

# The Voice

Volume 28, Number 11

November 2011



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## One member's voice

# Deepening that conscious contact

## A story of experience, strength, and hope

Step Eleven. *Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.*

About four years ago, I experienced a truly dark period in my sobriety. My father died, the housing boom went bust, and I lost my sponsor and five of my dearest friends, all within a year's time. I didn't want to drink, but my relationship with my higher power was on shaky ground. Suddenly, that feeling I knew so well before sobriety — of emptiness and of being alone in the universe, was front and center.

I had spent most of my life avoiding feeling anything and fearful of everything. At that time in my life, however, I had no choice but to feel everything and fear nothing.

Our book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, cautions, "All of us, without exception, pass through times when we can pray only with the greatest exertion of will," that we could be "seized with a rebellion so sickening that we simply won't pray." I knew exactly what the book was talking about.

Thank God (literally), I had been sober a while, joined a great home group, found a new sponsor, and was married to a sober husband who seemed to "keep the faith" for both of us. All these things kept me sober, and I kept hearing the words of my deceased sponsor, Ann K., who responded to almost any "problem" I brought her, "You have to turn it over, Pam."

It wasn't easy, but just as I had done as a newcomer; I had to call on a power much greater than myself.

*Continued, page 2*

## Tradition Eleven

# Spiritual submission for the good of the whole

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

Talk about controversy. In this modern age of instant communication, it takes an act of great humility for celebrities and people of large egos to abide by — much less understand — AA's Tradition Eleven.

Recently on a public radio station, a man who had written a book about the eleventh tradition indicated that he had decided that this tradition was archaic. He felt that he could help many more people achieve sobriety by spreading the message publicly.

Personally, I felt sorry for this man because he obviously missed the whole

gist of our program. It is not for me to decide as an individual what is good or not good for AA as a whole. Rather, it is for me to submit spiritually for the good of the whole. For ego-driven people that is very difficult.

AA has public information service committees that exist solely to communicate accurate information about Alcoholics Anonymous to the general public. A look at the original long form of Tradition Eleven demonstrates far better than someone else's words can describe, the original intent of our founders regarding anonymity.

## Tradition Eleven (Long Form)

"Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think AA should avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as AA members should not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principal of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel better to let our friends recommend us."

It is good to understand that the true intent of this

*Continued page 3*



Volunteers needed. 352 867-0660

## A quote for November

*When brimming with gratitude, one's heartbeat must surely result in outgoing love.*

*As Bill Sees It, page 37*

## Congratulations November Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate anniversaries that add up to a collective **478 years**.  
That's more than **174,470 days of sobriety**. One day at a time!

Rick W	36 years	Michael G	4 years	Fred M	17 years
Arlene H	34 years	Ken W	3 years	David D	13 years
Dan M	33 years	Alli M	2 years	Cheryl T	11 years
Tom M	33 years	Gary M	2 years	Kristen	6 years
Bill R	32 years	Melissa M	2 years	Christy C	2 years
Wayne C	32 years	Phyllis H	2 years	Randy	2 years
Mitch W	28 years	Robert G	2 years	Ashley	1 year
Pam V	23 years	Tiffany	2 years	Bob C	1 year
Donald T	18 years	Nicole	1 year	James G	1 year
Diane M	13 years				
Rose R	12 years				
David K	10 years				
Dennis J	8 years	Gene	28 years		
Don D	6 years	Brett C	27 years		
Betty Jo D	5 years	William	27 years		

### October Birthdays

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

## Deepening that Conscious Contact

*Continued from page 1*

I have always sought a connection to God. Raised in the Episcopal Church, and fascinated by the Christian mystics, I studied Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, and the spiritual ways of the Yaqui, the Dine, and other indigenous peoples.

I practiced meditation, joined study groups, and participated in ceremonies. All of that brought me closer to God, but AA taught me how to live the spiritual principles that I had acquired “in all my affairs,” even, and especially in challenging times.

