



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 8

www.aocalamarion.org

August 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

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

Intergroup Fall Picnic
Coming in October

**Second Annual
Golf Tournament**
Coming in April.

To help in the success of these events, call the Intergroup office to sign up. Committee meetings forming now.

Call 352-867-0660.

Service & Sobriety

Seeking nominations for:
**Intergroup Chair, Vice
Chair, Treasurer, Secretary,
Member at Large.**

**Intergroup 17
Monthly Meeting
At Intergroup office**

**Sunday, August 12,
Intergroup Rep meeting
at 4:30 pm Steering Committee
meeting to follow**

All are Welcome.

Stay Connected.
www.aocalamarion.org
Your online source for newcomer information, meetings, events, service opportunities, and more.

One member's voice

A second chance at life

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.*

After my last relapse, my spirit was broken and lost. I had no power to run my life anymore. After several years in and around recovery with very little success, I desperately needed help. My best efforts at "playing AA" got me drunk, suicidal, and broken.

At six days sober and still in detox from the booze and dope, I sat in my sponsor's car and cried like a baby. He explained to me that all my years around AA had not been wasted. He reminded me that I already knew how to take personal inventory because he had taught me where the instructions are: inside the *Big Book*.

He also told me point-blank that even

though I knew where to find the instructions, I had never actually followed them! And THAT was why I had been getting drunk!

He told me that I should pick up a white chip that evening and meet him an hour before the noon meeting the next day with my inventory in hand! He told me that I had been "taking my time" with the steps for the past three years, and now it was finally time to actually work them!

The next day I had a list of resentments, fears, and harms to others. My sponsor went through my inventory with me, identifying my defects and showing me where those defects and my actions had been harming others. He told me to go home afterward and spend the next hour or so reviewing my inventory and the first five steps.

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Tradition Eight

Twelfth step work? Understanding the difference.

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

Tradition Eight has continued to evolve as more has been revealed about the complexities of alcoholism. In 1940, what we knew about alcoholism was that we could not safely drink, and we had to change our thinking.

In 1948, Bill W wrote about the necessity of hiring workers to do clerical and other types of work for AA offices. He said we should hire people and pay them a fair wage.

In the late 1970s, with the advent of treatment centers, great strides in the therapeutic treatment of

alcoholism, and corporate employee assistance programs that would pay for all or part of treatment brought also came an influx of therapists, marketers, and other administrators. Many of them held very highly paid positions.

For some, this seemed to create a conflict with Tradition Eight. The AA purists criticized and looked down their noses at those who made a living in these fields. There was real dissension among us.

Thankfully we have evolved our understanding that a therapist who is also

a member of AA can and should be able to practice in the field of therapeutic treatment and also belong to the fellowship.

Many purists look at the long form of this tradition that states, "We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire," and take that to mean that no alcoholic can work anywhere that charges people for counseling.

Many recovering alcoholics decide to change careers and become therapists and/or counselors in order to

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Congratulations August Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate a collective **416 years** — nearly half a century — which is more than **151,850 days** of continuous sobriety!

Gabe P	31 years
Robin J	27 years
Pat C	24 years
Frank W	23 years
Lori M	22 years
Michael M	22 years
Michelle M	20 years
Joyce P	19 years
Leroy Mc	18 years
Marlene G	17 years
Paul B	15 years
Winnie B	12 years
John G	11 years
Kim S	6 years
James F	6 years
Bob B	5 years
Kelly W	5 years
Steve C	5 years
Pamela	4 years
Mary T	3 years
Val	3 years
Joy	2 years
Toni Marie	2 years
Beverly	1 year
Debbie R	1 year
Desiree K	1 year
Helen L	1 year
Marcie P	1 year

July Birthdays

Pat H	38 years
Thom	32 years
Jimmy G	25 years
Allan	2 years
Edna	2 years
Steve	2 years
Brittany P	1 year
John H	1 year
Kathy	1 year
Mandy	1 year
Rusty	1 year
Stephanie H	1 year



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.

Mark Your AA Calendar Upcoming Events

Grupo Mano Abierta Anniversary Night, Saturday, August 4, Ocala. Details back page.

Gratitude Dinner Planning Committee, Monday, August 6, All volunteers welcome. Great service opportunity. See back page.

Intergroup Monthly Meeting Sunday, August 12, Intergroup Reps meeting, 4:30 pm, Steering Committee meeting follows. Intergroup Office.

