

# The Voice

Central Office, Marion County Intergroup  
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## Central Office, Marion County Intergroup

Monthly Newsletter of Marion County Intergroup **January 2023**

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# Upcoming Events

## Drop the Rock Workshop

3 Moderators from the Jacksonville

*Drop the Rock Hybrid Meeting*

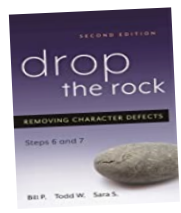
**January 21st 2023**

**1:00—4:30pm**

**DAV** (Disabled American Veterans)

**9636 SE 58th Avenue**

**Bellevue, FL 34420**



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

For sale @ event \$10

### SAVE THE DATES

#### Intergroup Activities

- February 18th - Step 11 Workshop
- March 11th - Drop the Rock—Ripple Effect
- April 1st—Picnic/Fun Day

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District 17 Monthly meeting  
January 26th @ 6:45pm  
Unity Place, 525 NE Sanchez Ave

Intergroup Rep/Steering Comm  
February 12th @ Noon  
Lost & Found Club, 616 S Pine Ave

\*\*\*\*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 contribute to AA Marion County and AA as a whole.*



**North Florida Area Conference**  
**Area 14 Assembly**

"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."

**All Invited**  
**Speaker Meeting Online & In Person**

**Tom H, Southeast Regional Trustee, General Service Board of AA**

**8:00 pm, Saturday, January 14**

North Florida Area Conference, Quarterly Assembly

#### Online

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 7679 4527; Password: area14  
Dial-in: (305) 224-1968; Passcode: 716453

#### In Person

Mission Inn Resort & Club

### Looking for a local meeting?

Choose from more than 100 in-person and online meetings this week in Ocala/ Marion County

**When and Where online!**  
[www.aocalamarion.org](http://www.aocalamarion.org)

**Print copies available from home groups or Central Office**  
*Please notify Central Office with any changes, updates, new meetings, etc, so that not only the When & Where can be updated, but also the Meeting Guide*



## *In Loving Memory of two beloved women*



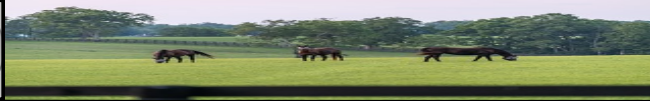
On 1/3/2023 we lost a dear member of our fellowship, Beverley Hall. She passed with 40 years of sobriety. Beverley attended many different meetings in Ocala over the years. She was loved by all whose path she crossed, especially the four legged ones with wagging tails. If Beverley was not your friend it was because you had not met her yet. The world was a better place because of Beverley and we will miss her very much.

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**Bev Brewer's  
Celebration of Life will be on January 21st at  
12 noon.  
At Church of God of Prophecy 1307 NE 9th Ave,  
Ocala, FL 34470.**

Beverly left her earthly body on January 4th after a brief, but brave fight with cancer. She was a member of Alcoholics Anonymous since August 2011, her home group Being *Happy, Joyous and Free*. Bev's work allowed her to travel throughout the state of Florida, caring for those that were not able to take care of themselves. She was their voice. Bev would give you the shirt off her back or her last dollar, if you needed it. Those that knew Bev, knew she was a spitfire that didn't mince words. Her children and her grandchildren were her life. Bev left an imprint on Ocala recovery that won't be duplicated. Her presence will be missed.



## AA History in January

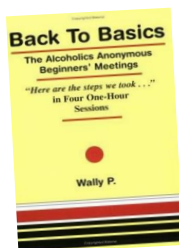
- January 1939—Dr. Bob stated in a letter to Ruth Hock that A.A. had to get away from the Oxford Group atmosphere
- January 1948—First A.A. meeting held in Japan
- January 1951—A.A. Grapevine published memorial issue on Dr. Bob
- January 1961—Bill W sent an appreciation letter, which he considered long-overdue, to Dr. Carl Jung for his Contribution to A.A.
- January 1984—Pass It On, the story of Bill W, and how the A.A. reached the world, was published.

