

# The Voice

Volume 28, Number 1

January 2011



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Best wishes from Intergroup 17  
for a sober, healthy, and  
prosperous new year.

### A quote for January

*“AA is no success story  
in the ordinary  
sense of the word.  
It is a story of  
suffering transmuted,  
under grace,  
into spiritual progress.*

Bill W, 1959 Letter, excerpted in *As Bill Sees*

### One member's voice

## Miracles continue to happen

### A story of experience, strength, and hope

Step One: “We admitted we were powerless over alcohol, that our lives had become unmanageable.”

The story of my alcoholism is a long history of cheating myself and the others in my path. Although they say I had to go through what I did to get to where I am today, getting honest—the principle behind Step One—wasn't easy.

I thought since all of my friends were heavy drinkers, I was just a heavy drinker like them. After a thirty-year love affair with alcohol (and several married men along the way), I finally realized I'm not just another heavy drinker. I am an alcoholic. That wasn't an admission I wanted to make, and it took quite some time to achieve.

Part of Step One was admitting that my life had become unmanageable. I am a teacher by profession and have been for nearly 30 years. After working for some time

in what I felt was a prestigious position, I decided to return to the classroom because I wanted to “belong.” I was also getting my masters degree at the same time, and the situation quickly turned into insanity.

Drinking was my solution. All I wanted to do was drink enough to pass out, wake up, drink enough to pass out, wake up, drink enough to pass out.

After the first year back in the classroom, I was too drunk during post-planning to close out my student records and clean my room. By the following November I entered rehab for about three weeks. By May I was in an extended rehab facility.

For the next school year, my employer voluntarily moved me to another school. During that year I reported to school drunk on two occasions. I had already received a DUI. That was strike one. The first and second drunk appearances were strikes two

*Continued, page 4*

## Tradition One: Becoming part of the common welfare

*“Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity.”*

The foreword of *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* states, “AA's Twelve Traditions apply to the life of the Fellowship itself. They outline the means by which A.A. maintains its unity and relates itself to the world about it, the way it lives and grows.”

Each one of us remembers the first group we attended. Did someone greet you at the door? Did someone make you feel at home? Did the Chairman bring up a topic to discuss about recovery rather than just opening with, “Well it's your meeting.”? These are the things that got my

attention early on and would draw me back to certain meetings.

My first sponsor told me that the AA Traditions were the railings of the 12 Steps and that we need both the steps and the railings to climb to sobriety. I came to believe that I needed to place the welfare of my fellows ahead of my own uncontrolled desires, or there would be no fellowship to support me. I also needed a recovering alcoholic on the other end of that phone line to talk to me when I needed a drink. I needed that recovering alcoholic to ask me,

“Can you wait until 5 pm that this evening before deciding to take that next drink? Can you do that?” And I responded, “I think so.”

This is the way the Fellowship saved my life. Without our tradition of putting our common welfare first, most AA's would not think about their fellow suffering alcoholic. They would simply get sober and move on.

Most of us can probably recall the exact moment we realized we were thinking about others rather than ourselves. This is the mo

*Continued, page 2*

## Congratulations January Birthdays!

This issue we celebrate anniversaries that add up to a collective **310 years**. That's more than **113,150 days of sobriety**. One day at a time!

Barbara T	35 years	Ryan S	3 years
Bill L	31 years	Charlie O	2 years
Joureene P	30 years	Cindy C	2 years
Bill H	27 years	Jennifer W	2 years
Darrell H	24 years	Josh G	2 years
Wes H	21 years	Patti B	2 years
Charlie T	19 years	Ray D	2 years
Kathy B	16 years	Alex W	1 year
Katie W	14 years	Billy K	1 year
Larry B	14 years	Bruce H	1 year
Darlene T	13 years	DeEtta G	1 year
Bob L	12 years	Jim S	1 year
Dianne M	11 years	Sue P	1 year
Karen H	10 years	Twila G	1 year
Richie M	7 years		

### December 2010

Phil H	23 years
Josh	1 year
Deb	1 year

Please share your AA birthday with all.  
Deadline for January birthdays is January 20.

