



The Voice



A Publication of Intergroup District 17

www.aocalamarion.org

Volume 29, Issue 9
September 2012

Tradition Nine. “A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”

The Nature of Service

An awesome prescience permeates the Ninth Tradition of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our early members distilled their experience to form the wisdom embodied in our 12 Traditions, the “why” it works of our Fellowship.

In a business meeting a dozen or so years ago, it was announced several vacant service positions would be appointed the next time we met. A number of members expressed eager interest, at which point an old-timer remarked with a chuckle that anyone who wanted a position should not be nominated. He was well aware of our propensity for self-promotion and power wielding.

I did not attend that next meeting. The day after it occurred I was filling my regular Monday morning slot at Intergroup when said old-timer walked in and informed me I was the new secretary of our group. My protests - I was not there, I did not volunteer - were met with his response that that was why I was the new secretary.

A rampant characteristic in alcoholics, a reluctance to obey authority, is addressed by the nature of the disease itself – our obedience comes from within. “Great suffering and great love are A.A.’s disciplinarians; we need no others.” Our natural desires have to be sacrificed. The spirit of service negates nourishing our selfishness. Instead, we are here to help, to serve in a

custodial capacity as part of a service board or committee.

There are no bosses or gurus in our Fellowship. “Not GSO, not the humblest group conference can issue a single directive to any A.A. member.” We can’t be dictated to individually or collectively. We can, however, entertain the advice and suggestions from more experienced members. The individual’s defects are mirrored in others, but so are our assets. This reminds us that there is a Higher Power and we are not it. We become willing to try it another way. The willingness reasons are supplied by our Higher Power.

This Tradition states we ought never be organized yet we must be ready to be useful to others. We agree to be responsible for tasks, not to take on authority. The purely practical needs of our Fellowship are given life by the spirit of service. There is one vote apiece. There is no ambiguity in the phrase “directly responsible to those they serve”.

Our individual goals of spiritual simplicity, to be true to a vision and a purpose, translate into the aim of our service, to bring sobriety to all who want it. We come out of isolation into harmony. So go we, go our service boards, our committees, our Fellowship, and A.A. as a whole.

Diane M.

Intergroup District 17, Inc.
3666A N.E. 25th St. Ocala, FL 34470
aocalaintergroup@gmail.com

Hours: Weekdays - 10:00 am-5:00 pm
Saturday - 10:00am-2:00pm



352-867-0660
24 hour hotline

My journey of making amends

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

I read Step Nine for the very *first* time long before I ever participated in it. On first reading, I thought to myself, “Hmmm. Say, ‘I’m sorry.’ I can do that.”

Fortunately, for my recovery, that was not all I had to do. What I found eventually was an ability to tell the truth, to apologize for my behavior, and — the most important part, of course — to *change* my behavior!

By the time I got around to taking Step Nine I had experienced some wonderful gifts from the program and from working Steps One through Eight. I didn’t want to stop receiving those gifts, which meant I had more work to do.

I learned that Step Nine is basically the last part of my “housecleaning.” My life had been spared by my Higher Power. I was willing to go to any lengths! The obsession was gone! For the first time ever, I wanted to be sober more than I wanted to drink!

That had never happened before. I finally felt like I was able to breathe! The *Big Book*, Alcoholics Anonymous, says on page 79, “Although these reparations take innumerable forms, there are some general principles which we find guiding. Reminding ourselves that we have decided to go to any lengths to find a spiritual experience, we ask that we be given strength and direction to do the right thing, no matter what the personal consequences may be....”

I already had the list for my ninth step amends. I made it when I did my fourth and fifth steps. Those were obvious ones I had to do.

Then there were ones that I couldn’t do face to face because of a death or other extenuating circumstances. For me, these were not simple apologies; they had to be a living amends.

My sponsor told me that I had to go and acknowledge my behavior, and then change my behavior. The spiritual principle behind Step Nine is “forgiveness.” It wasn’t just about forgiveness from others; it was a forgiveness of me that I sought.

I did some horrible things throughout my drinking years and carried around a ton of guilt and shame, as most of us do. I wanted to feel “right” with my God.

The day came when I was to sit down and make my first amends. I prayed and talked with my sponsor. I was nervous, scared and unsure of what the outcome was going to be. I had to do it. I had to show, to God and myself, that I would be willing to set things right.

It was the first time that I *acknowledged* to someone, other than just my sponsor and God, exactly who I had been, and that I was willing to do different.

I assure you, as it was happening; it was not the most pleasant experience. But just moments later, I could look this person in the eye with assurance that with God’s help, I was going to be different.

Almost immediately I felt a freedom from the “old me.” Wow! I am sure some, probably many, know exactly what I am talking about.

So, that was the beginning of my journey of making amends. Some folks I had to send letters to. Some I have to send my amends to in heaven because that’s where they reside now. Some people, I will never speak to because my job is not to harm them.

The point is, I became willing and need to remain willing to right the wrongs I have done. I must continue to acknowledge when I am wrong and continue to set things straight!

