

# The Voice

Volume 28, Number 10

October 2011



### One member's voice

## Keep the river of life flowing.

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

Step Ten. *"Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it."*

The word when in the step makes it clear to me that as a human being, I will continue to make mistakes. There are no saints. We all have our moments — the slip of my tongue or a wrong action or motive because my ego has reared its ugly head or my fear has a grip on me for the moment.

It was a long journey for me to finally arrive at the point where I was truly able to recognize when I was taking my will back and once again running the show. It was not always pleasant for me or those around me.

Sure there were certain behaviors prior to reaching Step 10 that changed by being sober and trying to do the right thing. Cash register honesty, actually working for a liv-

ing, being self-supporting through my own contributions, and trying to be a responsible person.

The crux of the problem was that until I was willing to accept the full implication of the Step Three, I would be left with untreated alcoholism, which I found out through doing the steps was between my ears. When finally I was willing through painful experience to turn all of my life — not just the alcohol problem — over to God's care, then I could make a beginning at putting my finger on the problem, which was of course me and my thinking.

To take personal inventory and know when I was wrong, I had to know the truth about myself, which defects drove me, my motives for which I did or didn't do, how selfishness, dishonesty, and

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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 October

*Everyday is a day  
when we must  
carry the vision of  
God's will into all of  
our activities.*

*Alcoholics Anonymous, page 85*

### Tradition Ten Opinions and issues

*"Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.*

Since AA began, it has never been divided by major controversial issues, nor has our fellowship ever publicly taken sides on any question in an embattled world.

Nor does it mean that the members of Alcoholics Anonymous now restored as citizens of the world, are going to back away from their individual responsibilities to act as they see right upon issues of our time. As an individual member of Alcoholics Anonymous, I can have opinions.

But when it comes to AA as a whole, this is a different matter. As AA's, we do not enter into public con-

troversy, because we know that our fellowship will perish if we do. We see the survival and spread of Alcoholics Anonymous to be of greater importance than any weight we might collectively lend to other causes. Recovery from alcoholism is life itself to us, and we wish to preserve in full strength our means of survival.

What constitutes outside issues? A question came up at the General Service Conference a few years ago about a current outside issue — the Internet and

*Continued page 2—>*

### Opinions and



### Intergroup 17 Turns 25

Join us in celebrating  
25 years of service  
to the fellowship of  
Alcoholics Anonymous in  
Ocala and Marion County.

## Congratulations October Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate anniversaries that add up to a collective **408 years**.  
That's more than **148,920 days of sobriety**. One day at a time!

|             |          |            |         |           |                  |
|-------------|----------|------------|---------|-----------|------------------|
| Kathy P     | 40 years | Don P      | 5 years |           | <b>September</b> |
| John P      | 34 years | Tracy W    | 5 years |           |                  |
| Jim B       | 27 years | Cathy U    | 4 years | Jim B     | 43 years         |
| Mike M      | 26 years | Eleanor T  | 4 years | Gary G    | 23 years         |
| Wayne L     | 26 years | Greg M     | 4 years | Jim D     | 14 years         |
| Frank V     | 25 years | Pam Z      | 4 years | Barbara G | 12 years         |
| Henderson S | 22 years | Jordan     | 2 years | James M   | 4 years          |
| Bob V       | 21 years | Michael C  | 2 years | Charlie   | 3 years          |
| Laura       | 19 years | Randy A    | 2 years | Jason V   | 2 years          |
| Dean P      | 19 years | Corby      | 1 year  | Diane G   | 1 year           |
| Connie C    | 9 years  | Michelle H | 1 year  | Susan M   | 1 year           |
| Alison C    | 7 years  | Randy R    | 1 year  |           |                  |
| David B     | 6 years  | Tee B      | 1 year  |           |                  |
| Krista F    | 6 years  | Venetia W  | 1 year  |           |                  |
| Virginia C  | 6 years  |            |         |           |                  |

Please share your AA birthday with all. Deadline for November birthdays is October 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**

## Issues

*Prom page 1*

social media like Facebook. Does using the Internet and identifying oneself or others as an alcoholic break Tradition 11 anonymity and should the Internet be added to this tradition alongside maintaining “personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films?” AA groups voted against such a change. As an individual, I can make my own decision, but it is not an opinion of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Another outside issue relates to prescription medications. We are not physicians, and we do not advise people to take or not take prescribed medications. I believe I can discuss this with someone I sponsor on a private basis, but it is not an opinion of Alcoholics

Anonymous.