Email: [thevoice@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:thevoice@aaocalamarion.org)  
Phone: 352-867-0660

### Plug into Intergroup 17 online

Explore our new website features: [www.aaocalamarion.org](http://www.aaocalamarion.org)  
Subscribe to The Voice by email: [thevoice@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:thevoice@aaocalamarion.org)



### Join the Birthday Club!



Celebrate an AA anniversary—yours or another member's—with a contribution to help Intergroup 17 carry the message to other alcoholics in Ocala and Marion County.

To join, send name, sobriety date, years of sobriety, and a donation—suggested is \$1, \$5, or \$10 for each year of sobriety to:

Intergroup 17  
3666-A N.E. 25th Street  
Ocala, Florida 34470

### Tradition One, continued from page 1

ment we became part of the common welfare.

When AA reached the age of 35, the theme of Tradition One was restated at the 1970 International Convention:

This we owe to AA's future:  
To place our common welfare first;  
To keep our Fellowship united.  
For on AA unity depend our lives,  
And the lives of those to come.

The New Year is a fine time for each of us to restate our own personal commitment to becoming part of the common welfare and to work to make this the best year of your sobriety yet.

*Prepared by Kathy and John P. The views, expressions, and opinions presented here are those of the authors and not necessarily those of AA or Intergroup 17.*

### From the archives of Alcoholics Anonymous

## Chipping away at sobriety

Several years ago I was invited to speak on the history of AA at a Founder's Day celebration in Gainesville. In doing my research, I ran across a tape my husband had acquired that gave some of the truly inspirational history of the contributions that Dr. Bob and Sister Ignatia made to Alcoholics Anonymous. I ended up speaking that night on the women who have had a significant influence the AA movement.

Sister Ignatia was a nun out of The Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine and worked at St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, Ohio, where Dr. Bob practiced. Between them, Sister Ignatia and Dr. Bob are credited with treating 4000 to 5000 alcoholics during Dr. Bob's sobriety. Sister Ignatia started treating alcoholics in 1934 and many times circumvented the systems in place at that time for treating alcoholic patients by admitting them under the diagnosis of acute gastritis and making St. Thomas the first hospital to treat alcoholism as a medical condition.

One tradition that Sister Ignatia started lives on today: the handing out of chips as a token of our commitment to

sobriety. The following anecdote about the history of the chips is reprinted from [www.recoveryzone.com](http://www.recoveryzone.com)

"Sister Ignatia was the first person to use medallions in Alcoholics Anonymous. She gave the drunks who were leaving St. Thomas after a five-day dry-out a Sacred Heart Medallion and instructed them that the acceptance of the medallion signified a commitment to God, to AA, and to recovery and that if they were going to drink, they had a responsibility to return the medallion to her before drinking. The custom is carried out to this day with tokens awarded for sobriety. The sacred heart medallions had been used prior to AA by the Father Matthew Temperance Movement of the 1840s and the Pioneers, an Irish Temperance Movement of the 1890s."

*Contributed by Kathy P. District 17 Archives house the written and oral history of AA in Ocala-Marion County. If you have a story, memory, documents, photos, or other memorabilia that relate to our local history, please relay it through the Intergroup office to District 17 Archives Committee Service Chair. 352-867-0660. Email: [ocalaintergroup@msn.com](mailto:ocalaintergroup@msn.com)*

# January by the Books

## STEP ONE

*We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable*

The principle that we will find no enduring strength until we first admit complete defeat is the main taproot from which our whole Society has sprung and flowered.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 22*

Why all this insistence that every AA must hit bottom first? The answer is that few people will sincerely try to practice the AA program unless they have hit bottom. For practicing AA's remaining eleven steps means the adoption of attitudes and actions that almost no alcoholic who is still drinking can dream of taking. Who wishes to be rigorously honest and tolerant? Who wants to confess his faults to another and make restitution for harm done? Who cares anything about a Higher Power, let alone meditation and prayer? Who wants to sacrifice time and energy in trying to carry the AA's message to the next sufferer? No, the average alcoholic, self-centered in the extreme, doesn't care for this prospect—unless he has to do these things in order to stay alive himself.

