



Suffolk Intergroup Association Of Alcoholics Anonymous Bulletin

March, 2007

Volume 33 Number 11

Meetings & Events In April

04/10

Cornell Cooperative Extension –
Riverhead:

* **Share-a-thon** 7:00 P.M.

* **SIA Orientation - New Reps**
7:00 P.M .

* **SIA Meeting** 8:00 PM

04/20

* **GSO Orientation**

7:30 PM – Trinity Lutheran
Church, Rocky Point

* **Suffolk GSO Meeting**

8:00 PM – Trinity Lutheran
Church, Rocky Point

04/18

* **Public Information Mtg.**

7:30 PM – SIA Office

04/25

* **SIA Treatment Facilities**

Meeting – 7:30 PM – SIA Office



From the Editor:

Last month I wrote a little bit about why the concepts were needed, how they are all about helping us reach outside of ourselves and the fact that they are all about love & service.. In this issue I will attempt to introduce you to Concept I.

Concept I

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

In AA the group conscience is the real boss. Our mission is to try to align our will to a higher power in personal recovery, in our home groups and in world services. Everyone is welcome in A.A. We hope all will come to an open meeting. Membership is for those who want it - we are not a closed society. Everyone is equal. The sum of the group conscience, equality & inclusiveness is the way in which we insure there are checks & balances & everyone has an opportunity to participate in A.A. and practice the 3 Legacies: the base of Recovery, the spiral of Unity & the spiral of Service beyond the group - all within the circle of AA love.

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113 – 8 Bay Avenue / PO Box 659 / Patchogue, NY 11772
(631) 654 – 1150 Fax (631) 654 – 1110
website: www.suffolkny-aa.org

HELP NEEDED !!

12th Step Work Available!

Our Primary Purpose is to stay sober & help other alcoholics achieve sobriety.

Treatment Facilities:

The Treatment Facilities chairperson still has the following facilities that desperately need people to chair meetings, if only for a month at a time :

Charlie Murphy's, Northport – Wednesday & Thursday, 1:00 p.m.

LI Head Injury Association, Commack – Thursday, 12:30 p.m.

St. Charles Hospital, Pt. Jefferson - Women's meetings:

Saturday, 10.00 a.m. – Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Monday, 1:30 p.m. – Thursday, 1:30 p.m.

The Outpatient Act. Team, Yaphank – 1st & 3rd Wednesday 10:30 a.m.

Young people in A.A.: the L.I. Crisis Center wants to start a meeting in Stony Brook & needs a chairperson!

Corrections:

The Corrections Chairperson needs speakers for most evenings as well as Chairwomen for the women's DWI facility in Yaphank:

Thursday & Friday, 7 p.m.

Schools:

Looking for young people with a minimum of 2 years sobriety to speak at schools.

If ANYONE plans on speaking at a school, PLEASE call the SIA office at (631) 654 – 1150 for information as well as pamphlets & wallet Hotline cards to bring to the schools.

Public Information:

Public Information comes down to “one drunk carrying the message to another drunk”, whether through personal contact or through the use of third parties & the media. Bill Wilson

Public Information work will not make you rich or famous but it could “save someone's life & it will help keep you sober. Service outside the group is very rewarding & can take as little as 1 hour a month.

**TO VOLUNTEER FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE OPENINGS, PLEASE
CALL THE SIA OFFICE AT : (631) 654 – 1150 OR
VISIT THE WEBSITE AT : www.suffolkny-aa.org**

Contributions to The AA Grapevine

In its sixty-year history, the Grapevine has recorded the growth of AA and introduced many of the principles of the program and tools of sobriety, including the Traditions, the Preamble, the Slogans, and the Serenity Prayer.

The Twelve Traditions

In response to some of the pressing problems of the day facing AA groups, Bill W. wrote the "Twelve Suggested Points for AA Tradition," laying out the framework of what would become the Traditions. This historic piece was published in the April 1946 issue of the Grapevine.

The Preamble

As interest in the new Fellowship grew, the Grapevine editors wrote a brief definition, making the nature of the AA Fellowship clear to both members and nonmembers. The AA Preamble, in two concise paragraphs setting forth what AA is and what it is not, made its first appearance in the June 1947 issue.

The Slogans, the Serenity Prayer, and the Man on the Bed

Many of the sights and sounds familiar to us in AA meetings today were first introduced in the Grapevine.

