decorate the tables, and plan other all the other fun bits of the festivities.

Show up for service. Thursday, September 8, 6:40 pm, St. Matthews Lutheran, 3452 NE Silver Springs Blvd, Get ready for fun and service. To volunteer now, email: [district17@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:district17@aaocalamarion.org)

### Service & Sobriety District 17. Get Involved. Service Opportunities

Secretary  
 Archives Service Coordinator  
 Gratitude Dinner Committee  
 Cooperation with the Professional Community/  
 Public Information

#### Learn more

**Next Meeting. All Welcome.**

**Thursday, September 29, 6:00 pm**

### 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.

### 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 7.

## 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 T  
 Literature: Max R  
 Treatment: James M

### 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](mailto:district17@aaocalamarion.org)

### AA Grapevine 7-day Free Trial Online Subscription

Check out the new resources for AA Grapevine and La Vina online subscribers.

**Monthly & yearly subscriptions.**

To learn more, visit [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)

### Annual Florida Corrections Workshop

Sunday, September 25, 2011  
 Noon to 3:00 PM.

Sahara Club, Sanford, Florida

Light Lunch, Snacks and Coffee provided  
 More info: [www.aanorthflorida.org/flyers/Flyer-for-Sanford-Correction-WS-2011-09-25.pdf](http://www.aanorthflorida.org/flyers/Flyer-for-Sanford-Correction-WS-2011-09-25.pdf)



**The Answer: AA Jeopardy.**  
**The Question: Will you be there?**



The classic TV game show  
played a whole new way.

**Test your knowledge of AA.**

Form teams. Win prizes

Increase your AA IQ.

Learn something new about service too.

**AA Jeopardy. Hosted by District 17.**

**Free to all.**

Includes lunch by Francine.

Desserts to share are welcome.

**Saturday, September 24, 2011**

**Noon to 2:00 pm**

Unity Place. 525 NE Sanchez Avenue, Ocala

More info: 352-867-0660

# Intergroup 17 ANNUAL FALL PICNIC

Sunday, October 9, 2011  
Carney Island Park, Lake Weir, Ocklawaha



**Fun starts: 10:00 am**  
**Speaker: 10:30 am**  
**Lunch: Noon to 2:00 pm**  
**50/50 Raffle**  
**Cake Auction\***

\*Donate your favorite baked specialty!  
Non-refrigerated items only.

## Fabulous Food.

Chicken on the grill.  
Sides and beverages.  
Bring a dessert to share.

**Lunch served Noon to 2:00 pm**

## Fun & games.

DJ Ron with your favorite tunes.  
Lawn games, swimming, volleyball, dancing  
and more for children of all ages.

**Come early. Parking limited.**

## Tickets

**Adults: \$6 Children: \$4**

**Purchase early. Advance ticket sales only. No on-site tickets.**  
Includes parking. Show ticket for park admission.  
Available from the Intergroup Office. Or ask your Intergroup rep.  
**Please note. Pets are not permitted inside the park.**



## Directions to Carney Island Carney Island Park, 13275 SE 115th Ave, Ocklawaha

Carney Island Park is off SR 25 between Belleview and  
Ocklawaha, just south of Silver Springs Shores.  
Follow the signs into the park from SR 25.  
**For more information: 352 867-0660**

## Volunteers Needed

**Service plus Fun. Volunteer today!**  
**Call Intergroup 352-867-0660**



## Group Contributions to Intergroup 17 July 2011

**Intergroup 17's fiscal year runs June 2011-May 2012.  
Contributions below are from July 1, 2010 through July 31, 2011.  
Please report any errors or discrepancies to Intergroup 17.**

