



Central Office, Marion County Intergroup
 616 S. Pine Ave
 Ocala, FL 34471
 352 867-0660
 aaocalaintergroup@gmail.com

Central Office, Marion County Intergroup

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Monthly Newsletter of Marion County Intergroup

February 2023

Upcoming Events

**Step 11 Workshop
 February 18th 2023
 1:00—4:00pm**

DAV (*Disabled American Veterans*)
**9636 SE 58th Avenue
 Belleview, FL 34420**

\$5—Pay at the Door
 Includes Pizza @ 4:30pm
 Beverages and Desserts
 (bring your favorite dessert)
50/50 Raffle

SAVE THE DATES

Intergroup Activities

- February 12th @ Noon
 Intergroup Rep meeting ****
 Lost & Found Club, 616 S. Pine Ave
- March 11th— Drop the Rock
- *Drop the Rock-Ripple Effect* -
 Date still to be determined

District 17 Activities

- District 17 Monthly Meeting***
 February 23rd @ 6:45pm
 Unity Place, 525 NE Sanchez Ave
- March 25th—District Workshop -
How to Chair an A.A. meeting, Dan E.
more details to follow
- April 8th Pre-Conference Workshop
 with our Delegate, Mary A at the
 Dunnellon Presbyterian Church,
 20641 Chestnut Street, Dunnellon, FL

***Do not have a GSR—
 (General Service Rep)
 OR

****Intergroup Representative

**See pamphlets P-16 and P-19 for the
 importance of each position and how it
 can to contribute to AA Marion County and
 AA as a whole.**

Available **Service Positions** for **District 17
 Chairperson for Accessibilities—**
*Helping A.A.s who have problems participating in
 regular meetings.*

Chairperson for Grapevine
*Educates our membership about our
 unique "Meeting in Print" and Subscriptions*

Interested in the above positions, attend the next
 District 17 Monthly meeting, 2/23/23 @ 6:45pm at
 Unity Place, 525 NE Sanchez Avenue



Upcoming Retreats

30TH ANNUAL HOUSECLEANING Spiritual Retreat for A.A. & Al-Anon



**Lake Yale Conference Center, FL
or Zoom/Phone
March 10-12, 2023**

Online Registration Available:

www.retreatforaa-alanon.com

In person retreat for those who are vaccinated

Matt Talbot Men's 12-Step Retreat at the

Franciscan Retreat Center

3010 N. Perry Ave, Tampa, FL 33603

March 17-19, 2023

(cost \$285 for the weekend)

Contact Rick R 352-817-0397 OR

Joe S 240-216-4198

Registration form online: matttalbot129.com

Prodigal Sons V

Central Florida AA Men's 12-Step Retreat—Spring 2023—May 12 thru May 14, 2023

3-day, 12-Step Men's Retreat open to all members of A.A. This retreat is led by recovered alcoholics, all members of A.A. The event is self-supporting and is not affiliated with Alcoholics Anonymous. *Program includes speakers for each step, small breakout groups to work the steps, 5 meals, Saturday night speaker meeting, snacks, fellowship, bonfire, lakeside morning meditation. Camp style lodging included with registration fee.*

For application form please email: dshepard_66@yahoo.com OR Call or text 941-730-4274

LOCATION: *Lake Yale Baptist Convention Center, Leesburg, FL 34788*



Meeting Updates

Living Grace Group will now be meeting two evenings:
 Mondays @ 6:30pm AND Saturdays @ 6:30pm
 Grace Episcopal Church (Office Bldg)
 510 SE Broadway Street, Ocala, FL 34471

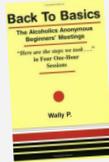
By the Book (Tuesdays @ 6pm, Unity) **is no longer meeting**

AA Back to Basics

for Beginners, Refresher for Current Members and
 anyone interested in AA *Wednesdays @ 7:30pm,*
DAV (Disabled American Veterans)

9636 SE 58th Avenue, Belleview

Complete the A.A. 12-Steps in
 4—1 hour sessions using the 1940 format
 developed by A.A. Pioneers



**NEW SESSION begins March 1, 2023 and
 every 1st Wednesday of the month**

AA History in February

- February 1922—Harold E. Hughes was born on a farm near Ida Grove, Iowa. After his recovery from alcoholism, he became Governor of Iowa, a United States Senator and the leading dark horse for the Presidential Democratic nomination in 1972, until he announced he would not run. He authored the legislation which created the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and other legislation to help alcoholics and addicts.
- February 1943—A.A.'s were granted the right to use cars for 12th step work in emergency cases, despite gas rationing.
- February 1945—World War II paper shortage forced reduction in size of the Big Book
- February 1946—A.A. Tribune, Des Moines, IA reported 36 new members since Marty M. (*one of the first woman to have long-term sobriety*) had been there.
- February 1971—A.A. groups worldwide held a memorial service for Bill Wilson.



