



The Voice

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Ocala, FL 34471
352 867-0660
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Monthly Newsletter of Marion County Intergroup Office

NOVEMBER 2023

One member's voice

Growing with God

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.”*

After completion of the first ten steps I was certainly feeling God's presence in my life to much relief. Step Eleven helps keep me close to my Higher Power on a daily basis. I need to stay as close as possible to God in spirit, so I can do His will and not mine.

I do this by practicing Step Eleven each and every day, like I do many of the other steps. In order for God to do for me what I cannot do for myself, I must grow closer and improve my conscious contact through prayer and meditation. Here are a few tips on how I im-prove my conscious contact with God.

First, at the end of each day I review my daily behavior. Is there a need to make any apologies? Was I selfish today, or was I thinking of others? I have to ask myself if I was kind and loving or not? Where could I improve my interactions with others?

After a look, I ask God to forgive me where I was wrong, and I ask Him to guide me to His will for the future. This pattern seems to help change some of my foolish behavior habits of the past.

Next, each morning I sit quietly in my dimly lit living room and slowly, gradually wake up with God on my mind. I thank Him for creating me; I praise His name for relieving me from the pits of alcoholism.

My prayer consists of asking my Higher Power to direct my thinking for the day. I ask that His will be done and not mine. And by asking for His will, it helps keep me away from all of my self-pity, fears, and ill planned motives.

As long as I follow His will, things go great. It's when I go to my closet, get out my "Superman cape," and take my wrong intuitions into my hands that the trouble begins.

I ask God to help keep me on track for the day. I meditate on upcoming
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Important Dates

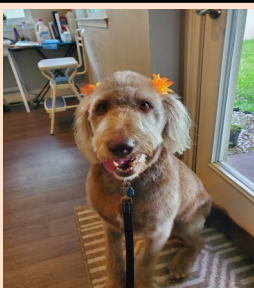
- **November 12th**
Intergroup/Central Office
Representative meet
Call 352-867-0660
for location
- **November 30th**
District 17 monthly
meeting, 7:00pm
Unity Place,
525 NE Sanchez

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

FAITHFUL FIVERS
Contribute \$5/month
or \$60/year

Contributors:
Joe S, Phil H, Ralph W

*Your membership directly
supports 12-Step work in
District 17 Central Office
Operation*



Sheba



Bandit

**Intergroup's 4-legged Visitors
are always welcome**



Growing with God *continued from page 1*

plans or activities and search God's desire for me. I pray for God to open my ears to hear as He guides me through the day.

Next, I pray for others. Sometimes this list can be rather lengthy. But God wants me to care for others, so I ask His protection and healing hand on them as well.


Finally, my morning time includes reading some of God's Word in His instruction manual, accompanied by a little black daily devotion book which I find very helpful. I practice this every day.

And I believe over the years it has helped me grow closer to Him on a daily basis.

The God of my understanding means everything to me. God and sobriety are on the top of my priority list. Without Him and His guidance, I would not be alive today. Practicing AA's steps in my life has allowed me to grow closer to God. And no doubt, you can do the same.

*Randy M., Ocala, FL
November 2009*

**Calling all
AA Authors
of Marion County**



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

AA Historical Events in November

- 11/28/39**—Hank P. writes Bill advocating autonomy for all A.A. groups
- 11/12/40**—First A.A. meeting held in Boston, MA
- 11/14/40**—Alcoholics Foundation publishes first AA Bulletin
- 11/28/43**—Bill guest speaker San Quentin Penitentiary
(sometimes dated 12/2/43)
- 11/1/47** - First A.A. Group in Anchorage, Alaska
- 11/15/49**—Bill W. suggest that groups devote Thanksgiving week to discussions of the 12 Traditions

Any A.A. History buffs here in Marion County? Please share for the December Voice

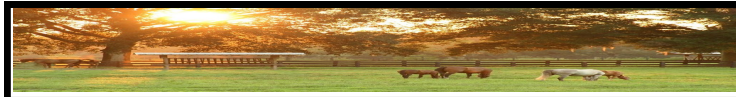
**Raise Your Voice.
Tell Your Story.**

Each month The Voice **would like to feature a local member** to share their experience, strength, and hope about the step of the month. We invite you to submit yours for consideration and possible publication. Choose a step that's particularly meaningful to you and put "pen to paper." Keep it between 500 and 700 words.

Call Central Office for more info and to claim your step
352-867-0660

Winners for October Intergroup Raffles
 ~ **Quilt—Diane R** ~ **Basket w/books—Rita**
**** There will be a Basket w/books & other goodies for raffle beginning week of November 13th at Central Office/Intergroup 616 S Pine Ave, Ocala, FL**

All proceeds help support the Central Office Intergroup



Spiritual submission for the good of the whole

A member shares his thoughts about opinions, judgments, outside issues and our primary purpose
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 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 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 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.

Intergroup/Central Office hours for November 2023

Week 11/13/23

Tues, Wed, Thurs — 9:30am-4:00pm

Week 11/20/23

Mon, Tues, Wed—9:30am-4:00pm

Closed Thanksgiving Day
and usual Friday closed

Week 11/27/23

Tues, Wed, Thurs—9:30-4:00pm

As always need literature or medallions outside
Office hours, call 352-867-0660 and arrangement will
be made.



Bellevue Eye Opener

Annual Anniversary Luncheon

Monday, November 13, 2023

Doors Open 11:00am

Food @ 11:30am

Speaker: Nicole D @ 12:00 Noon

FULL THANKSGIVING FEAST—Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Stuffing, Green Beans, Cranberry Sauce, Yams and so much More!!

NEW LOCATION FOR THIS EVENT

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

5750 SE 115th Street

Bellevue, FL 34420

**Bellevue Speaker Meeting
5th Anniversary**

Saturday, 12/2/23

**4pm—Pizza, Desserts
and Beverages**

5pm—2 Speakers

**Location: DAV (Disabled American
Veterans)**

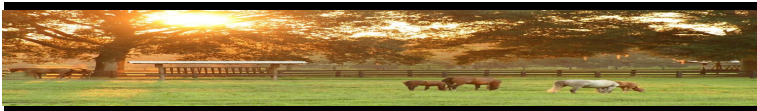
9636 SE 58th Ave, Ocala, FL

GRAPEVINE Daily Quote

November 2, 2023

“Happiness is not a station we arrive at; it’s a way of traveling.”

May 1953, “Short Takes”.
AA Grapevine



Birthdays

November

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Belleview Group | Living Sober |
| Colby H—2 | Cliff H—11 |
| Breakfast Club | Wilson R—28 |
| Don T—32 | Wayne C—44 |
| Elliot S—33 | Bud—51 |
| Bruce C—38 | Step Right Up |
| Monroe C—45 | Nora—42 |
| Head Start | Casey—44 |
| Mike P—2 | John—44 |
| Joe C—33 | We Give Up |
| | Dick C—31 |

Contributions

October

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Arbor Group | \$ 316.00 |
| Anonymity Group | \$ 108.00 |
| Back to Basics | \$ 46.00 |
| Belleview Speaker | \$ 45.00 |
| Breakfast Club | \$ 334.36 |
| Happy, Joyous & Free | \$ 33.75 |
| Headstart | \$ 34.07 |
| Living Grace | \$ 110.00 |
| Rule 62 | \$ 65.40 |
| Sisters in Sobriety | \$ 105.00 |

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 November for December 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

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10% to Area 14  
NFAC 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)*

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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*