GROUP NAME	July '11 Con- tributios	Contri- butions 6/1/11- 7/31/11	GROUP NAME	July '11 Con- tributios	Contri- butions 6/1/11- 7/31/11
164 Pages Group	\$ 27.50	\$167.50	Living Sober Group	35.03	35.03
Acceptance			Lunch Bunch Group		
Alive and Well			Men's Group Ocala		62.50
All You Need Group	45.00	45.00	New Attitudes Group		
As Bill Sees It			No Name Group		
Belleview Eye Opener	50.00	50.00	Ocala Group		
Belleview God's Way			One Day at a Time	100.00	100.00
Belleview Group			Primary Purpose Group		
Breakfast Club	330.50	815.50	Shores of Sobriety		1.16
Cabin in the Woods	100.00	100.00	Serenity Group		
Came To Believe		17.62	Sober Yankees		
Citra Group			Start A New Life	100.00	100.00
Come As You Are			Strength In Numbers		
Conscious Contact	77.56	77.56	Summerfield Group		
Forest Group		20.00	Sundae Social Group		
Forest Men's Group			TLC Group, The Centers		
Fountain of Gratitude			Together We Can		5.00
Free To Be			We Give Up		
Grace Group			We Give Thanks		
Grateful Gals	35.00	35.00	Weir Crazy		
Grupo Mano Abierta			Westside Recovery		
Happy Hour Group			Young People's Group		
Happy, Joyous & Free	365.03	688.90	Zion-Blichton Group	17.37	27.37
Headstart Group	31.78	57.08	Archives		
Healing Group			District 17		.24
In the Woods			Birthday Club (personal)		
It's In The Book			Double Nickel (personal)		
Keep It Green			Faithful 5-ers (personal)	5.00	10.00
Keep It Simple		78.85	Individuals (other)	9.20	31.92
Last Call Group	153.23	153.23	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,502.79</b>	<b>\$2,700.05</b>
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.

#### First Contact

"Is this AA? Well, um . . . I think I might have a drinking problem. Can you help me?"



**Can YOU?  
Yes YOU can!  
Will YOU?**



**Just say "Yes" to  
answering 12th Step calls,  
we'll show you the rest.**  
Call Intergroup to learn more.  
**352 867-0660**

#### ***'The AA Member — Medication and Other Drugs.'***

"No AA member should play doctor."  
That's one of the messages that comes across loud and clear in the newly revised General Service Conference-approved pamphlet, "The AA Member—Medication and Other Drugs," plus lots more sound thinking and good information for all AA members.

**Call intergroup to help you get a copy.**

#### **CARRY THE MESSAGE MAN-TO-MAN WITHOUT LEAVING HOME**

GSO Corrections Correspondence Services needs male AA members on the "outside" to correspond with male AA members in correctional facilities. For more information:  
Mail: Corrections Desk, GSO, PO Box 459, NY, NY 10163.  
Phone: 212-870-3400  
Email: corrections@aa.org



## **Intergroup Steering Committee Elections. Sunday, November 13, 2011 Step Up and Serve. Nominations Now Being Accepted.**

Nominate yourself or someone else. Positions to be filled include: Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and two Members At Large. Requirements for officers included two years of continuous sobriety. Elections to be held Sunday, November 13, 2011, 5:15pm at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 1839 NE 8th Ave, AA Bldg, Ocala, FL.

### **Intergroup 17 Steering Committee**

The functions of the Intergroup 17 Steering Committee includes but is not limited to:

- Overseeing the operation of the Intergroup 17 office and responsibility for its sustained functioning.
- Selecting and assisting the Intergroup 17 Office Manager.
- Coordinating group interest in the Intergroup 17 office and all its service operations.
- Considering, evaluating and recommending to the representatives, other ways and means of aiding the AA program in accordance with its Traditions and Principles and in conformity with GSO Guidelines for Intergroup and Central Offices.
- Serve as Trustees having protective custody of all tangible property of the corporation.
- Determine that only duly authorized personnel handle the funds of the corporation.

### **Steering Committee Officers**

#### **The Chair**

The duties and service obligations include, but are not limited to the following:

- Chair Steering Committee Meeting
  - ◆ Prepare agenda for next Intergroup 17 Representatives meeting
  - ◆ Discuss old and/or new business to be put on Intergroup 17 Representatives meeting agenda with Steering Committee members
  - ◆ Discuss current and proposed expenditures with Treasurer and Steering Committee members to keep members aware of current financial status.
  - ◆ Minimize length of discussion and attempt to close all meetings on time.
- Chair Intergroup Representatives Meeting
  - ◆ Preside over and preserve order at all Intergroup 17 Representatives meetings.
  - ◆ See that Committee Chair reports are presented briefly and concisely.
  - ◆ Limit time on all discussion and if issue unresolved, carry over to next meeting.
  - ◆ Facilitate inclusion of all Intergroup 17

Representatives, keep focus on topic at hand; keep in mind the necessity of a well-informed group.

