



The Voice

Central Office, Marion County Intergroup

616 S. Pine Ave
Ocala, FL 34471
352 867-0660
aaocalaintergroup@gmail.com

In this issue

Step 7.....	1
Step 7 continued	2
Tradition 7	3
Announcements.....	4 & 5
Birthdays, Contributions.....	6

Monthly Newsletter of Marion County Intergroup

July 2023

Step Seven—*"Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings"*

Fear no more | Tom S. Arlington Heights, ILL

Asking his Highter Power to remove the thing that ruled his life for years took some surprising humbling action

When I did my Fifth Step, I brought my Fourth Step Inventory to my sponsor. I had written it from top to bottom until each column was completed. Conversely, when I did my Fifth Step, I read each entry from left to right to my sponsor. Each time I arrived at column four, he asked me the same question: "What was your part?"

I was able to look at each entry and see how the person or place I wrote about was controlling my decision-making. In answering my sponsor's question, I was able to see that I *did* play a role in each resentment. I realized that I could have some control over how I perceived the way people treated me and the overall effect they had on my life.

Next, my sponsor and I discussed why I was harboring these resentments. We basically dissected what had caused the conflict and we identified which of my character defects were to blame. What came out of our discussion was that I had lived my life entirely based on fear. My marriage was all about fear, fear of losing my wife, fear of my marriage failing, or fear that I would be embarrassed or have my heart crushed. I carried that fear not only in my relationship with my wife, but

in every other relationship I had. This was eye-opening, to say the least.

I questioned little of what my sponsor told me, as I knew deep down inside he was right. The fear was everywhere. This revelation motivated me. I wanted this to change. I wanted the fear gone immediately. Naturally I asked the man sitting in front of me, my sponsor, what I should do. He said I needed to get the fear to lift, but to do so that I was going to have to work on the opposite of it. He told me the opposite of fear was faith. If I believed that God is doing for me what I could not do for myself, then that was me practicing faith.

Well, did I believe God would help me in my life? He most certainly had helped me so far, hadn't he? There were many times in my drinking days where things could've gone quite differently, and I wouldn't be alive today. There were many times in my drinking days that I could have been incarcerated for a very, very long time. Someone had definitely been watching over me.

Did I believe God had a plan for me? The biggest example of this was that I wasn't drinking anymore.

continued on p. 2

**Intergroup/Steering
Monthly meeting
Sunday, July 9th @
NOON**

Lost & Found Club
616 S. Pine Ave

**District #17 Monthly
July 27th @ 7:00pm**
Unity Place
525 NE Sanchez Ave.

Every Thursday Area 14
Service. Workshop, 6:00pm;
Hospitality, 5:45pm—New
Topic every Thursday—
Zoom Meeting ID:
828 5682 4762; pw: service

**PLEASE NOTE
Intergroup Office
Hours as of
7/10/23
Tues, Wed, & Thurs
9:00am—5:00pm**

If AA approved literature or Medallions are needed outside these hours, please call **352-867-0660** and arrangements will be made.

AA Back to Basics

NEW SESSION begins every 1st Wednesday of the month (**next session 8/2/23**) Complete the A.A. 12-Steps in 4—1 hour sessions using the 1940 format developed by A.A. Pioneers.



Location: Disabled American Veterans (DAV), 9636 SE 56th Bellevue, FL



Step Seven, *continued from page 1*

How about the fact that I was even thinking about these questions? And what about the fact that I had a sponsor and was working on my Steps to ensure a happy and joyful life? This was not something I had ever been concerned with up to that point. This was not my will; it came from something much bigger than me.

Did I believe God was doing for me what I could not do for myself? You bet your sweet patootie I did. First, I wasn't drinking. If I had had my way, I'd be drinking for sure. I drank to get over my problems. And when drinking became a problem, I drank to get the problems that drinking was causing. Sober, my life was getting better. I was a better dad, a better husband, a better sibling, a better employee, the list goes on and on. Clearly, God was doing for me what I could not do for myself.

I was now ready to replace my fear with faith. But that readiness wasn't enough. I had to actually do it. I had to prove I was ready to practice faith. This is where Step Seven came into play. It's short on words in the Big Book, but huge on power: *"Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings."*

The Sixth Step asked me if I was willing to confront my shortcomings and I proved that I was by working with my sponsor to examine how disgusting living with fear had become for me. I was more than ready to ask for help, but I stumbled over that word "humbly." I wanted to be rid of my fear because I wanted to be happier. I wanted to like myself better. I wanted others to like me more too. The problem here is the I, I, I—my focus on I was not what I defined as humble. Then it hit me.

