



# Suffolk Intergroup Association Of Alcoholics Anonymous Bulletin

September, 2007

Volume 34 Number 5

## Meetings & Events In October

10/4

**Archives Committee**  
6:00 P.M. SIA Office

10/09

**Cornell Cooperative**  
**Extension- 423 Griffing Ave,**  
**Riverhead**

- \* **Share-a-thon** 7:00 P.M.
- \* **SIA Orientation - New Reps**  
7:00 P.M.
- \* **SIA Meeting** 8:00 P.M.

10/17

\***Public Information Mtg.**  
7:30 PM – SIA Office

10/19

**Trinity Lutheran Church,**  
**Rocky Point**

- \* **GSO Orientation** 7:30 P.M.
- \* **Suffolk GSO Mtg.** 8:00P.M.

10/24

\* **SIA Treatment Facilities**  
**Mtg.**  
7:30 P.M. – SIA office

## Group Information Form

All groups in Suffolk County should be aware that they are required to fill out a

### Meeting List – Group Information Form

found on the insert to this Bulletin. **This is required whether your meetings have changed or not!** The purpose is to keep the meeting list up to date and eliminate those meetings which have ceased to exist. We have all heard of someone, whether it was a newcomer or old timer, who needed a meeting, went to one on the meeting list and found a locked door & no meeting.

**These Forms are due to the SIA Office no later than October 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 or your Group will not appear on the November list!**

## **Rule 37**

Alcoholism is the only prison where the keys are inside.

You don't have to analyze anything. If you did, there would be a chapter in the Big Book called "Into Analyzing".

I cut my problems in half by minding my own business.

113 – 8 Bay Avenue / PO Box 659 / Patchogue, NY 11772  
(631) 654 – 1150 Fax (631) 654 – 1110

website: [www.suffolkny-aa.org](http://www.suffolkny-aa.org)

## Share-A-Thon Update

Has your group selected a Share-A-Thon rep yet? It's an important job and a great way of having direct input into the process. The Share-A-Thon is moving along nicely but we do need your help. This year's theme is **The Spirit of Responsibility**, scheduled for **Sunday October 28, 2007**, and again this will be held at St. Joseph College in Patchogue. If you haven't attended a Share-A-Thon, you have missed being part of a great gathering of AAs. Last year we had about 800 attendees.

The Share-A-Thon is free and is open to anyone---not just members of Alcoholics Anonymous. There will be lunch tickets sold ---as of press time a price had not been determined by the vendor. To dispel any rumors to the contrary, Suffolk Intergroup has nothing to do with the luncheon, neither presentation nor profit.

**The Committee will be meeting the following days starting at 7:00p.m.:**

Tuesday, October 9 Cornell Cooperative Extension, Riverhead

Tuesday, October 23 SIA Office, Patchogue

### From the Archives-

In one of the Archives Committee trips to AA in Manhattan, we came across this letter we would like to share with you. The letter was undated but received by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services on January 31, 1964.

**Dear Sirs:**

***Another group is available to the Alcoholics Anonymous program. This new group is known as the Centereach Group. Our neighboring group to the north is Port Jefferson which meets on Monday and Friday nights and to the south of us is the Ronkonkoma Group that meets on Tuesdays and Saturdays.***

***The Centereach Group will hold meetings on Wednesday and Sunday nights at 9:00pm. This Wednesday, February 5 will be for the election of officers. The names and numbers of these officers will be forwarded to your office in order that this group can become a member of the Alcoholics Anonymous family. Meanwhile, we will appreciate all guidance you can offer. Thank you.***

***Centereach Group of Alcoholics Anonymous is located at Grace Presbyterian Church, Blydenburgh Road off Horseblook Road, a quarter mile south of the bowling alley on Middle Country Road, Centereach Long Island, NY.***

Interesting to note that the founders of the Centereach Group were diligent enough to have their new group meet on nights that wouldn't conflict with the already established meetings in their area.