### 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

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



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



**Step 1— We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.**

**JANUARY 2023 | SPIRITUAL AWAKENINGS | STEP ONE**

## No Walk in the Park

**BY: JOE H. | POWELL RIVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA**

He knew he was powerless when an outing with his dog became a nightmare trip to the liquor store

I remember AA coming easily to me back in 1986 when I made it into the rooms. Within a few months of that first meeting, I had friends, my life was back on track and my wife was happy with my attitude and outlook.

After five years in AA, I moved to another city. I attended a few meetings at a church near my new home, but I decided that I didn't like this group. To make things worse, I started thinking that maybe I didn't need AA anymore. A little voice in my head said, You're not an alcoholic. You were just going through a rough patch. I listened to that voice and stopped going to meetings.

For the first eight years of my absence from AA, I didn't drink. In hindsight, I was becoming more and more of a "white knuckle" alcoholic, and it was just a matter of time before I would start drinking again.

Then that day came. I was on a camping trip and a buddy offered me a beer. He had done this before, but this time I took the beer and drank it, seemingly without giving it a thought.

Right away, I knew I had opened Pandora's Box. Within a few weeks of this first beer in eight years, I went from binge drinker to daily drinker. I drank every day for the next four years, and when I had finally had enough, I came back to AA. I had not been to an AA meeting in 12 years! This time around though, sobriety did not come as easily. I went to meetings, but I came late and left early. Within a month, I was drunk again.

I remember that drunk as though it were yesterday. I never want to forget it. It was a Saturday morning. I took my dog for a walk around the park, but instead this time I walked him directly to the liquor store. I tied him up outside while I went in and bought a bottle of vodka. I took my dog home and went back to the park alone. I had no defense against the first drink. I proceeded to stay drunk for the entire weekend. That left me scared. I knew enough to know that if I went out one more time, I might never make it back again.

At my next AA meeting, I reached out and asked a fellow if I could talk with him after the meeting. We went for coffee. He quickly determined that I wasn't doing anything to work the program except attend meetings— no Steps, no sponsor, no home group, no Big Book study. Nothing. "No wonder you want to drink," he said in a kind and matter-of-fact way. "You need to start doing some work. I'll be your sponsor until you find one."

I knew he was right. I made the decision right then to do what he and others suggested. I can honestly say that man saved my life, but I had a part in it too. I was hurting so I reached out. I needed to swallow my pride and admit to someone that I was in trouble.

Did I learn any lessons from all of this? Yes, I did. I learned that I needed to be absolutely grounded in Step One in order to move forward. I am powerless over alcohol. I know that now, no matter what a little voice in my head might tell me. I also know there are no shortcuts to sobriety. It's true when we say, "Half measures availed us nothing."

Every day I thank my Higher Power. The obsession to drink has been removed once more, but I don't know if it ever will be again, and I certainly don't plan on finding out. I will always have a healthy respect for my alcoholism. I know I have a daily reprieve based on my spiritual condition. I will maintain my sobriety if I do what's suggested and keep my place in AA.



**Tradition 1 — Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.**

## JANUARY 2023 | SPIRITUAL AWAKENINGS | TRADITION ONE

# Coming Together

BY: JUDITH H. | LEWISBURG, PA.

Unity and common welfare helped this meeting navigate the many challenges of COVID-19

Back in 2021, our group faced a problem that I'm sure many groups around the world were facing: Where do we go from here after the COVID-19 pandemic?

Keeping it simple would be a wonderful idea—if only it were that simple! But we had to reexamine everything. The places where we met before the pandemic were great, but now the rules of daily interaction had changed, and we had to rethink group activities. We looked to make our venues safer for everyone in meetings and figure out what's best for the future of our groups.

It was a struggle, but AA persisted and actually prospered during this worldwide adversity. I stayed sober by attending meetings online, by phone and by text, as many of us had to do. I call it "going to any lengths."

During the pandemic year, when face-to-face meetings were discouraged, my home group continued to meet online and some of our members started meeting in a parking lot near the original location, while practicing social distancing.