Car Wash Saturday, August 18, 2pm Lost & Found Club, Donations appreciated

Area 14 Delegate's Post-Conference Workshop, August 25, Lake City

District 17 Monthly Meeting Thursday, August 30, 6 pm St. Mark's UMC, Ocala.

26th Annual Tampa Bay Fall Roundup August 31- September 3, More information at: www.TampaBayFallRoundup.com

Labor Day Picnic September 3, Lost & Found Club, 2:00 pm fellowship, 3:00 pm food. Dishes welcome. 2315 NE 29th Terrace, Ocala.

District 17 Spaghetti Dinner, September 29, 5pm, Church of Christ, 2750 SE Maricamp Rd. Meet. Eat. Greet. Sweet!

North Florida Area Assembly October 12-14. Officer Elections. All GSR's be there! St. Augustine. www.aanorthflorida.org

A second chance at life

Continued from page 1

He told me to make a clear list of my defects of character and another list of the people upon whom I had inflicted those defects. (This was to become my eighth step list.) He told me to turn to page 76 in my *Big Book* when I was done, and if I was ready to let God finally be in charge of my life, I was to say the seventh step prayer.

At six days sober, I had taken Step One. Recognizing I was doomed. I took Step Two when I crawled into my sponsor's car and told him about my relapse, knowing AA was my last hope. I surrendered to Step Three when I followed his directions and picked up a white chip and began writing my fourth step.

The next day I took Step Five with my sponsor. He guided me through Steps Six and Seven, and he showed me where I was to find the list of names

which belonged on my eighth step by reminding me that page 76 in the *Big Book* says, "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." On day eight I began to make amends.

For the past 14 years, I have been crossing off names from that original list one person at a time. I have not had a drink since I made that list and became willing to make those amends, continue to take personal inventory, seek God, and help others.

I am forever grateful for that sponsor who guided me through my inventory to show me where that list was to be found and am forever grateful for AA for giving me a second chance at life.

Kevin D
Ocala, Florida
August 2012

The thoughts, expressions, and opinions of individuals who write for The Voice are not necessarily those of Intergroup 17 or Alcoholics Anonymous.

Tradition Eight

Continued from page 1

help others who are afflicted. Who better to understand the sufferer as long as we do not cross the line and solicit and/or charge for Step Twelve work?

Let's remember there is a difference between doing Twelfth Step work for pay and earning a degree in counseling or working in a hospital or treatment center — where more and more newcomers begin their path towards sobriety. Most of the counselors I know do not substitute their jobs for the AA program. They also go to AA meetings and carry the message "for free and for fun."

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.

District 17 Corner

Election season at AA, too. Nominations sought. Service needed.

District 17 seeks service minded individuals to fill two key service positions coming open this September: District Committee Member (DCM) and Alternate DCM.

Responsibilities: The DCM serves as an essential link between the district's group GSRs and the area delegate to the General Service Conference. The DCM serves as leader of the district committee, made up of all GSRs, and is a member of the area committee, representing the district's group conscience at the area level.

Qualifications: A DCM should have enough sobriety (generally four or five years) to be eligible for election as delegate and needs to have time and energy to serve the district well. The DCM usually has served as a GSR and is elected by other GSRs. If the person chosen is a current GSR, a new GSR should be elected to fill the position.

The Alternate DCM assists and serves as a backup for the DCM.

For a complete list of DCM duties, see the A.A. Service Manual or attend the next District meeting Thursday, August 30, 6:00 pm at St. Marks UMC.

On a personal note, thank you all for the opportunity to serve you as your DCM for the past two years.

Rick D.
Email: district17@aaocalamarion.org

AA Men & Women Help Take Meetings into Marion County Jail and Correctional facilities

One year sobriety required.
Contact Bob L., John J., or Lori M. thru Intergroup or pick up an application form.
352-867-0660

**Can't drive?
Gas cost too much?
Not enough time?**



Become an AA Pen Pal and carry the message into correctional institutions by mail. Your personal identity and address is kept anonymous. All correspondence goes through District 17 Corrections Committee. Call 352-867-0660 to learn more, come to the next District meeting, or pick-up a Pen Pal form from your GSR or at the Intergroup office.

Your Group Conscience Sought. Does Tradition 11 say enough?

Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.

The North Florida Area wants to know:

◆ *Does the short form of Tradition Eleven address the needs of the fellowship today?*

◆ *Does the phrase "press, radio, and film" cover everything it needs to address about personal anonymity?*

Please discuss at your group conscience meeting and have your GSR report back to District 17.