Step 2— Came to believe a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

FEBRUARY 2023 | SPIRITUAL AWAKENINGS | STEP TWO

While You're Down There...

BY: BY: TOM L. | ALBANY, GA.

It was suggested that I throw my shoes up under the bed, and when I got up in the morning, since I was down on my knees anyway, to pray. Well, I did not do that.

The oldtimers in my home group were sometimes cantankerous and blunt, but they welcomed me when I was new to AA. "Keep coming back," they all told me. I thought that was really nice. They also were generous with their experience and their suggestions about how to stay sober. But did I take their advice? Certainly not. Don't get me wrong. I really did want to be sober. I was shaking and sick and wanted to get sober more than anything in the world.

Today, I wonder why. I had been a daily drunk for years. Drinking was the answer to all my problems, or it at least made them go away for a while. And I surely did not want to deal with all that God stuff in the Steps. In my first week without a drink, I sat in a speaker meeting in the second row (well, they said to sit up front) and I read the Steps on the wall. I literally thought, Old boy, you ain't going to make it. A free piece of advice: don't do that. It's a lot easier to read the Steps in the Big Book and not second-guess yourself.

But I kept coming back like they told me to. Those crusty old guys (actually years younger than I am now) kept talking about the God of their understanding, as they called him, and they kept talking about prayer. Now look, I was an atheist when I got to AA. I really didn't want to hear about prayer. I wanted to be an atheist, otherwise that God I grew up with was going to cook me for the way I'd been acting. But, again, I was shaking and sick and confused, and yet I wanted to stay sober.

I don't remember what they actually said about prayer.

But I think the dialogue went something like this:

Oldtimer: "Pray."

Me: "I don't want to pray."

Oldtimer: "We don't care what you want. Pray!"

Me: "I don't feel like praying."

Me: "What do I pray?"

Oldtimer: "Ask him to keep you sober. Do that in the morning and, if he does, thank him at night."

It was also suggested that I throw my shoes up under the bed, and when I got up in the morning, since I was down on my knees anyway, to pray. Well, I did not do that. It would be a long, long time before I hit my knees.

But I did pray. Without believing in much of anything, I asked the God I still don't understand to keep me sober today. I still do that every morning. And I still thank him at night, now on my knees.

Well, you know what happened of course. I caught it. After a few weeks of that, I looked around and I had not had a drink—not one! Those grumpy old poots were right. Step Three looked like a real killer, but that's another story. The God of their understanding had entered my life.



Tradition 2 — For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted.

FEBRUARY 2023 | MAKING AMENDS| TRADITION TWO

Wacky women BY: RHONI M. | SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ. .

She was outvoted. Everyone liked the new meeting name but her. And it only took 10 years to change her mind!

At around 10 years of sobriety, I was involved with starting a women’s AA meeting. It was absolutely perfect for me. The location, the day of the week and time could not have been better.

Oh, the fun of it all. The women who invited me to participate had already secured the room for the day and time when the meeting would be held, which was Wednesdays at 2:00 P.M. Again, it was perfect. When we contacted our Central Office to have the meeting included in the local directory, the office staff told us we could announce the meeting on our own and, if there was a need for the meeting and if it were supported, then they would include it in the directory.

Wow, we quickly found that there was good regular attendance at our new meeting, and many of the women quickly committed to various service positions. That gave us a definite green light to move forward.

Did I mention that it was just perfect? It was a meeting in the middle of the week, in the early afternoon, close to my home. It was all going my way. Well, it was until we had the group business meeting to decide on our new group name.

Oh boy was I ever happy with the suggestions that I had to offer. But then a very lively, fun member suggested we name our group the Wacky Women’s Meeting, which was met with a cheer. But not by me. I shrieked when I heard that name suggested, quietly though, because I felt certain that a name like that was not going to accurately represent sober women who are now living much less wacky lives. I began a campaign to steer away from this name to a more sober name. But it was too late. The vote was almost unanimous (minus my vote). Our meeting would be named the Wacky Women’s Meeting.

I had to speak to my sponsor often about this meeting name. She reassured me that there is a loving Higher Power expressing itself in the group and I was not it.

Time passed and the meeting grew twice its size and we had to move to a larger room and yes, just as my sponsor had told me, there was ample evidence of that loving expression.

About 10 years later, I was living in a different state and going through a sad, difficult time after the passing of a sponsee from cancer. I returned to my former town to attend my sponsee’s funeral. When I left the service, I felt I needed an AA meeting right away and I remembered that 2:00 P.M. women’s meeting. The meeting seemed to just pop into my head as the right place to go to on Wednesday afternoon, even though I certainly was not in any habit of doing that anymore.