*Alcoholics Anonymous*, the *Big Book*, tells us exactly how to find the power greater than ourselves, and then, in Step Eleven, how to deepen that conscious contact. Specific prayers are given. It suggests we start the day by asking that God's will be done, and that we rely on God's strength to do that. It also suggests we end the day in gratitude. In case we still don't get it, we have our sponsor and an amazing number of meetings to help us out.

Gratitude is a common theme discussed in most spiritual literature, but AA spells it out. It is often suggested that we write a list of all the things for which we are grateful, and to say a prayer of thanks throughout the day. We hear that a “grateful heart cannot get drunk.”

The medieval mystic, Meister Eck-

hart, put it like this, “If the only prayer you ever say in your whole life is ‘thank you,’ it will be enough.”

Gratitude overwhelms me when I think about that difficult time four years ago. I can see that my higher power, the AA program, my new sponsor, and the fellowship did for me what I could not do for myself.

I have had experiences in sobriety that I thought I'd surely drink over and found that as long as I keep coming back, working the program of Alcoholics Anonymous—which teaches me to live a God-centered life—I may just have that “daily reprieve” from alcoholism I heard about when I first walked through that door.

Pam E  
Ocala, Florida  
November 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.*

## 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)

## Plan Ahead. Upcoming Area Events

- **Ice Cream Social, Note date change.** Friday, November 4, Experience, Strength & Hope Group. Church of Christ, Maricamp Road, Ocala. Page 9.
- **Grupo Mano Abierto Nine-Year Anniversary Saturday, November 5,** St. John's UMIC, Ocala. Page 9.
- **District 17 Gratitude Dinner,** Saturday, November 12, Our Lady of the Springs, Ocala. Page 5.
- **Intergroup 17 Monthly Meeting Steering Committee Elections** Sunday, November 13, St. Marks UMC, Ocala. Page 9 and back page.  
**Steering Committee,** 4:15 pm  
**Intergroup Reps meeting,** 5:15 pm
- **District 17 Monthly Meeting Note date change for November only.** Thursday, November 17, 6 pm. St. Marks UMC, Ocala. Page 4.
- **North Florida Area Assembly January 14-15, 2012,** St. Augustine, More info at [www.aanorthflorida.org/assembly\\_agenda](http://www.aanorthflorida.org/assembly_agenda)
- **56th Florida State Convention Register before December 31 for prize drawing** August 1-5, 2012, Innisbrook Golf & Spa Resort, Palm Harbor, Florida. Page 9. More info at [www.56.flstateconvention.com](http://www.56.flstateconvention.com)

**Groups. Are you planning a holiday event? Special meeting? Alkathons?** Send your information to *The Voice* for publication. Reach our nearly 400 subscribers. Deadline for December issue: November 20. Send to: [thevoice@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:thevoice@aaocalamarion.org)

# November by the Books

## STEP ELEVEN

*Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.*

We know that God lovingly watches over us. We know that when we turn to Him, all will be well with us, here and hereafter.

*Daily Reflections, page 324*

On the walls of thousands of AA meeting rooms, in any variety of languages, this invocation can be seen:

God grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change.

The courage to change the things we can,

And the wisdom to know the difference.

*Sober Living, page 18*

If we are to find spiritual growth and serenity, we must dress our minds each morning as carefully as we dress our bodies. Only then can today become the glorious tomorrow we looked forward to yesterday.

*Emotional Sobriety, page 111*

It is easy to let up on the spiritual program of action and rest on our laurels. We are headed for trouble if we do, for alcohol is a subtle foe.

*Alcoholics Anonymous, page 85*

## TRADITION ELEVEN

*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.*

At the personal level, anonymity provides protection for all members from identification as alcoholics, a safeguard of special importance to newcomers. ... anonymity stresses the equality in the Fellowship of all members by putting the brake on those who might otherwise exploit their AA affiliation to achieve recognition, power or personal gain.

