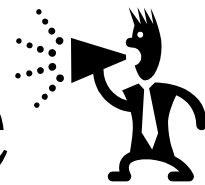




# The Voice



\$.25

October 2012 Volume 30, Issue 10

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

352-867-0660

Tradition 10 - "Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy."

## Our Means of Survival

"On the other side of the world, millions have died even recently in religious dissension. Other millions have died in political controversy. The end is not yet. Nearly everybody in the world has turned reformer. Each group, society, and nation is saying to the other, "You must do as we say, or else. Political controversy and reform by compulsion have reached an all-time high. And eternal, seemingly, are the flames of religious dissension." This was written by Bill W. in a Grapevine editorial about the Tenth Tradition in September of 1948. If you didn't know any better, you could imagine that it appeared in yesterday's newspaper. You cannot turn on the television today without hearing about how divided the country is over the upcoming Presidential election, or about unrest in the Middle East and North Africa over religious differences. The founders of A.A. knew they had to protect the fellowship from the enduring controversies that have toppled governments, societies, and other organizations. Take, for example, the Washingtonians, the society that preceded A.A. by almost a century which consisted of alcoholics helping each other and total abstinence from alcohol. Washingtonians at their peak numbered in the tens of thousands, but in the space of just a few years, this society all but disappeared. Why did an organization so similar to A.A. fizzle out while Alcoholics Anonymous has been going strong for over 75 years? The Washingtonians strayed from their primary

purpose of helping the individual alcoholic, becoming involved with controversial social reforms including prohibition, sectarian religion, politics, and the abolition of slavery. The lesson learned from the demise of the Washingtonians was that A.A. needed to avoid outside, controversial, non-AA issues, thus establishing a tradition of Singleness of Purpose (Tradition Five.) Does practicing the Tenth Tradition mean that I do not get involved in outside issues? No. I have strong beliefs about politics, religion, and other outside issues which I discuss at great length with my family and friends, including my A.A. friends. We alcoholics tend to be intelligent people and we can have wonderful, thoughtful discussions of many issues. However, I leave these discussions at the door when I enter A.A. meetings or events. Bill W. differentiates the responsibilities of the A.A. member and the A.A. group in this tradition by saying on page 177 of the "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" that the Tenth Tradition does not "mean that the members of Alcoholics Anonymous, now restored as citizens of the world, are going to back away from their individual responsibilities to act as they see the right upon issues of our time, but when it comes to AA as a whole that's quite a different matter. In this respect, we do not enter into public controversy because we know that our Society will perish if it does." A.A. is not involved in political, social, or other important issues in the world ... but I am. - Alison C.

## ***Congratulations!! October BirthdAAys!***

*Join the Birthday Club! Send \$1 (or more) for each year you celebrate to Intergroup 17*

Robert K. 1  
Doug K. 1  
Jeff W 1  
Mike B. 1  
Sherrie S. 1  
Maryann B. 1  
Michelle H. 2  
Venetia W. 2

Michael C. 3  
Randy R. 3  
Gary M. 3  
Kevin S. 4  
Al D. 5  
Pam Z. 5  
Cathy U. 5  
Greg M. 5

Don P. 6  
Tracy W. 6  
Dave B. 7  
Coral M. 7  
Alison C. 8  
Connie C. 10  
Dean P. 20  
Laura 20

Frank V. 26  
Bret C. 28  
Fishin' Jim 28



**September**  
Kelli 1  
Berry 1  
Brandon K 1  
Dennis W. 3  
Scott C. 4  
David M. 4  
Bob T. 9

Keith 11  
Barbara B. 13  
Bob K. 17  
John S. 24  
Frank V. 26  
Paula V. 33  
Fred S. 47