- ◆ Allow ample time for new business (up to 30 minutes).
- ◆ Attempt to close meeting on time.
- Service Obligations
  - ◆ When possible, attend North Florida Area Meetings (General Service Assemblies).
  - ◆ Attend all special committee meetings.
  - ◆ Maintain occasional contact with North Florida Delegate to General Service Conference.

#### **The Vice-Chair**

The duties and service obligations of the Vice-Chair include, but are not limited to:

- Chair Steering Committee and Intergroup 17 Representatives meetings in Chair's absence
- Act as Chair, or appoint a Chair of Group Relations Committee. This committee might operate in the following manner:
  - a) Visit each AA group as often as practical, at least once a year, and explain the function of the Intergroup 17 office.
  - b) Develop methods to keep group information current at Intergroup 17 office.
  - c) Coordinate all committee information with Intergroup 17 Office Manager.
  - d) When possible, attend Intergroup 17 sponsored events.
  - e) Perform any other duties the Chair requests.

#### **The Secretary**

The duties and service obligations of Secretary include, but are not limited to:

- Record minutes and attendance of Intergroup 17 Representatives meetings.
- Assist the Office Manager with correspondence, as necessary.
- Become familiar with office filing system and record keeping.
- Make available all necessary materials for Steering Committee and Intergroup 17 Representatives meetings. (Roll-call sheets, prior minutes, prior Treasurer's reports, etc.)
- When possible, attend Intergroup 17 sponsored functions.

#### **The Treasurer**

The duties and service obligations of the Treasurer include, but are not limited to:

- Work closely with Intergroup 17 Office Manager. Be accountable for deposits and payment of bills.
- Coordinate monthly financial statements with Intergroup 17 Office Manager, and present report at Intergroup 17 Representatives meeting.
- Assume responsibility for any donations collected from Intergroup 17 sponsored functions.
- Account for and justify all expenditures of Intergroup 17 and its committees.
- Work with Steering committee members and their committees where financial matters are concerned.
- Track, and bring to Steering Committee's awareness any declines in group contributions that might indicate lack of group interest in Intergroup 17.
- Appoint committees in the Treasurer's area of interest, as necessary.
- When possible, attend Intergroup 17 sponsored functions.
- Perform any other duties the Chair may request.

#### **Board Members-At-Large**

The duties and service obligations of the three (3) Board Members-At-Large include, but are not limited to:

- Assist in all activities of the Steering Committee.
- Vote in Steering Committee meetings.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Call Intergroup for more info: 352 867-0660.



# INTERGROUP INSIGHTS

## PLEASE HELP!!!!

### Front Desk & After Hours Front lines of service

Four trusted servants have recently ended their commitments. Intergroup 17 needs front desk volunteers for the Monday, and Wednesday afternoon shifts, 2 to 5 pm. The "After Hours" hotline team needs help also.

### Steering Committee Nominations and elections

Elections for Intergroup 17 Steering Committee officers and members at large will be held Sunday, November 13, 2011, 5:15pm at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 1839 NE 8th Ave, AA Bldg, Ocala, FL.

Positions to be filled include: Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and two Members-at-Large. See the position descriptions on the facing page. You can nominate someone else or

yourself. Call Intergroup for more information: 352 867-0660.

## FALL PICNIC

### Tickets on Sale Limited number. Buy now.

Preparations for the Fall Picnic are in full swing, and tickets are available from GSRs and Intergroup reps as well as at the Intergroup 17 office..

Please don't let your character defect of procrastination kick in. Get yours as soon as possible.