*Understanding Anonymity, page 5*

Let's see how these two contrasting ideas -- attraction and promotion -- work out. ... Much of the political, economic and religious life of the world is dependent upon publicized leadership. ... We of AA, do not question that. But we do have to soberly face the fact that being in the public eye is hazardous, especially for us. By temperament, nearly every one of us has been an irrepressible promoter, and the prospect of a society composed almost entirely of promoters was frightening.

Considering this explosive factor, we knew we had to exercise self-restraint. ... This tradition is a constant and practical reminder that personal ambition has no place in AA. In it, each member becomes an active guardian of our Fellowship.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, pages 181-183*

## CONCEPT ELEVEN

*The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.*

- Do we understand how the roles of non-trustee directors and non-trustee appointed committee members help serve and strengthen the community system?
- How do we encourage our special paid workers to exercise their traditional "Right to Participation"?
- Do we practice rotation in all our service positions?

The longtime success of our General Services Organization will rest not only on the capabilities of the Trustees themselves; it will depend quite as much upon the competent leadership and harmonious association of those non-trustee committee members, directors, executives and staff members who must actively carry on AA's world services. Their quality and dedication, or their lack of characteristics, will make or break our structure of service. Our final dependency on them will always be great indeed.

*Twelve Concepts for World Service, page 48*

### **Alcoholics Anonymous Declaration of Unity**

This we owe to AA's future; to place our common welfare first; to keep our fellowship united. For on AA unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come.

## Tradition Eleven

*Continued from page 1*

tradition was at the level of public anonymity.

Doctor Bob said there were two ways to break this tradition: (1) by giving your name at the level of press or radio, and (2) by being so anonymous that you can't be reached by other drunks.

According to Doctor Bob, "Within the group every member should know the home address and phone number of all group members." Because of the size to which AA and its individual groups have grown, that has proven to be impractical without help. Thus, many groups print lists of and for members who want to make sure "the hand of AA" is always accessible to those who reach out for it, yet keep the true intent

of this tradition and not operate beyond the level of anonymity intended.



*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.*

## District 17 Corner Sponsorship. A vital stepping-stone to service and sobriety

How many of you came to service in AA with the help of a sponsor? We sponsor as we have been sponsored. Like so many members, I absorbed the miracle of Twelfth-Step work — that sharing the AA message with other alcoholics helps to keep us sober.

Thanks to alert sponsorship, I then learned how such one-on-one help in the Fellowship can be stretched to include an ever widening range of twelfth-stepping—from becoming active within one’s group, to serving at the local intergroup or central office, on committees, and finally in “general service.”

This term embraces the myriad activities within the Conference structure that are carried out by GSRs, area committees, delegates, trustees and the GSO staff. They affect AA as a whole and are crucial to our unity and survival.

A lot of AAs—not just newcomers, either—don’t know enough about AA and how it works.” He believes that “God smiled on us when he led us into the Fellowship. The hand of AA was there for us and if we want it to be there for your kids and mine, I think we need to be active ourselves in service and help the newcomer to do the same. Frankly, I don’t even know how to sponsor anyone who doesn’t get involved in service. I’m a great admirer of Dr. Bob, who said that if we fail to acquire a spirit of service, we will have missed the greatest gift AA has to offer — the ability to give our sobriety away and so

keep it.”

After I finally stopped drinking, my sponsor and other old timers told me I was the kind of drunk who had to be active to stay sober. I took them at their word and have continued to do so for 26 years. Service is a part of me. I was active in every aspect of service except general service, perceiving it to be full of basic service club types.



My closest AA friend was active in general service and I just figured it was an eccentricity—otherwise he was a nice, cosmopolitan guy. Finally, he dragged me along with him and I questioned my motives in doing service work—was it love of AA or a need for recognition and approval? I believe that general service may not be for everyone. “Instead of pushing people into it,” I think we should lead them by example. We need to treat each other in service with the same sensitivity we bring to recovery.

Encourage people you sponsor to participate in service work, “I don’t just send them to service meetings at the beginning, I take them myself.”