Under the lash of alcoholism, we are driven to AA and there we discover the fatal nature of our situation. Then, and only then, do we become open-minded to conviction and as willing to listen as the dying can be. We stand ready to do anything that will lift the merciless obsession from us.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 24*

### Want to live by the books? Then buy the books!

Find a complete selection of AA conference approved literature available now at Intergroup 17 office. 3666-A, NE 25th Street, Ocala, FL 34470. Phone: 352.867.0660. Cash or check sales only.



Excerpts from *The Big Book*, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and other AA publications are reprinted with permission of AA World Services, Inc.

## TRADITION ONE

*"Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity."*

*"Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. AA must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward."*

Our whole AA program is securely founded on the principle of humility—that is to say, perspective. Which implies, among other things, that we relate ourselves rightly to God and to our fellows; that we each see ourselves as we really are—"a small part of a great whole." Seeing our fellows thus, we shall enjoy group harmony. That is why AA Tradition can confidently state, "Our common welfare comes first."

"Does this mean," some will ask, "that in AA the individual doesn't count too much? Is he to be swallowed up, dominated by the group?"

No, it doesn't seem to work out that way. Perhaps there is no society on earth more solicitous of personal welfare, more careful to grant the individual the greatest possible liberty of belief and action. Alcoholics Anonymous has no "musts." Few AA groups impose penalties on anyone for non-conformity.

We do suggest, but we don't discipline. Instead, compliance or non-compliance with any principle of AA is a matter for the conscience of the individual; he is the judge of his own conduct.

So it is we learn that in matters deeply affecting the group as a whole, "our common welfare comes first." Rebellion ceases and cooperation begins because it must; we have disciplined ourselves.

Eventually, of course, we cooperate because we really wish to; we see that without substantial unity there can be no AA, and that without AA there can be little lasting recovery for anyone. We gladly set aside personal ambitions whenever these might harm AA. We humbly confess that we are but "a small part of a great whole."

Bill W.,

The AA Grapevine, December, 1947

## CONCEPT ONE

*Final responsibility and ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.*

The AA groups today hold ultimate responsibility and final authority for our world services—those special elements of overall service activity that make it possible for our Society to function as a whole. The groups assumed that responsibility at the St. Louis International Convention of 1955.

Therefore we believe that we see in our Fellowship a spiritualized society characterized by enough enlightenment, enough responsibility and enough even of man and of God to insure that our democracy of world service will work under all conditions.

We are confident that we can rely upon Tradition Two, our group conscience, and its trusted servants. Hence it is with a sense of great security that we old-timers have now fully vested in AA's General Service Conference the authority for giving shape—through the labors of its chosen Delegates, Trustees, and service workers—to the destiny that we trust God in His wisdom is holding in store for all of us.

*AA Service Manual, page 9*

### Concept One Checklist

- Does our group have a general service representative (GSR)? Do we feel that our home group is part of AA as a whole, and do our group's decisions and actions reflect that?
- Do we hold regular group conscience meetings encouraging everyone to participate? Do we pass that conscience on to the district, area, or the local intergroup meetings?
- Is the "collective conscience" of Alcoholics Anonymous at work in my home group? In my area?
- Where do we fit in the upside-down triangle of AA?
- Are we willing to do what it takes to ensure that our democracy of world service will work under all conditions?

*AA Service Manual, page 8*

# District 17 Corner

## District 17 Monthly Meeting Highlights November 18, 2010

**DCM:** Nancy D presided.

**Elections:** Rick D was elected the new District Service Chair (DCM) to replace outgoing DCM Nancy D. Melissa was elected Alternate DCM. More highlights of the November meeting will be published in February. District 17 did not meet in December.