### Picnic Volunteers Needed Next planning meeting 9/14

Get involved as a volunteer. Attend the next planning meeting, Wednesday, September 14, 6:00 pm, Intergroup Office. More info: 352 867-0660

## Book of the Month Alcoholic Anonymous Comes of Age

More than half a century has gone by since AA's historic 1955 Convention in St. Louis, when the founding members passed on to the entire Fellowship the responsibility for the three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service. This book takes AA members and interested friends on a quick tour of the Convention, traces the history and development of the Three Legacies and looks at AA through the eyes of some early non-alcoholics who influenced the Fellowship's history.

The first part is co-founder Bill W.'s reminiscent sketch of the Convention, in which he takes an appreciative look at many of the participants and reflects on events that shaped AA.

The second part consists of Bill's three Convention talks, edited and enlarged, on the Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service. Here is Bill's story--how he drank, got sober, met Dr. Bob and other founding members, and how they struggled together to keep AA going, with little guidance beyond the lessons of experience. Then Bill moves on to describe how the Twelve Traditions developed as AA's protective shield against the human faults that lead alcoholics into trouble, drunk or sober. And he finishes by laying out the development of AA services, culminating in the formation of the General Service Conference to serve as guardian of the AA's Traditions and world services.

In the third part, readers will meet five early friends of AA: Dr. Harry Tiebout, the first psychiatrist to openly espouse AA, Dr. W.W. Bauer of the American Medical Association; Jesuit Father Edward Dowling and Episcopal priest Dr. Samuel Shoemaker, both of whom helped shape AA's spiritual principles; and Bernard B. Smith, attorney and longtime chair of the General Service Board. These non-alcoholics tell of their association with AA, the part they played in its development, and their view of what the future holds.

**Available now at Intergroup 17  
Alcoholic Anonymous Comes of Age  
\$11.00**

## Tradition Nine Spiritual Simplicity vs. Functional Simplicity

*Continued from page 1*

Organizing with service boards from the group level where they decide where we should meet or whether we have cookies at meetings or not all the way "up" to the General Service Conference where our representatives communicate our wishes to the entire fellowship. What a miraculous way of doing things for people who were totally unmanageable.

Attend your group's next business meeting — or as well call them, group conscience meetings — and stop for a moment and reflect on the wisdom of our traditions, especially Tradition Nine, through which we can see the difference in spiritual simplicity versus functional simplicity.

*Prepared by Bob C. The views, expressions, and opinions presented here are those of the author and not necessarily those of AA or Intergroup 17 Inc.*

## Plug into Intergroup 17 online

Explore [www.aaocalamarion.org](http://www.aaocalamarion.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](mailto:thevoice@aaocalamarion.org)

## 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.

## 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 format

#### Experience, Strength & Hope

Ice Cream Social/Speaker Meeting  
Last Friday of month, 7:00 pm  
Church of Christ, 2750 SE Maricamp Road, Ocala

### 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 & dessert 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

## 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

### 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

For more information, contact Intergroup:  
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, September 11, 7:30 pm

Speaker: Diane I

Congregational Church, 7171 SW State Rd 200  
Ocala, Florida

#### Ocala Group

Every Friday, 8:00 pm

Speaker & Dessert

9/02 Kim S 9/09 Fred M

9/16 Leslie M 9/23 Ken W 9/30 Don S

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala, Florida

Desserts & snacks to share are welcome

### Breathe Easy

29 non-smoking

AA group 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.

## GET THE SCOOP ON SOBRIETY

Friday night speaker meetings are back at  
Experience, Strength & Hope. This time with a difference.



## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Friday, Sept. 30, 2011, 7:00 pm

Speaker: Robin L. from Orlando

Join us as we dish up a new tradition.  
We bring the ice cream ... you bring the toppings!  
Last Friday of every month!  
Church of Christ, 2750 SE Maricamp Road, Ocala

### Group Members.

Stay informed.

Have a voice.

Make sure your intergroup rep is  
willing to serve and participate.