Prepared by Rick D, DCM District 17  
Taken in part from General Services literature.  
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## District 17 Officers & Service Coordinators

DCM: Rick D  
Alternate DCM: Diane I  
Secretary: Lydia N  
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: Carol W  
Intergroup: Ruth T  
Literature: Max R  
Treatment: James M

### Group GSRs

164 Pages Group: Barbara B  
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  
Ocala Group: Hunter B  
Shores of Sobriety: Rafael Q  
Sober Yankees: Ginger H  
Sobriety in Marion Oaks: John S  
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)

## Twenty-five years of continuous gratitude and service

The Ocala and Marion County AA fellowship held its first Gratitude Dinner in November 1986 in a community room at the Marion County Hospital with 100 members and guests in attendance.

On Saturday, November 12, 300 of us will gather again to express our collective gratitude for the program of Alcoholics Anonymous and for the support we receive from our family, friends, and one another.

Let’s all say a special thank you to the many volunteers among us who have made the past 25 years of service in the name of sobriety possible.

## Service & Sobriety

District 17. Get Involved.  
Service Opportunities

### Service Chairs Open

Archives Service Coordinator  
Cooperation with the Professional  
Community/Public Information

### Learn more

Next Meeting. All Welcome.

Thursday, November 17, 6 pm

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

Email: [district17@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:district17@aaocalamarion.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.

## 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.

# Grateful Hearts

## District 17 Gratitude Dinner

### Saturday, November 12, 2011

**Come to the  
Gratitude Dinner**  
You could  
go home with  
**Grateful Hearts Quilt**  
**50/50 drawing prize**  
**Other great door prizes**

**Speaker: Lantana Jack**

**Grateful Hearts Quilt Raffle**  
**Silent Auction**  
**50/50 Raffle**  
**Door Prizes**

**Tickets: \$15**

**Bake a Cake for the Silent Auction**

If you'd like to donate a cake for this year's silent auction, please let the planning committee know in advance.

Call 353-867-0660 by November 10.

**Group Gift Baskets for Door Prizes**

Put together a gift basket to be given away as a door prize. Use your imagination and express your group's gratitude.  
Deliver to the site day of dinner.



This beautiful 2011 Grateful Hearts Sobriety Quilt, handcrafted by grateful members of the local fellowship, will be given away to the lucky ticket holder at the Gratitude Dinner, November 12, 2011, at Our Lady of the Spring Church. You must be present to win.

The evening includes a social hour and hors d'oeuvres during which you can take part in the silent auction, a delicious meal (choice of Roast Prime Rib or Chicken Ricardo) prepared by local members, sobriety countdown, guest speaker Lantana Jack, 50/50 raffle, door prizes, and much more.

Tickets are only \$15 per person this year and available from your group GSR, or contact Intergroup 17 at 352-867-0660. Seating is limited to 300, and in past years, seats have sold out.

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

**Doors open: 5:30 pm**

**Dinner: 6:30 pm**

**Program: 8:00 pm**

**Many service opportunities open. 352.867-0660**

*"I try to hold fast to the truth that a full and thankful heart cannot entertain great conceits. When brimming with gratitude, one's heartbeat must surely result in outgoing love, the finest emotion that we can ever know."*

*As Bill Sees It, page 37*

## District 17 Literature Committee suggests Online and Digital Resources

### Alcoholics Anonymous World Services and General Services Office

#### eBooks

AA World Services has announced that beginning in mid-November 2011, eBook versions of the 4th Edition of the Big Book *Alcoholics Anonymous* and the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* may be purchased from the A.A.W.S. Online Store in English, French and Spanish. More information at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

#### Box 459

This quarterly newsletter from the General Service Office includes information about AA service, literature, events, sharing from groups, service committees, and individual AA members. Download current and past issues and register for free subscription by email at: <http://aa.org/lang/en/subpage.cfm?page=27>

#### AA Guidelines

Guidelines represent the shared experience of AA members and groups on virtually all service committee areas and much more. Download individual guidelines at: <http://aa.org/lang/en/subpage.cfm?page=36>

#### For Groups and Members

This section of the AA website provides an enormous amount of information for AA members, groups and committees about services provided by the General Service Office. Go to [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) and click on "For Groups and Members."