So now we were two groups, one virtual and one meeting outside in the parking lot. And it worked. Our common welfare came first and we each went where we felt safe. The two meetings allowed us to feel comfortable by staying in the middle of the herd and helping others to achieve sobriety. I so admire those who came into the rooms when there were no physical rooms to go into. Many of them got sober and have stayed sober. The miracles continue!

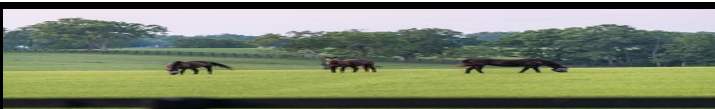
After lockdowns lifted and people were eager to interact in person again, our home group started a search for an in-person venue. The operators of our original meeting location requested a contract from us—which is a fair request, from their point of view—and for our members to stay masked when they entered the building. Additionally, they required that no food was to be served (no coffee or bagels!), as that would defeat the whole concept of the mask-wearing. Another possible meeting place we looked

into had no requirements beyond the usual clean-up and care for their property.

We held a group conscience—part of it occurred on someone's laptop at the parking lot location while the rest of us were online at home—and we were civil as we discussed our choices and alternatives, though I know people on both sides of the issue were upset. We discussed a hybrid meeting format, and that was rejected. As our discussion continued, we listened respectfully to each other. No one veered into political commentary or vehement attacks. We stuck to the need for unity and service to one another, though strong opinions could've sunk us. Our Higher Powers kept our egos in check for the sake of our primary purpose. It was another example of the miracle of the program of AA.

I daresay alcoholics can stay sober through anything! AA was introduced to the world in 1935 via a Higher Power speaking through Bill W. and Dr. Bob and it has kept going strong through wars, many world tragedies—and now a pandemic! We will find a way to move forward because there are still so many who are powerless over alcohol and need a solution.

I have more confidence now that nothing will stop us. The message will be carried, we will change and grow as groups and as individuals, and we will find new and creative ways to take care of each other through the storms of alcoholism, no matter what.



**As of January 12th 2023 —  
All A.A. approved literature is available at  
the Central Office/Intergroup**

**Big Books; 12&12, Daily Reflections,  
As Bill Sees It, Came to Believe,  
Living Sober and others**

*Thank you all for supporting Intergroup*

**Calling all AA Authors!!!**



**Where are you? I know for a  
fact there is much ESH to be  
shared.**

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

## **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 **February 2023 Voice** (deadline February 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



## District 17 positions available

**GSR's** (Don't let your home group be left out of the loop.)

**Variety of Alternate Chair positions,  
including Alternate DCM**

**Next District 17 meeting—January 27th '23**

**6:45pm**

**Unity Place, 525 NE Sanchez Ave**

## 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](mailto:ytessaglia@marionso.com)

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

## *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**



<b>Intergroup District 17</b>	
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	
<b>Date: DECEMBER 31, 2022</b>	
<b>INCOME</b>	
Contributions	\$2,219.99
Sales	\$2,090.75
Sales Tax Payable	\$146.44
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$4,457.18</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Internet/Telephone	\$134.24
Literature,Coins etc.	\$2,140.43
Payroll	\$1,500.68
Med/SSI withheld	\$(124.32)
Med/SSI employer ptn	\$124.32
Printing	\$69.00
Rent	\$450.00
Intuit charge fees	\$34.32
Sales Tax (Prior Month)	\$133.82
PayPal Expense	\$3.15
Deposit Slips for Checking Account	\$18.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,359.32</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$97.82</b>
Checking	\$2,459.11
Petty Cash	\$100.00
Prudent Reserve	\$1,607.39
Inventory as of 12/31/21	\$2,964.26