### Next Meeting. All Welcome.

Thursday, January 27, 2011, 6:00 pm  
St. Mark's UMC  
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

### Send group donations to

District 17  
P.O. Box 3081,  
Ocala, FL 34478

### District 17 Officers & Service Chairs

DCM: Rick  
Alternate DCM: Melissa  
Secretary: Alison C  
Treasurer: Ashley C  
Accessibilities: Ricky B  
Archives: Vacant  
Bridging the Gap: Billy C  
CPC/PI: Vacant  
Corrections: Sherry R  
Grapevine: Lydia N  
Intergroup: John P  
Literature: Max R  
Treatment: William J  
Bridging the Gap: Bill C

### Group GSRs

164 Group: John B  
Anthony: Lisa E  
Came to Believe: John D  
Conscious Contact: Jim B  
Forest Group: Petra H  
Free to Be: Brian L  
Happy, Joyous & Free: Rick D  
Head Start: Patti B  
Keep It Simple: Tina T  
Last Call: Chris P  
Living Sober: Diane I  
Men's Group: Bob L  
No Name Group: Lisa E

## Area 14 North Florida Area Assembly January 15-16, 2011 Renaissance Resort St. Augustine

### New Assembly Location. Plan now to attend.

#### Friday Jan 14, 2011

6:00pm - 8:00pm Registration  
8:00pm - 9:00pm Discussion Meeting

#### Saturday Jan 15, 2011

8:00am - 6:00pm Registration  
9:00 am - 4:15 pm Workshops  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Dinner  
8:30pm - 10:30pm Speaker

#### Sunday Jan 16, 2011

8:00 am - 9:00 am Registration  
9:00am - 12:00pm Business Meeting

### Full Agenda Online

[www.aanorthflorida.org/assembly\\_agenda](http://www.aanorthflorida.org/assembly_agenda)

### Hotel Location and Reservations

The Renaissance Resort,  
500 South Legacy Trail,  
St. Augustine, Florida 320921  
Tel: 904-940-8000  
Link to online booking at:  
[www.aanorthflorida.org/assembly\\_agenda](http://www.aanorthflorida.org/assembly_agenda)

## Miracles continue to happen

*Continued from page 1*

and three. I resigned in lieu of being fired.

Surely I had hit my bottom. I had lost the job I loved and was good at. The bills went unpaid. I had to sell everything I owned to pay the mortgage on the condominium that was my pride and joy.

Obviously my life was unmanageable, but unfortunately I still hadn't admitted that I was an alcoholic, was powerless over alcohol. This was not in my personal make-up.

My family and friends wanted me to stop this insane behavior, but not me. Didn't they know who I was? I was in control after all I wasn't called *sergeant* for nothing. I had a strong personality and was a leader in the work place and out. I could do it all.

Still, I entered a month rehab and did a complete week on Step One. Upon

departure from the rehab facility, I drank and received my second DUI. At this point my father convinced me to enter the Centers, which I did.

I stayed there for 60 days, longer than any other facility. Upon departure I drank during the weekend, but something miraculous happened, and by the grace of God, I returned home, sold my condo, (it was very close to foreclosure), and moved to Ocala.

With the help of an outpatient program and the Grace of God, I finally, finally admitted that I was powerless over alcohol and my life was unmanageable. My ability to make responsible decisions once I pick up a drink is nil.

During my last five years of drinking when I crossed the line from controlled drinking to a complete drunk, I was in and out of jails, hospitals, and institutions. I now have a healthy fear toward all these. I never have to be in those situations again, never.

Being a teacher, folks think you should know everything. (I find that comical.) Being a quick learner is sometimes a desired quality, but I'm not all

that. I must remember daily that I am powerless over alcohol. To remember this I attend AA meetings regularly, work the steps, and talk with my sponsor and other alcoholics on a daily basis.

Ocala has become my spiritual center. The compulsion to drink has been lifted. I have a God of my understanding who holds my hand throughout the day and I am grateful. Completing an honest fourth and fifth step with my sponsor has changed my life. The Promises are coming true for me. Through daily prayer and meditation, I walk in the sunlight of the Spirit.

They say don't leave until the miracle happens. I won't. Miracles continue to happen daily. Two miracles I hold especially close to my heart: My 21-year-old son is very much in my life and quite proud of his mom. And, I am teaching again.