The steps tell us “how it works,” and the traditions are “why it works.” If you’re really into finding out how this awesome, inspired organization manages to work where other organizations have failed and disappeared, read your AA history in *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, *Pass It On*, and *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers*. You will be amazed. It is all of our responsibility to know and pass on the program of Alcoholics Anonymous as it was written and passed on to us. Our children and grandchildren, friends, and families may need the program, and we want it to be there always.

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

## Plan Ahead. Upcoming Area Events

**Intergroup 17 Monthly Meetings, October 16**, St. Marks UMC, 1839 NE 8th Avenue.  
**Steering Committee**, 4:15 pm

**Intergroup Representatives meeting**, 5:15 pm, .

● **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.

● **Living Sober 18th Annual Picnic**, October 16, 2011, Ocala. Details this page.

● **District 17 Monthly Meeting** Thursday, October 28, 6 pm. This page for details.

● **Ice Cream Social, Fridya**, October 28, 2011, Experience, Strength & Hope Group, Details page 9.

● **District 17 Gratitude Dinner**, Saturday, November 12, 2011, Our Lady of the Springs, Ocala

● **Intergroup 17 Steering Committee Elections**, Sunday, November 13. See page 9.

## Keep the River of Life Flowing

Continued from page 1

self-centeredness had dominated my life as a result of my fear and self reliance.

It had become clear to me that without God as my director, I would be doomed to repeat the same behaviors, and a change in my character would be out of my reach. I had to launch into a fearless inventory to identify who I truly was. Then and only then might it be possible to do an accurate tenth step. I might then know and recognize what the right thing was and if my motives were the right kind.

When I finished my inventory I told someone my story and was then willing, after seeing how destructive these behaviors were, to have God remove them.

I then branched out into making my amends. The burdens of the past were lifted, and I felt a freedom not known to me before. More than ever, I needed and wanted God in my life.

Now for the first time in my life, the channel was clear and open. Step Ten was now the tool I would use to keep it clear. I have ceased fighting everyone or anything, even alcohol. The most miraculous thing about the tenth step is that the truth about me is revealed to me on a daily basis. When I am wrong or act out of fear or selfishness, the Step

Ten gong goes off in my head, and I can no longer be or act the way I used to and still be free and feel connected to God. I must continue to keep my side of the street clean, watching for dishonest and selfish motives and admitting my faults and accepting people as they are.

I have been granted release — on a daily basis — of my mental obsession to drink alcohol and feel this will continue if I keep about God’s business. Thy will not mine be done.

Brett C  
October 2011, Ocala, Florida

*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.*

# October by the Books

## STEP TEN

*Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.*

This thought brings us to Step Ten, which suggests we continue to take a personal inventory and continue to set right any new mistakes as we go along. ...We have entered the world of the Spirit. ...This is not an overnight matter. It should continue for our lifetime. Continue to watch for selfishness, dishonesty, resentment and fear. When these crop up, we ask God at once to remove them. We discuss them with someone immediately and make amends quickly if we have harmed anyone. Then we resolutely turn our thoughts to someone we can help. Love and tolerance of others is our code.

*Alcoholics Anonymous p.84*

Character defects like gossip sneak into my life when I am not making a constant effort to work the Twelve Steps of Recovery. I need to remind myself that the uniqueness is the blessing of my being, and that applies equally to everyone who crosses my path in life's journey. Today the only inventory I need to take is my own. I'll leave judgment of others to the Final Judge - Divine Providence."

*Daily Reflections p. 297*

And he well knows that his own life has been made richer, as an extra dividend of giving to another without any demand for a return.

