



# Suffolk Intergroup Association

# Bulletin

May, 2008

Volume 34 Number 12

## Meetings & Events In June

**June 3<sup>rd</sup> 7:30 PM SIA office**  
 \*SIA Officers' & Chairpersons'  
Meeting

**June 10<sup>th</sup> Cleary School,**  
**Ronkonkoma**  
 7:00 PM SIA Orientation  
 8:00 PM SIA Meeting

**June 20<sup>th</sup> Trinity Lutheran Church,**  
**Rocky Point** May Bulletin  
 8:00 PM GSO Meeting

**June 18<sup>th</sup> SIA Office**  
 7:30 PM Public Information Mtg.

**June 25<sup>th</sup> SIA Office**  
 7:30 PM SIA Treatment Facilities  
Meeting

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**Happiness is an  
 inside job!!!!**

## A Happy and Sober Spring to you and yours.

Over the past few months I've been asking for the groups and reps to submit stories and announcements for me to publish in our Bulletin. I'm very happy to report that I've been getting some really great material from you. I promise that these will all make it into the Bulletin so please keep them coming and remember this is "Our Bulletin" and a valuable tool for all. I hope to hear from you soon. God bless!!

Chris

## Some of the things we cannot Change

### IN MEMORIAM

Alcoholics Anonymous lost one of our staunchest supporters with the passing of Ken R. on March 29th. Ken was a longtime member (over 24 years) of Centereach Open Door as well as the elder statesman of that group. He also was the founder of the New Beginnings Group in Lake Ronkonkoma that started about ten years ago. Ken was a quiet inspiration to all he came into contact with. He was a true "Power of Example" that we hear talked about in the rooms. He talked AA but most importantly he walked AA. He had this knack of performing random acts of kindness, which few knew about. He committed himself to many offices of service to AA including GSR, DCM, SIA as well as others. He was on the Suffolk County Traditions List and Group Inventory also. Finally he sponsored countless members of AA selflessly and treated to many Carvel Sundaes!! He saved my life and I loved him

The Port Jeff Big Book Group sadly announces the passing of one of our members. Bill S., who just celebrated his 29th Anniversary in February, passed on March 18th, 2008. He will be dearly missed.

## SIA Officers & Chairpeople 2008-2009

631-654-1150    www.suffolkny-aa.org

### Elected Officers

Office	Name	Official email address
Chairperson	Janet O	Chairman@suffolkny-aa.org
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Treasurer	Jim C	treasurer@suffolkny-aa.org
Corresponding Secretary	Lisa D	corsec@suffolkny-aa.org
Recording Secretary	Liz T	recsec@suffolkny-aa.org

### Committee Chairs

Office	Name	Official email address
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Bulletin	Chris W	bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org
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Share-a-thon	Al	share@suffolkny-aa.org
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Third Legacy	Brian C	thirdleg@suffolkny-aa.org
Treatment Facilities	<i>Is this your commitment?</i>	treatment@suffolkny-aa.org
Webmaster	Steve W	webmaster@suffolkny-aa.org
Webmaster-Alt	Nick P	altwebsup@suffolkny-aa.org

### Suffolk Intergroup Celebrates 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

A little more than 35 years ago, if you lived in Suffolk County and contacted the AA hotline, the call was answered by someone from New York City. More often than not this person had little idea of the geography of Suffolk County and might put you in contact with someone from Queens or many times your call wasn't returned at all. Imagine you finally get the courage up to call Alcoholics Anonymous for help and this is what you run into. Add to that the fact that you were making a long distance call and you might get some idea of how problematic things were back then.

Suffolk AAs had been trying for years to fix these problems. One solution was the groups on the East End started an answering service in 1966, totally supported by them, that helped work out some of the kinks but problems still existed. Meetings were held in an effort to fix things but it was becoming more and more apparent that the unfixable couldn't be fixed. Suffolk County needed to split off if the alcoholics living out here were to get the consistent help they so desperately needed. In May of 1973 after a vote of the groups that happened.