**Step 10 - Continued to take personal inventory, and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.**

**Spiritual Housekeeping**

It says in our step book that Step Six is the step that separates the men from the boys. In my 21 years at working the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous Step Ten is most often the most difficult step. It tells me *whenever* I am disturbed that something is wrong with *me*. Now this requires some serious thinking. My first thought is always I didn't do anything wrong. My second thought is revenge. I must pay them back, don't they know who they just messed with. This is just the way it is supposed to be. That is without any program to work with. Our program is designed to learn how to get rid of resentment, our #1 offender. So, in order to learn about something you must have some experience with the subject. I have got this very *justifiable resentment* and don't know what to do with it. After doing a Fourth and Eighth step with your sponsor they can recall all the people you have harmed before you entered the world of the spirit. Your sponsor should tell you to remember when you have done the same thing to someone in your drunkenness. If you follow directions of our text book, it will tell you exactly what to do when you have a

resentment. You must pray for that person, place, or thing for fourteen days. However, it teaches us to pray differently. You are to pray for the person, place, or thing to have all the things you desire without exception. You don't have to like it; you just have to do it. At the end of fourteen days, you should feel differently about the whole situation. This would be the last thing I would try and the first thing that works. It works if you work it. It really doesn't matter if you are right about whatever happened. You are the one with the resentment and have to get rid of it or else *it will kill you*. The only way to learn how to deal with the disturbance is to get disturbed. The good part about this whole step is after you learn how to practice it yourself you get to teach someone else how to do it. That is the fun part because you truly know it is going to aggravate the new student. The Tenth Step gives us no other way out, we must learn how to forgive or we go back to worse than it was before we got sober. Do you want to be happy, joyous, and free or right? Rule 62: Don't take yourself or anyone else so dang serious! Practice, means you won't get it right all the time. Our mistakes show others they can enter the wonderful world of A.A. - *Anonymous*

**Intergroup District 17 Fall Picnic**

**Saturday, October 27, 2012**

Fun, Food, and Fellowship

Carney Island Park, Lake Weir, Ocklawaha

**10 am to 4pm - Lunch served at Noon**

**Grilled chicken, sides, & beverages**

**Music by DJ Ron, 50/50 Raffle, Auction**

Donated auction items & cakes welcomed

Advance purchase only, includes parking

Adults: \$6.00 Children (under 12): \$4.00



**District 17 Gratitude Dinner 2012**

**Grateful for the Gift**

**Saturday, November 10**

**\$15.00 per person**

Doors open: 5:30 Dinner: 6:30

**Dinner Speaker Raffles**

**Cake Auction Gift Baskets**

**Our Lady of the Springs Catholic Church**

**4047 NE 21st Street, Ocala, FL 34470**

More information: 352.867.0660

***Living Sober Group 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner***

***Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, 5:30pm***

***First Congregational United Church of Christ,***

***7171 State Road 200, Ocala, 34476-7055***

***Covered dishes welcomed, 50/50, Music by DJ Ron***

***7:30pm, Speaker, Monte B.***

**YPG ANNUAL HALLOWEEN DANCE**

**OCT. 27<sup>th</sup>, SAT., 9PM – MIDNIGHT**

**ADULTS \$5.00 AT THE DOOR KIDS FREE**

**MUSIC, COSTUME CONTEST, FELLOWSHIP**

**PLEASE BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE**

**COFFEE AND SOFT DRINKS PROVIDED**

**TUSCAWILLA PARK AMERICAN LEGION HALL**

**516 NE SANCHEZ AVE., OCALA, 34470**

## Intergroup Insights

### **Paving the way**

Thank goodness for the phones and books and pamphlets

It's always fascinating to learn just how people came to Alcoholics Anonymous. In my case, I looked AA up in the phone book and called our local central office. Thank goodness, some service board or committee put it there! the person on the other end of the line took my number and had an AA member call me back for the one-on-one, language-of-the-heart introduction that began my incredible journey in sobriety. At my very first AA meeting, I was warmly greeted and taken to the literature rack at the front of the meeting room. My greeter selected some of the pamphlets for me to take home. I could relate not only to the AA members but to the AA literature as well. Thank goodness some service board or committee wrote,

published, and distributed these pamphlets!