*As Bill Sees It, page 69*

The emphasis on inventory is heavy only because a great many of us have never really acquired the habit of accurate self-appraisal. Once this healthy practice has been groomed, it will be so interesting and profitable that the time it takes won't be missed. For these minutes and sometimes hours spent in self-examination are bound to make all the other hours of our day better and happier. And at length our inventories become a regular part of everyday living, rather than unusual or set apart.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 89-90*

## TRADITION TEN

*Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.*

Never since it began has Alcoholics Anonymous been divided by a major controversial issue. Nor has our Fellowship ever publicly taken sides in any question in an embattled world. This, however, has been no earned virtue . . . As by some deep instinct, we AA's have known from the very beginning that we must never, no matter what the provocation, publicly take sides in any fight, even a worthy one. ... That is the spiritual climate in which A.A. was born, and by God's grace has nevertheless flourished. ...Others fell apart because of a sheer self-righteousness while trying to enforce upon the rest of mankind some millennium of their own specification. We conceive the survival and spread of Alcoholics Anonymous to be something of far greater importance than the weight we could collectively throw back of any other cause.

*Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions, pages 176, 177*

I am grateful that the energies of AA have never been scattered, but focused instead on our members and on individual sobriety . . . I am free to hold any opinion, but A.A.'s purpose – so clearly stated fifty years ago – is for me to keep sober. That purpose has promoted round-the-clock meeting schedules..." Like the sun focused through a magnifying glass, A.A.'s single vision has lit a fire of faith in sobriety in millions of hearts, including mine.

*Daily Reflections, page 310*



Excerpts from *Alcoholics Anonymous, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and other AA publications are reprinted with permission of AA World Services, Inc. and *The AA Grapevine*.

## CONCEPT TEN

*Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority—the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and by-laws.*

*I am responsible...*When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

*The AA Service Manual, page 2M*

Our service structure cannot function effectively and harmoniously, unless, at every level each operational responsibility is matched by a corresponding authority to discharge it.

*Twelve Concepts of World Service, page 8*

All AA progress can be reckoned in just two words: humility and responsibility. Our whole spiritual development can be accurately measured by our degree of adherence to these magnificent standards.

*As Bill Sees It, page 127*

Nearly all societies and governments of today exhibit serious deviations from the very sound principle that each operational responsibility must be accompanied by a corresponding authority to discharge it...An outstanding characteristic of every good operational structure is that it guarantees harmonious and effective function by relating its several parts and people in such a way that none can doubt what their respective responsibilities and corresponding authorities actually are. Unless these attributes are well defined; unless those holding the final authority are able and willing properly to delegate and maintain a suitable operational authority; unless those holding such delegated authority feel able and willing to use their delegated authority freely as trusted servants; and unless there exists some definite means of interpreting and deciding doubtful situations — then personal clashes, confusion, and ineffectiveness will be inevitable.

*AA Service Manual, pages 43-44*

*By the Books prepared by Ann W*

## District 17 Corner

**Get ready for action and into action. Area Assembly, Gratitude Dinner, and service, service, service.**

### From the DCM

Our Twelfth Step – carrying the message — is the basic service that the AA fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence.

Therefore AA is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message or else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.

Hence, an AA service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer—ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call (back then) and a cup of coffee, and to AA's General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service.

"Is this service really needed?" If it is, then maintain it we must, or fail in our mission to those who need and seek AA.

I am grateful for AA and a god of my understanding for a life beyond my wildest dreams. I always want the hand of AA to be there and for that I want to give back through service in any way I can.

Service is always needed whether it's at a group, district or area level so jump in and give back what was so freely given to you.

Rick D.  
DCM District 17

Taken in part from AA's Legacy of Service" written by Bill W.

## 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)

## 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. Get ready for fun and service. To volunteer now, 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)

## 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.

## 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, October 28, 6:00 pm**

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

### Intergroup 17 Book of the Month

**When Love is Not Enough:  
The Lois Wilson Story**  
 By William G. Borchert

This book describes in compelling detail Lois's comfortable beginnings, her attraction to a clever and persistent young man, her years of despair as drinking claimed an ever-increasing part of Bill, her joy when he sobered up, and her frustration as AA came to dominate Bill's life.


It offers something for anyone interested in or affected by alcoholism. For the general reader, it offers insight into the impact the alcoholic can have on the lives and health of those near to him or her. For those who may be close to an alcoholic, whether active or in recovery, it offers an intimate story with which they may identify. And for those in Al-Anon, the program that offers hope and help to the families and friends of alcoholics, it offers a detailed history of the birth of Al-Anon.