Betty Jo D.

~~~~~ Congratulations! September 2012 Anniversaries! 245 YEARS! 89,425 DAYS!

Jim B 44 yrs	John B 15 yrs	Jason A 1 yr	Jennifer J 4 yrs
Judy K 40 yrs	Brian K 3 yrs	Keith S 1 yr	Alan B 3 yrs
Diane D 35 yrs	Dave M 3 yrs	Justin C 1 yr	Ashlee 3 yrs
Carol P 30 yrs	Greg M 3 yrs	<u>August</u>	Jessie 2 yrs
Ruth T 26 yrs	Jeremy H 3 yrs	John G 11 yrs	Amber 1 yr
George C 20 yrs	Matt B 3 yrs	Erica 6 yrs	Jessie 1 yr
William J 16 yrs	Helen L 1 yr	James F 6 yrs	



7th Tradition Addresses

Intergroup District 17, Inc.

3666A NE 25th Street

Ocala, FL 34470

Checks payable to: Intergroup District 17, Inc.

District 17

P.O. Box 3081

Ocala, FL 34478

Checks payable to: District 17

North Florida Area Conference

5205 N. Sonora Terrace

Beverly Hills FL 34465

Checks payable to: NFAC

The General Service Office

P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station

New York, NY 10164

Checks payable to: GSO



Nominations needed

District 17 DCM and Alternate DCM

District 17 seeks service minded individuals to fill two key service positions coming open this September:

• District Committee Member (DCM)

• Alternate DCM

DCM Responsibilities: 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: Generally four or five years to be eligible for election as delegate and the time and energy to serve the district well.

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

For more details, see the A.A. Service Manual. If you are interested in nominating yourself or another, please contact Rick D., DCM, at Intergroup: 352 867-0660.

Mark Your AA Calendar Upcoming Events

- ❖ **Sept 3rd**, Mon., **Labor Day Picnic**, 2:00 pm Fellowship, 3:00 pm Food, Lost & Found Club, 2315 NE 29th Terr., Ocala Dishes welcome
- ❖ **Sept 5th**, Wed, 7:15pm & Sept 17, 7:15pm, Mon, **Gratitude Dinner Committee**, Our Lady of the Springs, 4047 NE 21st St., Ocala
- ❖ **Sept. 7th**, Fri., 7:30pm, New **meeting for Veterans** at The Ritz Historic Inn, 1205 East Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala, Community room in the back of the building, Open Speaker.
- ❖ **Sept. 8th**, Sat., **Heavy Hitters "Hitnic"**, 10am-11pm, 12653 SE 141st Ave Rd, Ocklawaha, 32179 Speaker, Jule L. at 5pm. Dishes welcome.
- ❖ **Sept. 9th**, Sun., **Intergroup Rep** meeting, 4:30pm, Intergroup office with **Intergroup Steering Committee** meeting to follow.
- ❖ **Sept. 29th**, Sat., 5pm **District 17 Spaghetti Dinner**, Church of Christ, 2750 SE Maricamp Rd., Ocala.
- ❖ **October 12-14, North Florida Area Assembly** St. Augustine, Officer Elections. GSR's urged to attend.
- ❖ **Oct. 27th**, **Intergroup District 17 Annual Fall Picnic** Carney Island Park, Lake Weir, Ocklawaha
- ❖ **Nov. 10th**, Sat., **District 17 Gratitude Dinner** Our Lady of the Springs, Ocala

Intergroup District 17 Steering Committee Nominations needed

Contact John J. at Intergroup. Elections are in November. Intergroup Representatives meet at 3666A NE 25th St., Ocala 34470

Contributions

June 1, 2012 - July 31, 2012

Fiscal year 6/ 1/12 – 5/ 31/13

Group/Meeting Name	July 2012	YTD
All You Need	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
Belleview	300.00	300.00
Blichton Road	9.00	20.00
Breakfast Club	125.00	292.99
Cabin in the Woods	100.00	100.00
Came to Believe		44.71
Forest	50.00	50.00
Forest Men's		50.00
Grateful Gals	73.50	73.50
Happy, Joyous & Free	205.95	602.73
Headstart	33.03	65.03
Ocala Group	81.50	252.26
One Day at a Time		200.00
Primary Purpose	30.00	64.00
District 17	16.00	348.00
Birthday Club	113.00	113.00
Faithful Fivers	5.00	10.00
Individual Members	31.37	54.10
Total	\$1,183.35	\$2,650.32

Intergroup Office Calls - July 2012

- Visitors - 24
- Al-Anon - 5
- Misc. - 91
- Meeting info - 103
- Office Transactions - 50
- Twelve Step Calls - 5

In Alcoholics Anonymous, we all work together