Although I only planned to attend one meeting a week, I went to more because I had a car and some other newcomers didn't. One would call and ask if I planned on going to a meeting that night and I'd say yes in spite of myself. So, I picked up a meeting list, which helped us find meetings--where and when. Thank goodness some service board or committee gathered the information, printed and circulated this list!

Many of my AA friends--and yours too, I'm sure--found the Fellowship in a variety of ways, and not a few are due to some kind of service board or committee whose efforts facilitate or Twelfth Step work. Correctional, Treatment, and Hospitals and Institutions committees arrange for institutional meetings and bridge the gap between a facility and an individual AA or a group.

In some instances, a doctor or member of the clergy recommended AA to their patient or parishioner; Cooperation with the Professional Community committees most probably paved the way. Some AA members were exposed to a radio or TV program, not necessarily produced by AA but by someone who has benefited from the work of a Public Information committee. All these dedicated endeavors of service boards or committees make our Twelfth Step work possible.

The preliminary work done by AA service boards and committees directly responsible to those they serve (you and me) is invaluable to the future of the Fellowship. I might not be here today if they hadn't put Alcoholics Anonymous in the phone book!

Lois C.  
Pittsburgh, PA

*Reprinted with permission from the Grapevine Magazine, September 1998*

**Anyone who is interested in getting involved in service work call the Intergroup office, 867-0660 for information. There are a variety of opportunities available. The Fall Picnic, District 17 Gratitude Dinner, Hotline, Intergroup desk volunteer, Inventory assistant, and much more.**

### From the Desk of District 17 Women's Corrections Chair

I just got back from the A.A. meeting tonight, and as I sat on my bunk I opened the Twelve Step and Twelve Tradition book, and was re reading Tradition Nine. What I found most interesting was the statement "It is clear now that we ought never to name boards to govern us, but it is equally clear that we shall always need to authorize workers to serve us." It is the difference between the spirit of vested authority and the spirit of service, two concepts which are poles apart. Let me explain. I am an inmate at the Lowell Correctional Facility in Marion County. I have just been voted in at the business meeting the new GSR for the Inside Looking Out Group. In Tradition Nine it states that though the meetings on the outside ought never be organized, in prison a certain amount of authority is a must. It can be frustrating for the outside

speakers and chairpersons to go through all the red tape necessary for approval, but those rules are an absolute must. However the latter part of Tradition Nine where it states we are responsible to those we serve is an understatement. When it comes to the importance of carrying the AA message to those of us inside the prison walls, the very lives of those in attendance are often on the line and having a speaker they identify with could very well be the turning point between failure and success. The end of the Tradition states

"AA has to function, but at the same time it must avoid those dangers of great wealth, prestige, and entrenched power with necessarily temp other societies. Though Tradition Nine at first sight seems to deal with a purely practical matter, in its actual operation it discloses a

society without organization, animated only by the spirit of service...a true fellowship." I look forward to meeting you. It is with great pride and pleasure that I accepted the position of being the GSR of my home group.

In love and service,

Darlene Dixon  
Darlene is serving a life sentence and has been incarcerated for the past 15 years. She is a role model for the other inmates and is also a sponsor. I met her when she first came to prison when I took a meeting to a maximum security prison in Broward County. Would you consider filling out clearance papers for Women's Corrections? To see how AA is alive and working in the lives of the women who will never walk freely from the walls, but who walk freely behind them.

Thanks, Lori M.

**ARE YOU A GIVER OR A TAKER?**

Do you just go to meetings drink the coffee and eat the cookies or do you help set up, make coffee, greet new comers or participate in your home group service positions? Giving back is a key to our program. When I came to A.A. someone was at the door greeting everyone, someone was making coffee and someone else chairing the meeting. Then my sponsor said (WE) had the Monday night coffee commitment. I did that for about three months. Then I heard about group conscious meetings. My sponsor said I should go check it out. I learned if I want to keep it I had to give it away. So I signed up to chair meetings then I became the group GSR. Today I am your current District 17 DCM. My two year term is about to end and I don't

see anyone stepping up to fill the position of DCM or Alternate DCM. District 17 also has other positions available for service. It makes me wonder what is happening to A.A. in Marion County. Are we thinking about the future members that haven't come through the doors yet or are we just thinking about ourselves? There are over 70 groups in Marion County and only about thirteen GSR's showing up at the monthly District meeting. AA needs you. So show you need AA and give back. The AA Service Manual shows what each position requires. If your group doesn't have a service manual call the Intergroup office to get one. Giving back in the way of service has been a major part of my sobriety.