**Available now at Intergroup 17. \$11.40**



# **Grateful Hearts**

**District 17 Gratitude Dinner  
Saturday, November 12, 2011**



*When the soul is touched by God's love  
A message is sent for the heart to open.  
When the heart is open  
Love is the only voice it hears.*

**Speaker: Lantana Jack**

**Sobriety Quilt Give-Away**

**Silent Auction**

**Door Prizes**

**50/50 Raffle**

**Tickets: \$15**

**Our Lady of the Springs Church  
4047 NE 21st Street, Ocala, Florida**

**Many service opportunities open. To learn more, call Intergroup. 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.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Fabulous Food.</b><br/>         Chicken on the grill.<br/>         Sides and beverages.<br/>         Bring a dessert to share.<br/> <b>Lunch served Noon to 2:00 pm</b></p> | <p><b>Fun &amp; games.</b><br/>         DJ Ron with your favorite tunes.<br/>         Lawn games, swimming, volleyball, dancing<br/>         and more for children of all ages.<br/> <b>Come early. Parking limited.</b></p> |
|---|--|

## 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**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Volunteers Needed</b><br/>         Service plus Fun. Volunteer today!<br/>         Call Intergroup 352-867-0660</p> |  |
|---|--|

## Group Contributions to Intergroup 17 August 2011

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

| GROUP NAME            | Aug '11<br>Contri-<br>butions | Contri-<br>butions<br>6/1/11-<br>8/31/11 | GROUP NAME                | Aug '11<br>Contri-<br>butions | Contri-<br>butions<br>6/1/11-<br>8/31/11 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 11th Step Group       | 40.00                         | 40.00                                    | Living Sober Group        | 35.03                         | 35.03                                    |
| 164 Pages Group       | \$ 27.50                      | \$167.50                                 | Lunch Bunch Group         |                               |  |
| Acceptance            |                               |  | Marion Oaks Group         | 1.69                          | 1.69                                     |
| Alive and Well        | 50.00                         | 50.00                                    | Men's Group Ocala         | 200.00                        | 200.00                                   |
| All You Need Group    |                               | 45.00                                    | New Attitudes Group       | .09                           | .09                                      |
| As Bill Sees It       |                               |  | No Name Group             |                               |  |
| Bellevue Eye Opener   |                               | 50.00                                    | Ocala Group               | 265.16                        | 265.16                                   |
| Bellevue God's Way    | 2.88                          | 2.88                                     | One Day at a Time         | 100.00                        | 100.00                                   |
| Bellevue Group        |                               |  | Primary Purpose Group     | 39.00                         | 39.00                                    |
| Breakfast Club        |                               | 815.50                                   | Shores of Sobriety        | 58.11                         | 59.27                                    |
| Cabin in the Woods    |                               | 100.00                                   | Sisters of Serenity       | 75.00                         | 75.00                                    |
| Came To Believe       |                               | 17.62                                    | Serenity Group            |                               |  |
| Citra Group           |                               |  | Sober Yankees             |                               |  |
| Come As You Are       |                               |  | Start A New Life          | 100.00                        | 100.00                                   |
| Conscious Contact     |                               | 77.56                                    | Strength In Numbers       |                               |  |
| Forest Group          |                               | 20.00                                    | Summerfield Group         |                               |  |
| Forest Men's Group    |                               |  | Sundae Social Group       |                               |  |
| Fountain of Gratitude |                               |  | TLC Group, The Centers    |                               |  |
| Free To Be            |                               |  | Together We Can           |                               | 5.00                                     |
| Grace Group           |                               |  | We Give Up                | 50.00                         | 50.00                                    |
| Grateful Gals         |                               | 35.00                                    | We Give Thanks            |                               |  |
| Grupo Mano Abierta    |                               |  | Weir Crazy                | 20.09                         | 20.09                                    |
| Happy Hour Group      |                               |  | Westside Recovery         | 100.00                        | 100.00                                   |
| Happy, Joyous & Free  | 367.69                        | 1,056.59                                 | Young People's Group      |                               |  |
| Headstart Group       | 21.00                         | 78.08                                    | Zion-Blichton Group       | 11.75                         | 39.12                                    |
| Healing Group         | 30.00                         | 30.00                                    | Archives                  |                               |  |
| It's In The Book      |                               |  | District 17               | 19.08                         | 19.32                                    |
| Keep It Green         |                               |  | Double Nickel (personal)  |                               |  |
| Keep It Simple        | 276.80                        | 355.65                                   | Faithful 5-ers (personal) | 15.00                         | 25.00                                    |
| Last Call Group       | 100.00                        | 100.00                                   | Individuals (other)       | 9.55                          | 41.47                                    |
| Lifesaver Group       |                               | 153.23                                   | <b>Total</b>              | <b>\$1,7552.89</b>            | <b>\$4,452.94</b>                        |