Grapevine Challenge



The North Florida Area has challenged all Districts to compete to generate subscriptions to the *AA Grapevine* and *La Vina*, the Spanish language version of our "meeting in print." The District with the most subscriptions or renewals between April 1 and October 12 wins a first edition copy of the Big Book. Report your new subscription or renewal information (print or electronic) to the District Grapevine Rep Carol W. 352 867-0660.

56th Annual Florida State Convention



**August 1-5, 2012
Innisbrook Resort
Palm Harbor, Florida**

56.flstateconvention.com

TRADITIONS CHECKLIST

from the A.A. Grapevine

These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971. While they were originally intended primarily for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.

Tradition Eight



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

1. Is my own behavior accurately described by the Traditions? If not, what needs changing?
2. When I chafe about any particular Tradition, do I realize how it affects 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*?

Area 14 Delegates Post-Conference Report and Workshop.

Learn what's happening in AA at home and worldwide. GSRs encourage to attend. All members welcome. August 25, Noon to 3 pm, Holiday Inn, Lake City. For more info contact: district17@aaocalamarion.org

Area 14 North Florida Area Assembly

October 12-14, 2012, St. Augustine

**Officer Elections. Support our
District 17 candidate for registrar.**

All GSRs urged to attend.

Full details and agenda online

www.aanorthflorida.org/assembly_agenda

The Voice newsletter is published by Intergroup District 17, Inc., 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.

Contributions to Intergroup

**2012/13 Fiscal Year Totals
June 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012.**

GROUP/MEETING NAME	June 2012	YTD
Blichton Road Group	11.00	11.00
Breakfast Club	167.99	167.99
Came to Believe	44.71	44.71
Forest Men's Group	50.00	50.00
Happy, Joyous & Free	396.78	396.78
Headstart	32.00	32.00
Ocala Group	170.76	170.76
One Day at a Time	200.00	200.00
Primary Purpose	34.00	34.00
District 17	332.00	332.00
Faithful Fivers	5.00	5.00
Individual Members	22.73	22.73
Total	\$1,466.97	\$1,466.97

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

Group News and Notes

Grupo Mano Abierta - Anniversary Night Saturday, August 4, 7:00 pm meeting. Mexican dinner follows. All are invited. St. John's Methodist, 12390 W. Hwy 328, Ocala.

Serenity Group - Address Correction
Open Discussion, Tuesday & Thursday 12 pm, Episcopal Church of the Advent, 11251 SW Hwy 484, Dunellon

Living Sober Group - Speaker Meeting
Sunday, August 12, 7:30 pm.

August speaker: Renee V. 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 your support.
Joy of Living, Ocala West United Methodist, Mon-Fri, noon, 9330 SW 105th S. Ocala.
Lunch Bunch, Monday thru Saturday, noon.
Acceptance Group Monday thru Sunday 5:30pm and **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.

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

Intergroup Steering Committee Elections

Are you ready and willing to get involved? Elections will be held in November for: Intergroup 17 Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Member at Large. See Intergroup By-Laws in this issue for details. Contact John J., Steering Committee Chair with nominations: 352-867-0660

**Intergroup 17 Call Center
June 2012**

Meeting info requests	107
Office transactions	61
Twelfth Step Calls	4
Visitors	21
Al-Anon	6
Miscellaneous	95

Intergroup Insights

Monthly Meeting Time Change

Please note: Intergroup Rep meeting time change is **4:30pm second Sunday of the month at the Intergroup office Steering Committee meeting to follow.** Reps at the July meeting were The Last Call Group, Happy, Joyous, and Free, 164 Pages, Shores of Sobriety, Blichton Road Group, and the Headstart Group.

If your Rep doesn't attend, your voice isn't heard!

Everyone in AA has a **voice!**

Entertainment Chair Sought

Great service opportunity. Events raise vital support, the only way our doors can stay open.

Speaker List for Groups

If you'd like to find a speaker or want to add your name to our list of members willing to share experience, strength, and hope with local groups, contact your Intergroup Rep or call the Intergroup 17 office: 352-867-0660.

Thank you so much for your support and service. The doors stay open because of YOU.

**Hold the Date
Gratitude Dinner
November 10, 2012**

Volunteers Needed Now
Speaker selection. Program. Menu. Decorations. Tickets. Clean up. More.

Attend the First Planning Committee Meeting
All invited. Monday, August 6, 7:15 pm.

Our Lady of the Springs Catholic Church
4047 NE 21st Street, Ocala
North of Silver Springs Blvd, East of 36th Ave.

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