We are always looking for background information on any groups. Sadly the founders of Centereach did not include their names in this letter...maybe someone out there can fill in that gap. Also why this meeting moved to St. Cuthberts? There are a few other Centereach meetings we would love to get some background info on....Altered Attitudes (1996-1998?) Friday Night Live (1997-1998?)

Gift of Sobriety (1992-1993?), Unity School (1995-2002?), Sunday Afternoon Group (1995-1996). Several of these met at a recovery gift shop on Middle Country Road.

Maybe that will jar a memory **OR TWO.**

## John the Hat

I befriended this guy, John the Hat at my then Home Group, Cleary Group, Nesconset, NY sometime around 1997. He had just come out of our local DWI facility. He did not want to drink anymore and seemed “ready.” I was 14 years sober at the time, driving a 1966 Station Wagon. This guy, John the Hat, had experience restoring the older cars, and offered to begin on mine. He continued to show up at Cleary Group on a regular basis, so I figured what the heck, and dropped the car off at his girlfriend’s, Debbie, (“the Queen’s”) house. We continued to make meetings and stay sober together and most of our discussions were about recovery in AA or the restoration of the ’66 Station Wagon. After a few weeks, he invited me to come to his house and see the work he had done so far.

I entered the dining room of “the Queen’s” house to find most of the top half of the engine all over the dining room floor; cleaned, painted, and laid out on newspaper! I said to myself, this guy has issues!

Two years passed and we were both still sober. Progress on the Station Wagon was limited as to availability of funds, but the engine was all painted and it looked great! John began on the body work.

John was on probation for his 4th DWI, and I met his Probation Officer many times. John did what he had to do and was finally discharged from probation. He got himself quite a good reputation with the Probation Dept. Somehow his name came up when a NY TV station was doing a Special Report on DWI’s and recovery.

John called me and told me what he was intending to do. I told him he was out of his mind, and reminded him of AA’s Traditions. John was always there to help out another wanting help and saw this as a giant step for helping others. I was not his sponsor and asked him if he had spoken to his sponsor about it to which he said “yes “. I told him you would be there to make sure no Traditions were broken!” His Sponsor knew me well and figured it would be okay if I was there. After all, I had 16 years sobriety! John was stubborn and his mind was made up to do this interview on the TV. He agreed and was called by the producer of the NY TV station for a taping date.

A couple of days later, the TV crew arrived with 1 reporter, 1 cameraperson, 1 audio person, and 1 driver with the TV truck. John immediately informed the TV crew of AA’s Traditions on Anonymity and any other Traditions he could think of, the best he could. “By the way,” he stated, “this is my friend Lou, who has 16 years in AA, and he will make sure no traditions are broken during the taping!” John needed to attend more Tradition meetings! John had a great heart, but was just two years sober at the time.

Everything John said was for a reason; the audio guy approached me on the side, and revealed he was sober 4 years! I asked him where his Home Group was, and he shared with me about his son having a tough time getting sober and he had been spending more time dealing with him and his problems than his own recovery. I told him a sober father is the best thing for his son and to get his a\*\* back into AA!

The taping lasted almost 3 hours. A lot of questions were asked about how he got and maintained his 2 years of sobriety; how was it being a drunk and today being sober, the DWI’s, etc. John did well and was careful not to mention AA. He was on a high and was wondering how the TV station was

Continued on page 4

## John the Hat continued from page 3 –

going to squeeze three hours of **taping** into a [] hour news special.

Later that day, we were informed his interview would be on the 6pm news the next day. I set my VCR to tape it for him. The Special Report started and then John the Hat's interview came on; all 18 seconds of it! They showed a film of him sanding down an old piano stool, (we refinished furniture, too), and John stating how his life is 1000 times better now that he is sober and if he could stay sober, anyone could.

It was not what John expected and he did not appreciate the way he had been portrayed; as he called it, "rum dumb!" He then called the TV station, a little upset, and asked to speak to the President of the Station and asked them how they could edit all 3 hours of his wisdom and experience, etc, etc, into 18 seconds. The resentment eased after a couple hundred meetings after that, but he did not drink over it, and neither did I. That was the end of his TV days.