### 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 District 17 Inc.**  
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.

### 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

#### First Contact

**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 pamphlet, "The AA Member— Medication and Other Drugs." Good information for all AA members. Available at Intergroup.



## Group Meetings News, and More

### Looking for a local meeting?

Choose from more than 140 meetings a week.

**When and Where online!**  
**www.aocalamarion.org**

Print copies available through home groups or at Intergroup 17 office.

**Here's just a sampling. Find scores more online.**

#### Beginners Meetings

Tuesdays

**Living Sober Group**

**Your support requested!**

Living Sober beginners meeting  
7:30 pm every Tuesday  
Congregational Church  
7171 SW State Rd 200, Ocala

#### Meditation

Wednesdays

**Conscious Contact**

7:00 pm every Wednesday  
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church  
3452 NE Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala

#### Spanish Speaking

Wednesdays

**Grupo Nueva Vida**

7:00 pm Wed, Thurs, Sat, Sun  
150-A SW 23rd Ave. (1/2 block South of Ft. King), Ocala

Fridays and Saturdays

**Grupo Mano Abierta**

7:00 pm Monday & Friday  
St. John's Methodist Church  
12390 West SR328

#### Eat 'n Speak

**Keep It Simple Group**

Last Thursday of the month  
Eat: 7:00 pm Speaker: 8:00 pm  
Small fee for meal  
Ascension Lutheran Church  
5730 SE 28th Street, Ocala

**164 Pages Women's Meeting**

Last Monday of the month  
6:00 pm  
Ocklawaha United Methodist  
13333 East Hwy 25, Ocklawaha, FL

### New & Newer Meetings

**New meeting**

**It's Not Them**

Wednesdays, 6:30 pm (90 minutes)  
Church of the Incarnation  
9300 Spring Road (blinking Pine Road)  
Silver Springs Shores 34472

**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

### Group News and Meeting Changes

**New location**

**11th Step Group**

Sundays, 8 pm. Church of Christ 2750 SE Maricamp Rd Ocala, FL

**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 (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

**New Meeting  
It's Not Them  
Big Book Step Study  
90 minutes**

Church of the Incarnation  
9300 Spring Road (blinking Pine Road)  
Silver Springs Shores 34472  
  
Sobriety by the study and practice of the  
precise directions of the Big Book .

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

**Eat 'n Speak Meetings**

**Keep It Simple**  
**Thursday, September 28**  
**Dinner 7:00 pm Speaker 8:00 pm**  
Ascension Lutheran Church  
5730 SE 28th Street, Ocala

**164 Pages Group, Women's Meeting**  
**Last Monday of the Month**  
**6:00 pm**  
Ocklawaha United Methodist  
13333 East Hwy 25, Ocklawaha, FL

**Speaker Meetings**

**Living Sober Group**  
**Sunday, October 9, 7:30 pm**  
**Speaker: Gabe from St. Pete**  
Congregational Church, 7171 SW State Rd 200  
Ocala, Florida

**Ocala Group**  
**Every Friday, 8:00 pm**  
**Speaker & Dessert**  
St. Mark's United Methodist Church  
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala, Florida  
**Desserts & snacks to share are welcome**