I looked at the words in the Seventh Step Prayer. I realized the way to work the Seventh Step is for me to pray to God. Really and truly pray to God. For some reason, I felt the need to get on my knees, so I did. I knelt down and

prayed. I said the words in the prayer, and I meant them. "I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows," I said out loud.

On my knees, feeling desperate to have my fear lifted, and saying the words honestly and to my God, I finally felt it. That sense of humility gave me hope. I had found him.

My favorite line in our Big Book says, "It works—it really does." I found God through working the Steps and I no longer live my life based on fear. I don't care how tough things get in my life; I'm not going to let go of the relationship I have with my Higher Power. Ever.

Copyright © The AA Grapevine July 2023
Reprinted with Permission

AA Historical Events in July

1940—First A.A. Group formed in Dayton, OH

—Philly's AAs send 10% of the kitty to Alcoholic Foundation setting precedent

1943—New Haven Register CT reports arrival of A.A.'s to study with E.M. Jellinek (*Jellinek was a pioneer in research on the nature and causes of alcoholism and was an early proponent of the disease theory of alcoholism.*)

1950—First A.A. Convention celebrates 15th Anniversary in Cleveland.

1965—10,000 attend 30th AA Anniversary in Toronto, our *Responsibility Declaration* is adopted

1985—45,000 attend 50th AA Anniversary in Montreal; House of Seagram's flies their flags half mast for 3 days

1990—48,000 attend 55th AA Anniversary in Seattle. 75 countries are represented as the former Soviet Union's members attend for the first time.



Tradition Seven—

Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Brewing a Resentment To do his 90 in 90, a newcomer starts a meeting at a church. But why wasn't the priest providing more coffee?

I got sober while I was working on an island four days a week. I kept hearing about 90 meetings in 90 days. Problem was, it was winter and there were no AA meetings on the island. On the mainland, I was able to go to a meeting on Thursday night, three meetings on Friday, a meeting on Saturday and two on Sunday. I even thought of moving to a place where I could go to an AA meeting every day.

After talking to my sponsor about my problem, we decided to contact the church on the island where they had AA meetings in the summer and ask if I could start a winter meeting on Wednesday nights. The priest at the church told me that I could use the church basement, but on some nights I might have to take the meeting across the street to the church's rectory if the church needed its meeting rooms. So I started the meeting and sat in the church basement every Wednesday for an hour and read the Big Book. In early sobriety, I was alright until the fog in my head started to lift, and this sure seemed to help my thinking problem.

I remember the first time I was told I had to move the meeting over to the rectory because the room was needed by the church. The priest met me at the door and gave me a cup of coffee, and across the street I went. This situation worked fine for awhile. Then one night, I was having dinner with a friend, and I asked him to come to the AA meeting that night. When I left his house, he said he might be able to make it, but he wasn't sure. I arrived at the church and the priest met me at the door with a cup of coffee and across the street I went. So I sat at the kitchen table there with one cup of coffee,

wondering whether my friend would show up. What would I do if he arrived and I had no coffee to offer him?

This is where my resentment started against the priest even though my friend never showed up that night. After that night, every time the priest asked me to move the meeting over to the rectory, my resentment grew. What would I do if someone showed up and I had no coffee to offer? I talked to my sponsor and we were not coming up with the answer. I tried to find another place to move the meeting to, but that never worked out.

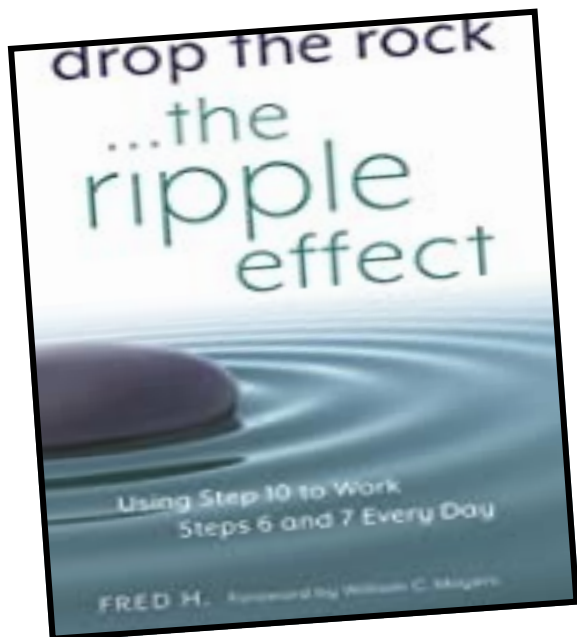
Then one Wednesday night I was on my way to the meeting, again thinking about a person I knew who I really thought would be coming to the meeting. Sure enough, when I got to the church, there was the priest with a cup of coffee in his hand.