Rick D.  
DCM District 17

Contributions	August	YTD
All You Need		10.00
Belleview Group		300.00
Blichton Road	8.00	28.00
Breakfast Club	136.59	429.58
Cabin in the Woods		100.00
Came to Believe		44.71
Forest Group	14.17	64.17
Forest Men's		50.00
Fountain of Gratitude	4.76	4.76
Free To Be	80.00	80.00
Grace Group	10.83	10.83
Grateful Gals		73.50
Happy, Joyous & Free	278.11	880.84
Headstart	44.72	109.75
Heavy Hitters	5.28	5.28
Keep It Simple	54.50	54.50
Living Sober	53.33	53.33
New Attitudes	37.66	37.66
Ocala Group	182.04	434.30
One Day at a Time		200.00
Primary Purpose		64.00
Shores Of Sobriety	50.00	50.00
Strength in Numbers	104.83	105.66
Weir Crazy	250.00	250.00
Faithful Fivers		10.00
Individual Members	14.95	69.05
Total	1,529.87	4,185.92

THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING 😊

**7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Addresses**

**Intergroup District 17, Inc.**  
3666A NE 25th Street  
Ocala, FL 34470  
Checks payable to:  
Intergroup District 17, Inc.

**District 17**  
P.O. Box 3081  
Ocala, FL 34478  
Checks payable to: District 17

**North Florida Area Conference**  
5205 N. Sonora Terrace  
Beverly Hills FL 34465  
Checks payable to: NFAC

**The General Service Office**  
P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10164  
Checks payable to: GSO



**Intergroup Office Calls**

**August 2012**  
Visitors - 21  
Al-Anon - 7  
Misc. - 95  
Meeting info - 104  
Office Transactions - 62  
Twelve Step Calls – 6

**Subscribe to The Voice**

Annual price: Print \$10.00  
Online \$8.00, or Both \$15.00  
Send payment to: Intergroup 17  
3666A NE 25<sup>th</sup> St, Ocala, FL 34470.  
Include your name, and contact information. Hard copies can be purchased at the office for \$.25

**Upcoming meetings**

- ❖ **Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, Mon., 7:15pm, Gratitude Dinner Committee**  
Our Lady of the Springs, 4047 NE 21st St., Ocala, 34470
- ❖ **Oct. 12-14, Fri.-Sun., North Florida Area Assembly,**  
Renaissance Resort at World Golf Village, 500 South Legacy Trail, St. Augustine, 32902
- ❖ **Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>, Sun., 4:30pm, Intergroup Rep,** Intergroup office, 3666A NE 25<sup>th</sup> St., Ocala 34470 **Steering Committee**
- ❖ **Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, Mon., 7:15pm, Dinner Committee ,** Our Lady of the Springs, 4047 NE 21st St. Ocala 34470
- ❖ **Oct. 23rd, Tues., 7pm, Fall Picnic Committee,** Intergroup office, 3666A NE 25<sup>th</sup> St. Ocala 34470
- ❖ **Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, Thurs., 6:45pm District 17 GSR,** St. Mark's UMC 1839 NE 8<sup>th</sup> Rd. Ocala 34470
- ❖ **Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, Mon., 7:15pm, Dinner Committee,** Our Lady of the Springs, 4047 NE 21st St. Ocala, 34470
- ❖ **Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, Mon., 7:15pm, Dinner Committee,** Our Lady of the Springs, 4047 NE 21st St. Ocala 34470