**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.

**Living Sober Group**

**18th Annual Picnic**

Sunday, October 16  
6:00 pm Dinner  
7:30 pm Speaker

**Bring side-dish/dessert and families!**  
**Music. Dancing. Food. Fun.**  
**50/50 raffle. Donations appreciated.**  
**All Welcome**  
Congregational Church  
7171 SW State Rd 200, Ocala, Florida

**Join us in celebrating our  
Nine-Year Anniversary  
Grupo Mano Abierta**



7:00 pm, Saturday, November 5, 2011  
Meeting and Dinner

**Everyone is invited**  
Please bring desserts to share.

St. John's United Methodist Church  
12390 NW Hwy 328, Ocala, Florida

**Experience Strength & Hope Group  
Speaker Meeting  
ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

**Friday, October 28, 2011, 7:00 pm**  
**We bring the ice cream,**  
**you bring the toppings!**  
Last Friday of every month!  
Church of Christ, 2750 SE Maricamp Road,  
Ocala

**IN MEMORIAM  
LORNE S**

One of our longtime members, Lorne S, passed away on September 4, 2011. He was 61 years of age. Originally from Canada, Lorne was an active member of the Happy, Joyous & Free Group and had maintained 27 years of continuous sobriety. The fellowship extends deepest sympathy to his family. He will be missed by all.

**Intergroup Insights**

**Front Desk & After Hours**

**Front lines of service**

People have been calling to volunteer for the front desk and After Hours teams. Open slots are filling up, but don't stop calling and asking how you can help. We'll find a way for you to give back. Just call. We'd love to hear from you, or even better see you in person

**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. You can get a copy of the position descriptions from Intergroup or in the September issue of *The Voice*, available for viewing online at [www.aocalamarion.org](http://www.aocalamarion.org).

The nominee list is scarce. The election will be next month so please consider You can nominate someone else or yourself. Call Intergroup for more information: 352 867-0660.

**Steering Committee**

**Meeting time changed**

The Intergroup Steering Committee has changed its meeting day, time, and location to make it easier to become involved. Meetings will now be held on the second Sunday of the month at 4:15 pm at St. Mark's United Methodist. Immediately preceding the 5:15 Intergroup Representative meeting .

**Picnic Tickets Going Fast**

Tickets for the Fall Picnic are getting scarce. Purchase now. Intergroup will be celebrating it's 25th anniversary so come on out for all the fun, fellowship, and food. Don't let procrastination get between you and the picnic Get your ticket as soon as possible. \$6 adult, \$4 children. Advance ticket sales only. No tickets sold onsite.



## Intergroup 17 Meetings Everyone invited!

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

**Sunday, October 16, 5:15 pm**  
St. Mark's UMC

1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Steering Committee, Sunday, October 16.  
4:15 pm preceding monthly meeting, All invited.  
For more information: 352-867-0660

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## Intergroup 17 Ocala-Marion County Florida

Intergroup District 17 Inc.  
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**  
**Everyday of the year**  
**352-867-0660**

## Service. The Third Legacy.

### Intergroup Desk Help. Steering Committee.

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

We're also holding steering committee elections in November. All positions open. See page 9 for details or 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 August 2011

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Meeting info requests | 167 |
| Office                | 58  |
| Twelfth Step Calls    | 11  |
| Office Visits         | 25  |
| AI-Anon*              | 8   |
| Miscellaneous         | 83  |

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

### Attitude of GrAAttitude

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

- 11th Step Group
- Alive & Well Group
- Belleview God's Way Group
- Happy Joyous & Free
- Headstart Group
- Healing Group
- Keep It Simple Group
- Last Call Group
- Marion Oaks Group
- Ocala Group
- Primary Purpose Group
- Shores of Sobriety Group
- Sisters of Serenity Group
- We Give Up Group
- Weir Crazy Group
- Young People's Group
- Zion-Blichton Group

All who have contributed this year are acknowledged on page 7. 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:** Toni Marie C, Sandi A, Bosch R, Phil H, Rafael Q, James N, Peggy N, Rick F, Jen A, Ann W, Diane M, Kent L **After Hours:** Lydia N, Kathy P, Mike G, George J, Bill J, Arlene H, Barbara B, Ruth T **Website/Voice:** Alison C., Max R.

*Connie C, Intergroup 17 Office Manager*