After the meeting I went back to my apartment, not knowing what to do about this coffee situation. Then I had a thought. I checked every room and even looked out the window to make sure no one was looking, I got down on my knees and told God I didn't know what to do. That was the first time I ever got on my knees to pray. Afterward I got into bed and slept through the entire night. And wouldn't you know it? I woke up in the morning with the answer: Buy a coffeepot! Right away, my resentment was gone. I had just gotten my first lesson on Tradition Seven.

Warren J, Comstock Park, MI

*Copyright © The AA Grapevine July 2023
Reprinted with Permission*

TRADITIONS CHECKLIST The checklist first appeared in Grapevine more than 25 years ago and remains a great way to learn more about the principles of our Twelve Traditions. Great for AA meetings and sponsees. To download one, visit:
www.aagrapevine.org/gvr-resources



Drop the RockThe Ripple Effect Workshop

*presented by the
Jacksonville Drop the Rock Group*

Saturday, July 29th—\$5 @ the Door

Disabled American Veterans Hall

9636 S3 58th Ave, Belleview, FL 34420

Noon-1pm—Hot Dogs & Hamburgers (and fixings)

1-4pm Workshop (Books for sale @ Workshop)

Bring your favorite dessert, 50/50 and Miscellaneous Raffles

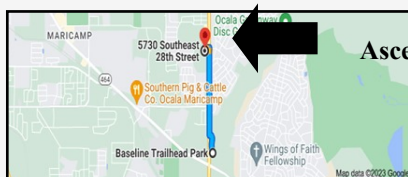
Gratitude Dinner will be held on

November 4th 2023 @ 7pm

Mary Sue Rich Community Center

821 NW 21st Avenue, Ocala, FL

INTERESTED Volunteers to serve on a Committee encouraged to attend an Organizational Meeting on Wednesday, July 12th '23 @ 7pm at Ascension Lutheran Church, 5730 SE 28th Street, Ocala, FL 34480



Ascension Lutheran

Statue of Matt Talbot in
Dublin, Ireland with our
own Joe S.



Matt Talbot Men's 12-Step Retreat at the

Franciscan Retreat Center

3010 N. Derry Ave, Tampa, FL 33603

September 15-17, 2023

(cost \$285 for the weekend)

Contact Rick R 352-817-0397 OR

Joe S 240-216-4198

Registration form online:

matttalbot129.com

What is a Matt Talbot Retreat

A Matt Talbot retreat is an opportunity to be away from the distractions of daily living for a couple of days, usually a weekend, in order to devote time to spiritual recovery from alcoholism. A retreat brings together a group of recovering alcoholics in a setting that promotes fellowship and sharing throughout the weekend. Most retreats focus on one broad topic for the weekend. A Retreat Master(s), who is usually both a recovering alcoholic and a member of the clergy, gives conferences about the topic several times during the weekend. Just as an alcohol counselor who also is recovering has valuable insights into the mental part of alcoholism and its treatment, so a member of the clergy who is recovering brings valuable insights into the spiritual part of alcoholism.



Birthdays JULY

Belleview Eye Opener	ODAT
Pat R—47	Cynthia B—1
Belleview Group	Joan C—4
Rita Z—15	Jim B—9
Jimmy Z—46	Danny V—26
Breakfast Club	Pac C—35
Tim—6	Paul L—40
Dee C—7	Stephanie D—43
Ron H—7	Del B—48
Diane B—13	On Awakening
Headstart	Brittany S—2
Rebecca D—1	We Give Up
Clyde J—9	Nancy J—32
Living Sober	
Richard L—7	

Contributions June

Belleview Speaker	\$ 118.00
Breakfast Club	\$ 629.49
Belleview Group	\$ 50.00
Emotional Balance	\$ 70.50
Grateful Gals	\$ 50.00
Happy, Joyous & Free	\$ 252.34
Headstart	\$ 291.41
It's Not Them	\$ 26.00
Living Sober	\$ 200.00
Mano Abierta	\$ 30.00
No Name Group	\$ 30.00
Ocala Men's Group	\$ 360.00
On Awakening	\$ 200.00

Congrats!!!



REMINDER - To have Group Member's Birthdays acknowledged in The Voice information needs to be forwarded to Intergroup/Central Office aaocalaintergroup@gmail.com for respective month, i.e. end of May for June Birthdays.

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 73 Treasurer  
P.O. Box 6301  
Jacksonville, FL 32205-9998  
*(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*