#### AA Literature

Read virtually all of AA literature online in PDF form: The Big Book, 12 & 12, pamphlets, service material, and more in PDF format for free. Go to [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org), click on "For Groups and Members," then click on "AA Literature." You can download pamphlet PDFs by using the "save as" function on your computer. Book PDFs are not downloaded.

#### Worldwide Meeting Locator

Although the AA website does not provide specific meeting information, it offers extensive links to local resources that provide AA meeting information. Very helpful for travelers. Go to [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) and click on "How to find AA meetings." For international meetings, an online search usually turns up good information. Suggested key words for search: Alcoholics Anonymous, meetings, name of city, name of country. Adding the words "English speaking" sometimes yields good results as well.

#### District 17/Intergroup 17

##### Intergroup 17 Website

[www.aaocalamarion.org](http://www.aaocalamarion.org)  
When & Where, schedule of events, help for newcomers, *The Voice* newsletter (current & past issues), service opportunities, other resources.

##### Email Intergroup 17

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

##### Email District 17

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

##### Email The Voice

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

##### Group change form

[www.aaocalamarion.org](http://www.aaocalamarion.org)  
Click on "Meetings."

#### Area 14 North Florida Area Conference

##### North Florida Area 14 Website

[www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org)  
Activities schedule, Area Assembly info, officers and service chair contact, structures and guidelines, area news, much more.

#### The A. A. Grapevine

Subscribe to the online/digital version of the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous, search the archives, read highlights of the current issue, and

## Intergroup 17 Book of the Month Came to Believe

Five years of preparation and earnest thought went into this publication, since an AA member first pointed out the need for it.

The description of Alcoholics Anonymous as a "spiritual program" has been confusing to some newcomers, many of whom tend to translate "spiritual" as "religious." But as our cofounder Dr. Bob said in an AA *Grapevine* article, "We are not bound by theological doctrine.... We are many minds in our organization."

*Came to Believe...* is designed as an outlet for the rich diversity of convictions implied in "*God as we understood Him*." Most of the material was written expressly for the book in response to an appeal issued by the General Service Office. The places of origin shown for each story of brief comment indicate how widespread this response was.

And the Fellowship can be grateful to *all* those who took the trouble to set down their spiritual journeys in writing, whether or not their contributions appear in this booklet. Without such a broad view of membership thinking, it would not have been possible to make a truly representative selection.

Originally, our co-founder Bill W. planned to write a foreword. In lieu of this, the introductions to each section reflect Bill's outlook, already on record in the book *As Bill Sees It*.

*From the forward*  
Copyright 1973 by AAWS

**Came to Believe: \$5.50**  
**Available from Intergroup 17**

### ***'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 Contributions to Intergroup 17 September 2011

**Intergroup 17's fiscal year runs June 2011-May 2012.  
Contributions below are from June 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011.  
Please report any errors or discrepancies to Intergroup 17.**