Jackie C  
Ocala, Florida, January 2011

*The thoughts, expressions, and opinions expressed by the author are not necessarily the thoughts, expressions, and opinions of AA as a whole or Intergroup 17 Inc.*



## Group Contributions to Intergroup 17 November 2010

This table presents contributions for fiscal year June 2010-May 2011.  
Report below is from June 1, 2010 through November 30, 2010 only.  
If there is an error, please contact Intergroup 17.

GROUP NAME	\$ Nov '10 Contributions	6/1/10-11/30/10	GROUP NAME	\$ Nov '10 Contributions	6/1/10-11/30/10
164 Pages Group	\$ 40.20	\$146.41	Living Sober Group		67.00
Acceptance		50.00	Lunch Bunch Group		159.05
Alive and Well	40.00	40.00	Marion Oaks		
All You Need Group	45.00	75.00	McIntosh Group		
As Bill Sees It	156.30	325.30	Men's Group Ocala		81.00
Bellevue Eye Opener			New Attitudes Group	63.58	63.58
Bellevue God's Way	1.17	15.63	New Beginnings Group		
Bellevue Group		150.00	New Life Group		
Bonfire Group			No Name Group	42.75	85.50
Breakfast Club	600.02	1,387.72	Ocala Group	238.56	996.93
Cabin in the Woods	25.00	50.00	One Page at a Time		
Came To Believe		25.25	Primary Purpose Group		58.00
Citra Group	2.51	2.51	Resentment Too Group		
Come As You Are			Second Step Group		
Conscious Contact		50.00	Shores of Sobriety		
Day by Day			Sisters of Serenity		
Eleventh Step			Sober Yankees	65.00	165.00
Experience, Strength & Hope			Start A New Life		75.00
First Impressions			Steps and Promises		
Forest Group	21.21	61.79	Stop Whining & Sober Up		
Forest Men's Group	30.00	30.00	Strength In Numbers		.68
Fountain of Gratitude		91.00	Summerfield Group		
Free To Be	20.00	71.08	Summerfield New Green		
Ft. McCoy Group			Sm'field Living in Today		
Grace Group		10.44	Sundae Social Group		1.00
Grateful Gals			TLC Group, The Centers		.35
Green Group			Thursday Night Step Gp.		
Grupo Mano Abierta		25.00	We Give Thanks		
Grupo Nueva Vida			We Give Up		47.03
Happy Hour Group		90.00	Weir Crazy		143.00
Happy, Joyous & Free		1,729.63	Williston Winners		
Headstart Group		153.25	Won Rebos Group		
Healing Group		30.00	Young People's Group		44.83
In the Woods		25.00	Zion-Blichton Group		35.64
It's In The Book	0.69	60.69	Archives		
Keep It Simple		136.30	District 17		243.85
Last Call Group	.20	1.62	Birthday Club (personal)	13.00	29.00
Last House on the Block			Double Nickel (personal)		
Life is Good Sober Group			Faithful 5-ers (personal)	5.00	40.00
Life Saver Group		300.00	Individuals (other)	2.73	245.14
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,412.23</b>	<b>\$7,714.51</b>

## How Groups and Individuals Support the Work of AA

Group contributions funding the work of Intergroup 17 and other areas of AA. Many groups follow the 50-30-10-10 plan of support after they meet their own financial needs:

- 50 percent to Intergroup 17
- 30 percent to AA General Service Office
- 10 percent to North Florida Area Assembly
- 10 percent to District 17

### Group contributions

Intergroup 17  
3666A NE 25th Street  
Ocala, FL 34470

The General Service Office  
P.O. Box 459  
6035 E. Tudor St.  
New York, NY 10164

NFACAA  
P.O. Box 567  
Melbourne, FL 32902

District 17  
P.O. Box 3081  
Ocala, FL 34478

### Intergroup 17 Financial Statements

Monthly financial statements for Intergroup 17 are available for review at the Intergroup 17 office during regular office hours. Please telephone in advance to make an appointment. 352-867-0660.