#### Next Intergroup 17 Meeting

Sunday, September 11, 5:15 pm

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

Everyone welcome

### Eat 'n Speak Meetings

Keep It Simple

Thursday, September 29

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

## September at the Lost and Found Club

339 NE Sanchez Avenue  
(NE 4th St. & Tuscaquilla Park)  
352-351-4688

#### Hours of operation

Monday—Friday: 7:00 am to 1:30 pm and  
4:30 pm to 10:00 pm

Saturday: 7:30 am to midnight

Sunday: 8:30 am to 9:00 pm

#### Activities and Services

- Friday, September 2, Pool tournament, \$5 entry fee. Prizes.
- Free WiFi available
- Lunch and dinner menus

The Lost and Found Club is not affiliated with Alcoholics Anonymous World Services or Intergroup 17. Local AA groups and others rent space from the club for meetings and events. Inquire at the club about membership and meeting space.

## Plan Ahead. Upcoming Area Events

#### Intergroup 17 Monthly Meetings

Steering Committee, Tuesday, September 5, 4:30 pm, Intergroup Office, 3666A NE 25th Street, Ocala

Monthly Intergroup meeting, Sunday, September 11, 5:15 pm, St. Marks UMC, 1839 NE 8th Avenue.

Picnic Volunteers meeting, September 14. Page 9.

•Florida Conference of Young People in AA  
September 23-25, 2011, Cocoa, Florida  
<http://fcypaa.net>

•AA Jeopardy, District 17, September 24, 2011, Ocala. See page 5.

•Annual Florida Corrections Workshop,  
Sunday, September 25, Sanford, See page 4.

•District 17 Monthly Meeting Thursday, September 29, 6 pm. See page 4 for details.

•Ice Cream Social, September 30, 2011, Experience, Strength & Hope Group, Details this page.

•Fall Picnic, Intergroup 17, October 9, 2011, Carney Island. See page 6.

•North Florida Area Assembly, October 15-16, 2011, St. Augustine, See page 4.





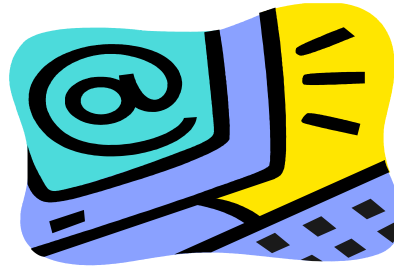
## Intergroup 17 Meetings Everyone invited!

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

**Sunday, September 11, 5:15 pm**  
St. Mark's UMC  
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Steering Committee, Monday, September 5,  
4:30 pm. Intergroup office, All invited.  
For more information: 352-867-0660

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**The Voice by e-mail.**



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the subject line to:

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

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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

**24-Hour Hotline**  
**365 days a year**

**352-867-0660**

## Service. The Third Legacy.

### Intergroup Desk Help. Website programmer.

Intergroup needs immediate help in staffing the front desk. Please volunteer. Today!

We're also looking for a computer savvy volunteer to help construct an online meeting finder for our website.

Call 352 867-0660. Ask for Connie or leave name and number.

### Gratitude Dinner Volunteers Needed Now!

Show your gratitude. Volunteer today. See page 4 for more information.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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](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 July 2011

Meeting info requests	110
Office	40
Twelfth Step Calls	9
Office Visits	25
AI-Anon*	10
Miscellaneous	47

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

### Attitude of GrAAitude

Intergroup 17 is fully self-supporting through the generosity of our local AA groups. Thank you to all who contributed to Intergroup 17 in July:

- 164 Pages Group
- All You Need Group
- Belleview Eye Opener Group
- Breakfast Club
- Cabin in the Woods
- Conscious Contact Group
- Forest Men's Group
- Grateful Gals Group
- Happy Joyous & Free
- Headstart Group
- Life Saver Group
- Living Sober Group
- One Day at a Time Group
- Start a New Life Group
- Zion-Blichton Group

All who have contributed this year are acknowledged on page 5. If your group isn't listed, please consider giving.

Intergroup 17 also thanks all who give their time so freely to make our service possible: **Office volunteers:** Diane M., Sandy A., Bosch R., Phil H., Kathy B., Rafael Q., Kate S., James N., Peggy N., James Ni., Rick F., Jen A., and Toni Marie C. **After Hours:** Bill J., Mike G., Jeff D., Steve C., Kathy P., Arlene H., Kevin G., and George J. **Website/Voice:** Alison C., Max R.

*Connie C, Intergroup 17 Office Manager*