John the Hat always maintained that AA was the best thing that ever happened to him and he wanted to die sober. In December 2006, his wish came true. With 10 years of sobriety, he died from a heart attack at 56 of age. I was there along with another AA, just like he would have wanted. At his funeral, his family was surprised to find that John had so many friends. I was grateful to be one of them.

And the 1966 Station Wagon? After 5 years at the "Queen's" house, she had enough of it. I towed it to my house where it stayed for about 1 month until my wife insisted I scrap it. I did. That car kept us both sober for 5 years, along with attending AA on a regular basis.

Lucky Lou  
Hauppauge, NY



My sponsor says the good thing about procrastination is that you always have something planned for tomorrow.

# MEETING LIST-GROUP INFORMATION FORM

Please furnish ALL information requested. Incomplete forms can *not* be processed.

Reset Form

All personal information will be kept strictly confidential.  
All groups are required to submit this form every year prior to October 1st.

Print Form

## Group Information

Mailing Name			
Mailing Address			
City		Zip	
SIA Group Number		New groups leave blank, please use this number on all correspondence with the SIA office, if your group does not have a number then one will automatically be issued.	

## Contact Information

Contact Person		Phone	
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Form submitted by  Phone  Date \_\_\_\_\_

● Check **ALL** that apply

<input type="checkbox"/> NEW Group	<input type="checkbox"/> TIME Change	<input type="checkbox"/> DAY Change	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Instructions
<input type="checkbox"/> DELETE Group	<input type="checkbox"/> ADDRESS Change	<input type="checkbox"/> FORMAT Change	<input type="checkbox"/> Handicap Access

● OLD listing - AS LISTED on the current meeting list - New Groups leave blank.

Group Name			
Meeting Place Name			
Meeting Place Address			
Meeting Place City		Meeting Place Zip	
Special Instructions			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY

● NEW listing

Effective Date \_\_\_\_\_

Group Name			
Meeting Place Name			
Meeting Place Address			
Meeting Place City		Meeting Place Zip	
Special Instructions			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY

**Abbreviations-** O=Open; OD=Open Discussion; CD=Closed Discussion; C=Closed; S=Step; T=Tradition; BB=Big Book; B=Beginners; M=Men's Meeting; W=Women's Meeting; YP=Young People; ASL=Sign Lang Avail; Noon=Noon; Midnight=midnight; AM must be indicated; All meetings listed as Non-smoking; No Restricted meetings are listed.

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO: Suffolk Intergroup Association, PO Box 659, Patchogue, NY 11772

or

FAX COMPLETED FORM TO: 631-654-1110

## **HELP NEEDED !!**

### **12<sup>th</sup> Step Work Available!**

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

#### **Treatment Facilities:**

#### **Attention Group Secretary's Please Announce**

**Chair People we need you now!!....all meetings are one hour**

Catholic Charities, Commack – 11:00 a.m. Wednesday & Friday

Charlie Murphy's, Northport – Monday to Saturday 10:30 a.m.

Monday & Wednesday 1:00 p.m.

John J. Foley Nursing Home - next to Yaphank DWI facility

Thursday 2:00 p.m.

St. Charles Hospital, Pt. Jefferson – Sunday women's mtg. 7:00 or 8:00 p.m. flexible

Wednesday women's mtg. 1:30 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 Janet – Schools Committee Chair at the Sia Office (631) 654 – 1150 or contact her via the website – [schools@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:schools@suffolkny-aa.org).

#### **Public Information**

Public Information work will not make you rich or famous but it could save someone's life & it will keep you sober. Service outside the group is very rewarding & can take as little as 1 hour a month. Meets 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month at the SIA Office. Come & join us!

#### **Share-A-Thon**

Needs Group Reps to participate in the planning & implementation of our 2007 Share-A-Thon. Meets 7:00 p.m. the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month before the SIA mtg & the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the SIA Office.

**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](http://www.suffolkny-aa.org)**