I sat there waiting in the room for the meeting to start. I had actually forgotten about the meeting’s name until the chairperson introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the Wacky Women’s Meeting. I chuckled to myself as all the memories came flooding back. As the chair continued, she asked if there was anyone there for their very first AA meeting. A shaky, timid voice behind me spoke up. “Yes,” the woman said, “this is my first AA meeting, and I don’t even know what to say. But I chose this meeting because of the name.”

The room broke out in gentle laughter as everyone gave this newcomer a warm AA welcome. I turned around to greet her and said, “Keep coming back.” Yet to myself I thought, We are in a safe place, stay. My grief lifted slightly as I settled into my seat, humbled by knowing that the woman behind me had been attracted to us Wacky Women and had showed up to ask for help.

As I sat there, my gaze traveled outward from our meeting place, and I recognized the grace from a Higher Power guiding, comforting and protecting all of us. Who knew this lesson would take 10 years to be revealed to me—and with such humor and care at a time I so needed it.



A.A. Big Book (Hard Cover) Jacketless
(available @ Central Office next week)

and

Twelve and Twelve (Hard Cover) Jacketless
(available at Central Office)

All other approved A.A. Literature available at Central Office
e.g., Daily Reflection, As Bill Sees It, Pass It On, Came To Believe,
Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers, Experience, Strength & Hope
and more

Raise Your Voice. Tell Your Story.

Each month The Voice features a local member sharing their experience, strength, and hope about the Step of the month and/or Tradition.

We invite you to submit yours for consideration and possible publication in the **March 2023 Voice** (deadline March 01 2023). Choose a step that's particularly meaningful to you and put "pen to paper." Keep it to between 500 and 700 words.

Call Central Office for more info and to claim your ESH on a step or tradition. 352-867-0660



Calling all AA Authors!!!

Where are you? I know for a fact there is much experience, strength and hope to be shared.

I'll have to keep posting Steps and Traditions of the month from the Grapevine.



Volunteers needed

A.A. meetings have resumed at Marion County Jail.

A background check is required before attending.

Volunteers interested, please email Janet Tessaglia at ytessaglia@marionso.com

Meetings are on Thursdays and A.A. members should arrive at 6:30pm to be checked in.

The History and Use of Slogans in Alcoholics Anonymous AA Slogans in History

Since its beginning days in the early 1940's, members of Alcoholics Anonymous have repeated pithy sayings like "Keep Coming Back" and "Easy Does It" to reach others so often that it may seem as though their lives depended upon them. Perhaps it's true. And although the history of any particular slogan's origins is often cloudy, it's clear that many of the now famous "slogans of AA" have been part and parcel of Alcoholics Anonymous since its very beginnings.

Use of AA Slogans likely began with founders Bill W. and Dr. Bob, and with the early members of AA. They may simply have been quoting from the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, which says, "We have three little mottoes which are apropos. Here they are: *First Things First, Live and Let Live, and Easy Does It.*" (Ch. 9, "The Family Afterward," 135.) The three slogans named in the Big Book and several other classics like *One Day At A Time*, and *But for the Grace of God* have been a part of Alcoholics Anonymous since the very beginning.

Faithful Fivers

A.A. members who choose to contribute five dollars (\$5) each month to support Central Office/Intergroup in its efforts to keep the hand of A.A. always there in the Marion County area.

*Many thanks to consistent Faithful Fivers
Phil H, Theo, Ralph W, Chili Cats,
On Awakening, Weir Crazy*

Easy to contribute, by mail OR stop by Central Office
Check, Credit Card or Cash



Intergroup District 17	
Treasurer's Report	
Date: JANUARY 31, 2022	
INCOME	
Contributions	\$3,684.10
Sales	\$2,265.60
Sales Tax Payable	\$154.45
Total Income	\$6,094.15
EXPENSES	
Internet/Telephone	\$134.24
Literature,Coins etc.	\$1,477.98
Payroll	\$1,500.68
Med/SSI withheld	\$(124.32)
Med/SSI employer ptn	\$124.32
Printing	\$69.00
Rent	\$450.00
Intuit charge fees	\$34.67
Sales Tax (Prior Month)	\$142.78
PayPal Expense	\$1.82
Auto-Owners Insurance (yearly)	\$486.54
Total Expenses	\$4,267.71
Net Income (Loss)	\$1,826.44
Checking	\$2,840.36
Petty Cash	\$100.00
Prudent Reserve	\$2,007.41
Inventory as of 12/31/21	\$3,890.76