### Intergroup 17 Call Center November 2010

Meeting info requests	90
Twelfth Step Calls	4
Office transactions	22
Visitors	46
Al-Anon*	5
Miscellaneous	41

\*Calls requesting information relating to Al-Anon Family Groups are promptly and respectfully referred to the appropriate local resources.

# Upcoming Events and Meetings of Interest

## Looking for a local meeting?

Choose from more than  
160 meetings a week.

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

Print copies available through home groups or at Intergroup 17 office.

Here's just a sampling.  
Find scores more online.

### Beginners Meetings

Tuesdays

Living Sober Group

**Your support requested!**

Living Sober text meeting

7:30 pm every Tuesday

Congregational Church

7171 SW State Rd 200, Ocala

### Meditation

Wednesdays

Conscious Contact

7:00pm every Wednesday

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

3452 NE Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala

### Spanish Speaking

Wednesdays

Grupo Nueva Vida

7:00pm every Wednesday

150-A SW 23rd Ave. (1/2 block South of Ft. King), Ocala

Fridays and Saturdays

Grupo Mano Abierta

7:00pm every Friday

2082 Walnut Street, Dunnellon

### Eat 'n Speak

Keep It Simple Group

Last Thursday of the month

Eat: 7:00pm Speaker: 8:00pm

Small fee for meal

Ascension Lutheran Church

5730 SE 28th Street, Ocala

### Ocala Group

Last Saturday of the month

Eat: 7:00pm Speaker: 8:00pm

Small fee for meal. All welcome.

St. Mark's United Methodist

1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

### District 17 Monthly Meeting

All GSRs. Everyone welcome.

6:00 pm last Thursday of the month

St. Mark's United Methodist

1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

### Intergroup 17 Monthly

Intergroup reps. All welcome.

5:15 pm second Sunday of month

St. Mark's United Methodist

1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

## New & Newer Meetings

### Lifesaver Group

Saturdays, 12 noon

Open Discussion

Fridays, 7 pm

Recover Road

7365 SW 38th Street, Ste #206

Ocala, FL

### Loose Horse Group

Friendship Baptist Church

15115 Gainesville Road

Reddick, FL

### West Side Recovery Group

Wednesdays & Thursdays, 5:30 pm

Open Discussion

215 NW Martin Luther King Jr. Ave

Ocala, FL

### 164 Pages Group

Women's Meeting

Mondays 6 pm WC/HC

Ocklawaha United Methodist

Church, 13333 East Hwy 25

### A Vision For You

Mondays, 7 pm

Open Discussion

Florida Highlands Baptist Church

10891 SW 155th St, Dunnellon, FL

### Live, Laugh, & Love

Women's meeting

Sundays, 1 pm

Lost & Found Club

339 NE Sanchez Avenue, Ocala

## Meeting News

### New Meeting Location

#### Summerfield Group

Monday & Thursday, 7:30 pm, effective

January 3. New location : Mulberry

Grove Recreational Center, 8445 SE

165th Mulberry Lane, The Villages, FL

#### Lifesaver Group

Monday-Friday, noon, effective Decem-

ber 1. New location : 7365 SW 38th St,

Suite 206, Ocala, FL

### Discontinued

**It's In the Book Group**, Sundays, 8

pm, St. Matthews Church. Meetings

discontinued.

**Experience, Strength, and Hope**

**Group**, Fridays, 8 pm, Church of

Christ. Meetings discontinued.

**Keep It Simple**, Monday 8 pm meet-

ings discontinued. Will continue to

meet on Thursdays at 8 pm.

**Steps & Promises** Tuesday 7:30 pm

meeting discontinued.

### How to publicize new and changed meetings

To help ensure the accuracy of information about meeting dates, times, and locations, please submit all new and changed information in writing or by email ([ocalaintergroup@msn.com](mailto:ocalaintergroup@msn.com)) and authorized by the Home Group chairperson, secretary, or Intergroup representative. Thanks.

### DISCLAIMER

*The Voice* newsletter is published by Intergroup 17 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. *The Voice* editorial committee reserves the right to accept, edit, or decline information submitted by members or others for publication.