After seeing the Serenity Prayer in a newspaper in 1942, Bill W. and the early AAs had the Serenity Prayer printed on cards and included in all AA correspondence. By publishing it in early issues, the Grapevine helped usher it into general use within the Fellowship. The prayer has been a regular part of the magazine's format since July 1967.

The slogans, which had been circulating in early AA meetings, first appeared in their now familiar hand-lettered form in late 1956 and early 1957 issues of the Grapevine. Each was reproduced on the inside back cover and accompanied by an article about it.

The painting, "*The Man on the Bed*," was created for the December 1955 issue of the Grapevine. It is treasured by many AAs as a reminder of Bill W. and Dr. Bob's Twelfth-Step visit to AA number three and as a symbol of Twelfth Step activity. The Grapevine recently issued a new color reproduction of the painting.

Responsibility Declaration

The Responsibility Declaration was written for the 1965 International Convention in Toronto by Al S., a former Grapevine editor and trustee. Bill W expanded on the theme in an essay called "Responsibility Is Our Theme" for the July 1965 Grapevine. It became a regular feature of the Grapevine shortly thereafter.

Big Book Stories

More than a dozen stories in the second, third, and fourth editions of the Big Book were first published in the Grapevine, as were the stories in *AA in Prison: Inmate to Inmate* and many quotations in *As Bill Sees It*. Over the years, the Grapevine also has provided articles

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From the Editor

“Alcoholics Anonymous has been called an upside-down organization because the ”ultimate responsibility and final authority for...world services” resides with the groups-rather than with the trustees of the General Service Board or the General Service Office in New York.

In Concept I, Bill traces how this came to be. The first step in 1938 was “the creation of a trusteeship,” first called the Alcoholic Foundation, renamed in 1954 the General Service Board. Why? To perform the services the groups could not do for themselves: e.g., uniform literature, uniform public information about A.A., helping new groups get started, sharing with them the experience of established groups, handling pleas for help, publishing a national magazine, and carrying the message in other languages and in other countries. A service office was formed to carry on these functions under the board’s direction. Both the board and the office looked to the co-founders, Bill and Dr. Bob, for policy leadership.”

The question arose as to what would happen when Bill & Dr, Bob were gone. “The answer, Bill felt, was to be found in the collective conscience of the A.A. groups. But how could the autonomous, widely scattered groups exercise such a responsibility?

Over great resistance by trustees and members devoted to the status quo, Bill managed to “sell” the idea of calling an A.A. General Service Conference...”

“This concept is rooted in Tradition Two, which states:

‘For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern.’

The principles of Tradition Two are crystal-clear, Bill asserts: “The A,A, groups are to be the final authority; their leaders are to be entrusted with delegated responsibilities only.” The outside world cannot imagine an organization run this way, but Bill calls it “a spiritualized society characterized by enough enlightenment, enough responsibility, and enough love of man and of God to insure that our democracy of world service will work....”

We will gladly accept, review & consider, from any member, submissions on the Twelve Concepts. Please contact me at the SIA office or email me at: www.bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org.

Yours in service,
Terry L.

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The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated

Contributions to the AA Grapevine continued –

for several AA pamphlets including “Problems Other Than Alcohol” and the Traditions Checklist.

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Please Post!

***Suffolk Intergroup Association of Alcoholics
Anonymous invites you to attend:***

The AI - Anon Choices Workshop

8 A.A. workshops - 23 AI - Anon workshops

Date: Saturday, March 31st

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Place: St. Joseph's College, Patchogue, NY

AA Workshop Topics

- 1 – I Never Thought It Would Happen to Me
- 2 – Walking Over The Bodies – Once Sober Stay Sober
- 3 – It's Not Your Fault – Blame the Disease of Alcoholism
- 4 – You Can't Get Me Sober – But God Can
- 5 - I Thought My Drinking Only Hurt Myself – I Didn't Know
- 6 – Can Sobriety Cause Separation or Divorce? Not Always
- 7 – Came to Believe – The Sobriety Miracle
- 8 – I Was at the Diner – Why Are You Out Late at Night Just as
Much as When You Were Drinking?

Advance tickets include a hot lunch. Tickets at the door do not include lunch.

All tickets are \$10.00, following the Seventh Tradition of being self supporting.

To purchase tickets: 1) see your SIA rep **or**
2) call Richard W, Special Events Chairperson
at the SIA office (631) 654 - 1150