GROUP NAME	Sep '11 Contribu- tions	Contribu- tions 6/1/11- 9/30/11	GROUP NAME	Sep '11 Contribu- tions	Contribu- tions 6/1/11- 9/30/11
11th Step Group		40.00	Lifesaver Group		153.23
164 Pages Group		\$ 167.50	Living Sober Group		35.03
Acceptance			Lunch Bunch Group		
Alive and Well		50.00	Marion Oaks Group		1.69
All You Need Group		45.00	Men's Group Ocala		200.00
As Bill Sees It	\$ 145.25	145.25	New Attitudes Group		.09
Bellevue Eye Opener		50.00	No Name Group		
Bellevue God's Way	2.14	5.02	Ocala Group	41.59	306.75
Bellevue Group			One Day at a Time		100.00
Breakfast Club		815.50	Primary Purpose Group		39.00
Cabin in the Woods	100.00	200.00	Shores of Sobriety		59.27
Came To Believe	30.54	48.16	Sisters of Serenity		75.00
Citra Group	.82	.82	Serenity Group		
Come As You Are			Sober Yankees	100.00	100.00
Conscious Contact		77.56	Start A New Life	100.00	200.00
Experience, Strength & Hope	.34	.34	Strength In Numbers	10.00	10.00
Forest Group	.07	20.07	Summerfield Group		
Forest Men's Group	30.00	30.00	Sundae Social Group		
Fountain of Gratitude			TLC Group, The Centers		
Free To Be	10.00	10.00	Together We Can		5.00
Fresh Start	.26	.26	We Give Up		50.00
Grace Group			We Give Thanks		
Grateful Gals		35.00	Weir Crazy		20.09
Grupo Mano Abierta			Westside Recovery	100.00	100.00
Happy Hour Group			Young People's Group		
Happy, Joyous & Free		1,056.59	Zion-Blichton Group	10.00	49
Headstart Group		78.08	Archives		
Healing Group		30.00	District 17	200.30	219.62
It's In The Book			Double Nickel (personal)		
It's Not Them Group	.31	.31	Faithful 5-ers (personal)	5.00	30.00
Keep It Green			Individuals members	15.14	56.61
Keep It Simple		355.65	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$801.76</b>	<b>\$5,254.70</b>
Last Call Group		100.00			

### 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 ADDRESS CHANGE**  
5205 N. Sonora Terrace  
Beverly Hills FL 34465

#### 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, General Service Office, 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**



**Live by the books?  
Buy the books!**

Find a complete selection of AA conference approved literature available now at the Intergroup 17 office. The holidays are coming. Find a great gift for that special sober someone in your life. Call 352 867-0660 or visit.

# 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, Ocala

### 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

## New & Newer Meetings

**Needs your support**

**The Serenity Group**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Noon  
Episcopal Church of the Advent  
11251 SW Highway 484, Ocala

**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

**New format**

**Experience, Strength & Hope**

Ice Cream Social/Speaker Meeting  
First 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

**New group**

**Sobriety in Marion Oaks**

Open discussion, Mondays, 7:00 pm  
Community Congregational  
15056 SW 29<sup>th</sup> Terrace Road, Ocala

**Grapevine meeting**

**Sober Yankees**

Second Tuesday, 7:00 pm  
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
5200 SW SR200, Ocala

**Speaker & dessert meeting**

**Ocala Group**

Fridays, 8:00 pm  
St. Mark's United Methodist  
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala  
Desserts welcome!

**12&12 and Grapevine meetings**

**Headstart Group**

12&12: Mondays, 7:30 am  
Grapevine: Wednesdays, 7:30 am  
Lost & Found Club  
339 NE Sanchez Avenue  
Ocala

**One Day at a Time**

Monday through Friday, noon  
5884 SW 60th Avenue, Ocala

**Loose Horse Group**

Fridays, 7:00 pm  
Friendship Baptist Church  
15115 Gainesville Road  
Reddick

## Group News and Meeting Changes

**Discontinued**

**Together We Can Group**

Marion Oaks. All meetings discontinued.

**New location**

**11th Step Group**

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

**Date change.**

**Experience, Strength, and Hope  
Ice Cream Social**

Moved to first Friday of the month starting  
November 4, 7:00 pm, *Big Book* study and  
Ice Cream Social., Church of Christ, 2750  
SE Maricamp Road, Ocala

**Discontinued**

**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

### Eat 'n Speak Meetings

#### Keep It Simple

Last Thursday of the Month  
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, Florida

### Speaker Meetings

#### Living Sober Group

Sunday, November 13, 7:30 pm  
Speaker: Paula V

Congregational Church, 7171 SW State Rd 200  
Ocala, Florida

#### Ocala Group

Every Friday, 8:00 pm  
Speaker & Dessert

11/4, Dennis O; 11/11, Chick W;  
11/18, Miss Ruth; 11/25, Greg C

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

Desserts & snacks to share are welcome

### 56th Annual Florida State Convention



August 1-5, 2012

#### Innisbrook Golf & Spa Resort

Palm Harbor, Florida

Register before December 31

Win a free 5-day, 4-night stay  
during the convention.