## Special Events, Celebrations, Notices

### Join us in celebrating our Eight-Year Anniversary Grupo Mano Abierta

Saturday, January 22, 2011  
Meeting 7:00 pm  
Dinner 8:30 pm

**All welcome.**  
Please bring desserts to share.

12390 NW Hwy 328  
Ocala, Florida

### Ocala Group Eat 'n Speak Saturday, January 29

Dinner 7 pm

Speaker 8 pm

\$2 if you bring a dish

\$4 without a dish

St. Mark's United Methodist Church  
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

### Living Sober Group Speaker Meeting

Sunday, January 9

7:30 pm

Congregational Church

7171 SW State Rd 200

Ocala, Florida

**All Welcome**

### An Invitation from The Stop Whining & Sober Up Step Group

**AA/AI-Anon Retreat**

### Day of Reflection on the Steps in Our Lives with Fr. Patrick O'D

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

9:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Queen of Peace Parish Hall

\$7 for pizza lunch, coffee & soda's

For more information, contact

Joe S through Intergroup 17

### Just in case you haven't had enough cold weather.

**All Alaska Roundup  
January 21-23. Anchorage, Alaska.**

Write: Ch., 5828 Katahdin Dr., Anchorage, AK 99502;

[www.aalaskaroundup.org](http://www.aalaskaroundup.org)

### The Next Write Thing

#### AA World Services Seeks Personal Stories for New Literature Projects.

#### Call for Stories Focused on Spirituality

AA World Services is seeking stories that reflect a wide range of spiritual experiences from A.A. members who, with any belief or non-belief, have found a solution to the concept of spirituality and sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous.

#### Seventh Tradition Stories Sought

Personal stories that humanize the impact of Seventh Tradition monies are being sought for the purpose of communicating with the Fellowship about self-support. These stories would be for possible inclusion in new or existing literature.

#### "A.A. and the Armed Services" Call for Stories

To update the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services," the Trustee's Literature Committee is seeking to include stories that reflect recent experiences from AA members on active duty and a section which focuses on veterans of the armed services

#### Guidelines for submission

Manuscripts should be 500-800 words, double spaced. Please attach your name and address on a separate piece of paper. The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether or not their story is selected for publication.

Please send your manuscript by February 15, 2011, to:

Literature Coordinator

General Service Office

Box 459, Grand Central Station

New York, NY 10163

Or e-mail to: [literature@aa.org](mailto:literature@aa.org).

#### Need Help?

If you'd like help preparing your submission, please contact Max R, District 17 Literature Service Chair by email at [thevoice@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:thevoice@aaocalamarion.org) or through Intergroup 17 at 352-867-0660.

### Accessibilities needs you to carry the message. Literally!

The Accessibilities Committee of District 17 is charged with carrying the message to alcoholics with special needs.

While there are no "special" alcoholics, there are members of our fellowship who find accessing meetings or our literature difficult because of impairments such as blindness, deafness, or inability to walk. Others are hospitalized or residents of long-term care or assisted living facilities.

The Accessibilities Committee is looking for volunteers to help take meetings and provide literature to such members. A little service can go a long way.

To learn more about how you can help, contact Ricky B through Intergroup 17, 352-867-0660. Or attend the next District 17 meeting:

**Thursday, January 27, 6 pm  
St. Mark's United Methodist Church  
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala**

### Mark Your Calendar

See details elsewhere in this issue or call or log-on for more information.

**1/9, 2011**, Intergroup 17 Monthly Meeting, see back cover for details.

**1/15-16, 2011** North Florida Area Assembly, St Augustine, FL, [www.aanorthflorida.org](http://www.aanorthflorida.org)

**1/19, 2011** AA/AI-Anon Retreat, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm, Queen of Peace Parish Hall. See details this page.

**1/21-23/2011** Big Book Workshop Weekend, multiple speakers. \$25 advance, \$30 on site. See [www.leestapesandcads.com](http://www.leestapesandcads.com) Call: 1.877.902.5975 Email: [leestapes@vaifamily.com](mailto:leestapes@vaifamily.com)

**1/22, 2011** Grupo Mano Abierto 8-Year Anniversary Celebration. Details this page.

**1/27 2011**, District 17 Monthly Meeting, see page 4 for details.

\*Activities are listed for information only. Not necessarily affiliated with AA World Services and/or Intergroup 17, Ocala/Marion, Florida unless specifically noted.