From the GSO Pamphlet
Self-support;
Where Money and Spiritually Mix (F-3)

10% to District 17
P.O. Box 3081, Ocala, FL 34478

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**10% to Area 14**  
***Area 14, Panel 71 Treasurer***  
***PO Box 226***  
***DeLeon Springs, FL 32130***  
 (Address changes every two years. Visit  
[www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org) for correct address)  
  
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30% to General Service Office
PO Box 459, Grand Central Station,
New York, NY 10163

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**50% to Central Office/Intergroup 17**  
***616 S Pine Avenue***  
***Ocala, FL 3447***

# Birthdays February

**Alive and Well**  
 Bill Mc G—1  
**Belleview Group**  
 Tanya M—9  
**Breakfast Club**  
 David R—9  
 Fran M—50  
 Justin—17  
 Karen M—8  
 Terry S—41  
**Fort McCoy**  
 Roger—38  
**Grateful Gals**  
 Mary Ann—48  
 Sandy B—42  
**Happy, Joyous & Free**  
 Amanda M—7  
 Angela P—8  
 Bill D—35  
 Christa J—5  
 Don B—6  
 Doug L—18  
 Janice W—41  
 Jenilou L—12  
 Jeshca—7  
 Joe R—10  
 Jonathan—10  
 Laurie J—11  
 Mystie G—6  
 Sue Ellen—14  
 Theresa S—15  
 Tom C—11  
 Tom C—20  
 Tom W—10  
 Trista Z—10  
 William M—17

**ODAT**  
 Michele T-13  
 Frank S—14  
 Tim W—38  
 Ken D—11  
**Primary Purpose**  
 Jim G—32  
 Joe S—46  
**Sisters in Sobriety**  
 Mia A—3  
 Sue H—48  
 Corey R—2  
 Debbie P—25  
**Shores of Sobriety**  
 Jim S—29  
**Sisters in Sobriety**  
 Connie—2  
 Maria B—3  
**Sober Yankees**  
 Connie Y—2  
 Sandy B—42  
 Tracy C—33  
**We Give Up**  
 Bev C—41  
 Doug—18



# Congrats!!

| Group Donations             | JAN 2023  | Y-T-D     |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 11th Step Meditation        | \$        |           |
| Alive and Well              | \$        |           |
| Anonymity Group             | \$        |           |
| Belleview Eye Opener        | \$        |           |
| Belleview Group             | \$ 40.62  | \$ 40.02  |
| Belleview Speaker Meeting   |           |           |
| Birthday Club               |           |           |
| Breakfast Club              |           |           |
| Cabin in the Woods          | \$        |           |
| Club Recovery—Inverness     | \$        |           |
| Emotional Balance           | \$        |           |
| Experience, Strength & Hope | \$        |           |
| Eurkea Group                | \$        |           |
| Faithful Fivers             | \$ 15.00  | \$ 15.00  |
| Fort McCoy                  | \$ 3.92   | \$ 3.92   |
| Fountain of Gratitude       | \$        | \$        |
| Free To Be                  | \$ 90.00  | \$ 90.00  |
| Grateful Gals               | \$ 48.50  | \$ 48.50  |
| Happy, Joyous & Free        | \$        | \$        |
| Headstart                   | \$ 225.51 | \$ 225.51 |
| Heavy Hitters               | \$        | \$        |
| Individual                  | \$ 172.63 | \$ 172.63 |
| Living Sober                | \$ 274.66 | \$ 274.66 |
| Living Grace Group          | \$        |           |
| Lunch Bunch                 | \$ 207.30 | \$ 207.30 |
| Mano Abierta                | \$ 20.25  | \$ 20.25  |
| New Attitudes               | \$        |           |
| No Name Group               | \$        |           |
| Ocala Group                 | \$        |           |
| Ocala Men's Group           | \$        |           |
| On Awakening                | \$ 14.13  | \$ 14.13  |
| One Day At A Time           | \$ 650.48 | \$ 650.48 |
| Primary Purpose             | \$        |           |
| Reflections Group           | \$        |           |
| Rules 62                    | \$ 236.00 | \$ 236.00 |
| Shores of Sobriety          | \$ 150.00 | \$ 150.00 |
| Sisters in Sobriety         | \$        | \$        |
| Sober Yankees               | \$ 150.00 | \$ 150.00 |
| Step Right Up               |           |           |
| Stop Whining & Sober Up     |           |           |
| Strength in Numbers         | \$        |           |
| Sundae Social Group         | \$        |           |
| Sundae After Lunch Bunch    | \$        |           |
| The Red Eye Group           | \$        |           |
| We Give Up                  | \$ 361.20 | \$ 361.20 |
| Weir Crazy Group            | \$        | \$        |