Complete information and online registration  
[56.flstateconvention.com](http://56.flstateconvention.com)

#### 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.

### 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 New Date. First Fridays.



Friday, November 4, 2011, 7:00 pm

We bring the ice cream,  
you bring the toppings!

First Friday of every month!

Church of Christ

2750 SE Maricamp Road, Ocala

## Intergroup Insights

### Immediate need for after-hours volunteers

#### Use your home or office phone

Intergroup must fill a vacancy on our "After-Hours" team immediately to cover the Saturday 2:00 pm through Monday 10:00 am time period. See back page for details. Please seriously consider this service position. Call the Intergroup office, 352 867-0660 for more info. One year of continuous sobriety is required.

### Steering Committee

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. Nominate someone else or yourself.

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). Call Intergroup for more info: 352 867-0660.

### Falling Rain Fails to Dampens Spirits at Fall Picnic

Even though Mother Nature blessed on our Fall Picnic with buckets of rain, there was a ton of fun time to be had by all. Intergroup 17 celebrated our 25th anniversary with a dynamic speaker

meeting, fantastic food, music that rocked the park, a 50/50 raffle, and cake auction. A huge thank-you to everyone who helped bring this event together so successfully and to everyone who purchased tickets. A profit of \$597 was made. Your constant support and gratitude prove that AA rocks in District 17.

### Area Assembly Recap

I attended my first ever Area Assembly in St. Augustine last month and came home with new insight on the AA Traditions in action. I made new friends, got some great ideas, and had a spiritual experience I'll never forget.

We collected a whole stack of flyers announcing all sorts of upcoming recovery-related events in our surrounding districts. The next Area Assembly is scheduled for January, and I strongly suggest all GSR's, Intergroup reps, and AA members find your way to St. Augustine to attend.

### Thank You Volunteers

To those who give of their service for Intergroup, a special "thank you." The desk, after hours, and other volunteers keep your Intergroup in motion and able to carry the message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic and to serve those in Ocala and Marion County who choose to follow our way of life.

Prepared by Connie C, Intergroup 17 Office Manager



### Intergroup 17 Meetings Everyone invited!

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

**Sunday, November 13, 5:15 pm**  
St. Mark's UMC  
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

Steering Committee, Sunday, November 13,  
4:15 pm, preceding monthly meeting. All invited.

For more information: 352-867-0660

### Free Subscription. The Voice by e-mail.



#### Subscribe for free.

Send an e-mail  
with "Free Voice" in  
the subject line to:

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

The Voice by e-mail is sent anonymously in PDF format. No one else can see your email address. Requires Adobe Reader software. Free download available at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com). Printed copies available at Intergroup office.

## 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.

### After-hours response help needed immediate

#### Use your home or office phone

Intergroup must fill a vacancy on our "After-Hours" team immediately to cover the Saturday 2:00 pm through Monday 10:00 am time period. Duties include responding to information request and notifying a member of the 12th Step Call list if someone is reaching out for critical help. You can provide this much needed service from virtually anywhere as all calls are forwarded to your home or mobile phone number. Please seriously consider this service position. Call Connie at the Intergroup office, 352 867-0660, for more info. One year of continuous sobriety is required.

### 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 alcohol-

ics 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)

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 September 2011

Meeting info requests	139
Office	55
Twelfth Step Calls	8
Visitors	26
Al-Anon*	4
Miscellaneous	62

\*Calls requesting information relating to Al-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 August:

- As Bill Sees It Group
- Belleview God's Way Group
- Cabin in the Woods Group
- Came to Believe Group
- Forest Men's Group
- Free to Be Group
- Ocala Group
- Sober Yankees Group
- Start a New Life Group
- Strength in Numbers 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 including our office and after-hours volunteers and others who help us carry the message in so many different ways.

### 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