## Intergroup 17 Meetings Everyone invited!

Open to all. Learn more about AA, Intergroup, and the great opportunities for service work .

### Next Meeting

**Sunday, January 9, 5:15 pm**  
St. Mark's UMC  
1839 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

## Free Subscription. The Voice by e-mail.



To subscribe for free,  
send an e-mail  
with "Free Voice" in  
the subject line to:

[thevoice@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:thevoice@aaocalamarion.org)

The Voice by e-mail is in PDF format. Requires Adobe Reader software. Free download available at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com). Printed copies available at Intergroup office.

## Intergroup 17 Ocala-Marion County Florida

3666-A, NE 25th Street  
Ocala, FL 34470  
Phone: 352.867.0660.

Website: [aaocalamarion.org](http://aaocalamarion.org)

### Office Hours

Monday-Friday 10 am to 5 pm  
Saturday 10 am to 2 pm

**24-hour Hotline**  
**365 days a year**  
**352-867-0660**

## Service. The Third Legacy.

### Accessibilities Committee carries the message to AAs with special needs.

Learn more about how you can take meetings and AA literature to alcoholics with special needs—deaf, blind, homebound, hospitalized and more. A little service goes a long way. Attend the next District 17 meeting. (Page 4)

### County Jail Women's Meetings Need Your Support

Help take meetings to women in Marion County Jail Saturday mornings (immediate need) and Thursday evenings. Requires one year of sobriety, no felonies or probation for past year. Quick clearance with photo ID and SSN. Learn more about how you can help fill this critical service need. Contact Nancy I through Intergroup 17 at 352-867-0660.

### Intergroup 17 . Desperate need for office volunteers.

**Treasurer position open.** Intergroup needs immediate help in staffing the office during business hours. Please volunteer. Also seeking candidates for the position of Intergroup Treasurer. Call for more information. 352 867-0660. Ask for Priscilla or leave name and number.

### Help take meetings to treatment centers.

District 17 Treatment Committee seeks volunteers to help take meetings to local treatment centers. Attend next District 17 meeting to learn more. See page 4 for meeting details.

### "Corresponding" sponsors needed! Women only.

Learn how you can serve as a "corresponding" sponsors to other women alcoholics currently serving time. Sponsorship can be done with complete anonymity. Contact Deb L or Sherry R through Intergroup 17 at 352-867-0660.

### Take the message to local correctional institutions.

Meet a critical need. Applications for men's and women's prison meetings available at Intergroup 17 office. Call 352-867-0660. Or attend the next District 17 meeting. See page 4.

*Publicize your group's service opportunities in The Voice. Call 352 867-0660 or email to [thevoice@aaocalamarion.org](mailto:thevoice@aaocalamarion.org)*

### Attitude of GrAAttitude

A tremendous thank you to the 16 groups and other individuals who contributed \$1 or more to Intergroup 17 in November, including:

- 164 Pages
- Alive and Well Group
- All You Need Group
- As Bill Sees It Group
- Belleview God's Way Group
- Breakfast Club
- Cabin in the Woods Group
- Citra Group
- Forest Group
- Forest Men's Group
- Free to Be Group
- Lifesaver Group
- New Attitudes Group
- No Name Group
- Ocala Group
- Sober Yankees Group

All who have helped support Intergroup 17 with financial contributions this year are gratefully acknowledged on page 5.

Intergroup 17 thanks all who volunteer to make our service possible: Alison C, Bill J, Bobby J, Mike G, Daniel R, Ricky B, Jack, Lew, Diane M, Connie C, Toni Marie C, Phil H, Peggy N, James N, Rafael Q, Bosch R, Ed G, John P, Max R, Sandy A, Rebecca S.

If we've left anyone out, we sincerely apologize. Let us know, we'll make amends. All are appreciated greatly.

*Priscilla P, Intergroup 17 Office Manager*