All parts of our fellowship—group meetings, committees, offices, conferences, and group jobs—have one joint purpose: to help that one newcomer who has a drinking problem. But in order for AA to run itself, we have to have a system for finding out how AA as a whole feels about its world affairs, and how it wants to operate. We need constant, honest communications from one part of AA to every other, furnishing a wide cross section of AA experience. The General Service Conference makes that possible. Of course, neither the Conference, the General Service Board, nor any AA committee or office has any power to govern anyone in AA. "Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." You and I may not need a General Service Conference today to ensure our own recovery. What about the millions of sick alcoholics still stumbling out there in the dark? When they come trying to find us, we want each of them to get the same loving help we all had. The Conference—and the whole general service system—has that responsibility: to keep AA alive and well for those yet to come.

Rick D, District 17 DCM
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Group News and Notes

Discontinued Meetings

Acceptance Group & Grupo Nueva Vida

New Meetings

Morning Glory Recovery
 Monday and Friday 8am, Open Discussion
 Lost and Found Club, 2315 NE 29th Terr., Ocala, 34470

Emotional Balance

Thursday, 5:30 pm, Open Meditation
 Oakbrook Center for Living, 1009 NE 28th Ave, Ocala, 34470

Speaker Meeting

Living Sober Group Sunday, September 9, 7:30 pm
 Speaker: **Fred M.** First Congregational Church
 7171 SW Hwy 200, Ocala 34476-7055

For more information visit www.aaocalamarion.org
 Send news to: thevoice@aaocalamarion.org

Intergroup Insights

Are you a part of a group or a meeting? There is a difference. Do you know the answer? Ask your General Service Representative. If you don't have one, then discuss it at the next business meeting you attend. The AAWS pamphlet named the AA Group, P-16 and the book, The Home Group: Heartbeat of AA details the importance of group membership. Less than half of the meetings/groups listed in our When and Where are published in the 2011-2012 Eastern directory. Not only Intergroup, but also the DCM needs to be notified of any group changes, such as cancellations, new locations, new GSR, time changes, or format changes. Group change forms and new group forms can be accessed at aa.org or our web site, aaocalamarion.org.

Donations of tomato sauce, crushed tomatoes, Italian sausage, and ground beef are needed for District 17's Spaghetti n' Speak.

Gently used or new auction items are being accepted for the Fall picnic. Drop off at the office or bring to the event.

In the spirit of rotation the editor for The Voice has resigned. A Newsletter Committee is now forming. This publication has been ongoing for many years and we need your help for it to continue.

Soberly yours in service,

Connie C. – Intergroup Office Manager – 352.867.0660

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.



Free. All Welcome.

Spaghetti n' Speak

Saturday, September 29

Dinner 5:00 pm

Speaker 7:00 pm



Speaker: Wayne C

50/50 Raffle

& More

Dinner is free.

Fellowship is priceless.

Donations to District 17 welcome.

Church of Christ

2750 SE Maricamp Road, Ocala

More information 352-867-0660

Volunteers needed

Call 352 -867-0660 to learn more.





Intergroup District 17

Annual Fall Picnic

Saturday, October 27, 2012

Fun, Food, and Fellowship

Carney Island Park, Lake Weir, Ocklawaha

10 am to 4pm with Lunch served at Noon

Grilled chicken, sides, and beverages

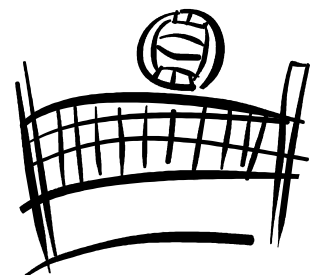
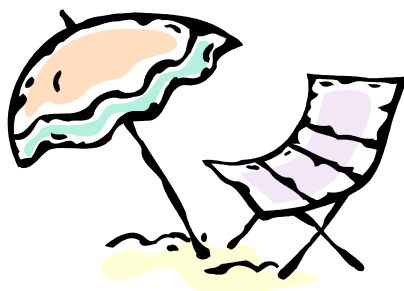
Music by DJ Ron, 50/50 Raffle, and Auction

Adults: \$6.00 Children: \$4.00

Advance purchase only. Includes parking.

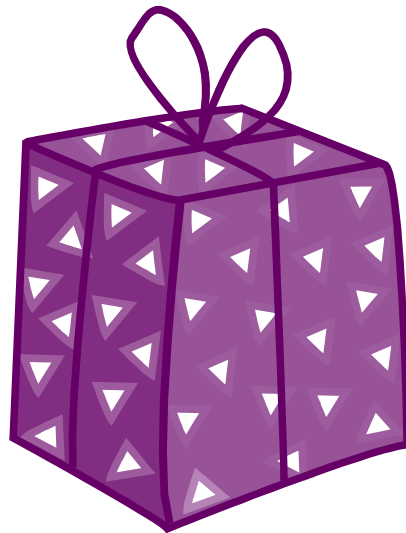
Show ticket for park admission.

Donated auction items (cakes included) are welcomed.



District 17 invites you to
Gratitude Dinner 2012

Grateful for the Gift



Saturday, November 10, 2012

Social hour 5:30 pm

Dinner 6:30 pm

Program 8:00 pm

Speaker Sharon McG Clermont, FL

Four-Course Dinner

Cake Auction Gift Baskets Raffles

Sobriety Countdown Much More

Tickets: \$15 per person

Our Lady of the Springs Catholic Church

4047 NE 21st Street, Ocala 34470

North of Silver Springs Blvd, East of 36th Avenue

Volunteers needed. Call 352.867.0660 to learn more.