**From the GSO Pamphlet**  
***Self-support;***  
***Where Money and Spiritually Mix (F-3)***  
**10% to District 17**  
***P.O. Box 3081, Ocala, FL 34478***  
 ~~~  
**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)  
 ~~~  
**30% to General Service Office**  
***PO Box 459, Grand Central Station,***  
***New York, NY 10163***  
 ~~~  
**50% to Central Office/Intergroup 17**  
***616 S Pine Avenue***  
***Ocala, FL 3447***



# Birthdays

# January

## Belleview Group

John S—9

## Breakfast Club

Adele B—5

Bill H—39

Bob G—6

Jenele S—4

Jim C—4

Joe S—46

Kim L—11

## Fort McCoy

Shannon—6

Heidi—7

Tony C—17

Jessie—36

## Grateful Gals

Deborah V—33

Beth L—22

Irene R—5

Joureene P—42

## Happy, Joyous & Free

Benjamin O—24

Betty P—49

Bill L—43

Brian Y—7

Candy B—18

Dane J—9

Debbie S—11

Donna R—30

Erin S—17

Jim S—13

Joe V—8

John D—29

John R—6

Johnny G—6

Kim D—6

Larry Be—26

Megan R—11

Mike S—12

Misty A—11

Naren—9

Paula F—12

Rene G—9

Richie M—19

Ron Ho—11

Ron K—23

Ronnie G—9

Shannon H—8

Sisco L—11

Wes H—33

## 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

## Sober Yankees

Sue P—13

Mike B—39

Bill H—39

Barbara T—47

## We Give Up

Lindy T—4



# Congrats!!

| Group Donations             | DEC       | Y-T-D      |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 11th Step Meditation        | \$        | \$ 235.00  |
| Alive and Well              | \$        | \$ 110.00  |
| Anonymity Group             | \$ 68.00  | \$ 790.50  |
| Belleview Eye Opener        | \$        | \$ 84.93   |
| Belleview Group             | \$ 40.00  | \$ 40.04   |
| Belleview Speaker Meeting   | \$ 200.00 | \$ 965.00  |
| Birthday Club               | \$ 45.00  | \$ 156.00  |
| Breakfast Club              | \$ 500.00 | \$2300.00  |
| Cabin in the Woods          | \$        | \$ 50.34   |
| Club Recovery—Inverness     | \$        | \$ 84.00   |
| Emotional Balance           | \$        | \$ 118.75  |
| Experience, Strength & Hope | \$        | \$ 343.83  |
| Eurkea Group                | \$        | \$ 20.00   |
| Faithful Fivers             | \$ 5.00   | \$ 275.00  |
| Fort McCoy                  | \$        | \$ 41.04   |
| Fountain of Gratitude       | \$        | \$ 67.57   |
| Grateful Gals               | \$        | \$ 88.50   |
| Happy, Joyous & Free        | \$        | \$ 233.44  |
| Headstart                   | \$ 471.44 | \$2,957.78 |
| Heavy Hitters               | \$ 10.00  | \$ 50.00   |
| Individual                  | \$ 456.23 | \$1,886.21 |
| Living Sober                | \$        | \$ 358.69  |
| Living Grace Group          | \$ 93.50  | \$ 180.50  |
| Lunch Bunch                 | \$        | \$ 636.94  |
| Mano Abierta                | \$ 25.00  | \$ 175.72  |
| New Attitudes               | \$ 189.00 | \$ 701.50  |
| No Name Group               | \$ 20.00  | \$ 95.00   |
| Ocala Group                 | \$ 46.21  | \$ 756.30  |
| Ocala Men's Group           | \$        | \$ 660.00  |
| On Awakening                | \$        | \$ 950.00  |
| One Day At A Time           | \$        | \$1003.33  |
| Primary Purpose             | \$        | \$ 298.68  |
| Reflections Group           | \$        | \$ 225.00  |
| Rules 62                    | \$        | \$ 550.00  |
| Shores of Sobriety          | \$        | \$ 100.61  |
| Sisters in Sobriety         | \$        | \$ 95.00   |
| Sober Yankees               | \$        | \$ 335.74  |
| Step Right Up               | \$ 50.00  | \$ 222.50  |
| Stop Whining & Sober Up     | \$ 100.00 | \$ 350.00  |
| Strength in Numbers         | \$        | \$ 20.00   |
| Sundae Social Group         | \$        | \$ 260.00  |
| Sundae After Lunch Bunch    | \$ 104.00 | \$ 304.00  |
| The Red Eye Group           | \$        | \$ 101.07  |
| We Give Up                  | \$        | \$ 446.16  |
| Weir Crazy Group            | \$        | \$ 300.00  |