Independence had its price to pay. Manhattan AA was not so quick to let go, as is the case many times, and bad blood existed for a while. As is the custom with resentments, we either cling on to them and jeopardize our recoveries or we let go. A whole structure had to be put together and our Intergroup came through with flying colors. We have all benefited from the calculated risk our pioneers took-- a great lesson to learn. To grow we all must take healthy chances.

## Tradition V

“Each group has but one primary purpose . . . to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

Purpose. Why are we here? The statement of purpose is important to every organization but for A.A., understanding our purpose is critical to our survival. Tradition V is our statement of purpose. It spells out very clearly that each group has a purpose and that purpose is to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Tradition V has a searing quality to it. It cuts through confusion with its simple directive. It leaves very little room for interpretation. Tradition V is the “what” and “to whom” of our message and leaves other Traditions to define the “how.”

So what is this message we are to carry? The 12 steps of recovery are the message. Hope is the message.. That there is a solution to the “seemingly hopeless state of body and mind” is the message. It’s the first 164 pages of our Big Book. It’s the promises. To whom do we carry it? We carry the message to the alcoholics who still suffer, whether or not they have made it into our rooms and regardless of the length of their sobriety.

There is one more important thing to consider. Tradition V tells us each group is responsible for carrying its message and this task requires action. Carrying the message requires service. There is no room for negotiation. It is why we are here. It is our purpose.

Defining purpose in my life has been a central part of my sobriety. I have used this tradition to learn how to be present where I am rather than caught in the vicious cycle of thought. Mt sponsor asked that I ask myself repeatedly as I went through my day what my primary purpose was in each situation. This instruction was a revelation. At that time my ability to focus on the task at hand was limited. Reminding myself throughout the day about my primary purpose helped unify my mind and body. My definitions of my primary purpose were simple, straightforward and narrow in scope. For instance, while at work confining my activities to those found in my job description.

Over time my ability to be present in my life has increased and as a result the way I work with this tradition has evolved. I now define my primary purpose in broad terms rather than the narrow ones I used in the beginning. My primary purpose is to be an active and contributing member of society. This larger definition requires that I use my attention and awareness to dynamically engage each moment of my life, moment by moment.

While I find freedom in that broad definition, there is also great responsibility that accompanies it. Tradition V is the directive to be the living embodiment of the Big Book. This tradition calls me to be an example that recovery is possible. Too, by the life I lead, carry the message of recovery. It is not always easy but it is rewarding. Just as my sponsor carried the message of recovery to me by example, so too am I able to carry the message. People watch us even when we aren’t aware they are watching.

The irony of Tradition V is it uses the broadest definition in order to set us upon the narrowest path. This is also the way I work with the tradition in my life.

I am responsible ---

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. to always be there. And for that . . I am responsible.

Yours in love & service,  
Terry L.

## Concept V

“Throughout our world services structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.”

## Opportunities for some 12th step work

### From the Archives

Just a reminder to one and all that we are trying to gather the history of Alcoholics Anonymous in Suffolk County. We have come a long, long way but have so much more to do. How can you help? You can show up for the monthly Archives Committee meeting which meets the first Thursday of every month at the SIA office in Patchogue. You can elect an Archives person from your group and work with him or her to act as group historian. If you have any kind of interest in research or know how to take digital photos, we have the ideal job for you. Service is the way to show our gratitude and this rates up there as one job with the most fun factor of all.

If you have ever attended any "young people's" meetings in the 1970s and 1980s give a call. There were a batch of them from Babylon to Medford and we need their background stories.

### Office volunteer needed at the SIA office

**Office Manager:** Experience in general office functions helpful. Would need to be available weekdays during business hours. This is a perfect opportunity for retiree, returnee looking to do service.

**Office Volunteer:** Answer phones Saturdays 9AM-1PM at the SIA office in Patchogue.

If you're interested in either of these opportunities to give back what was freely given please call the SIA office for details or attend the next SIA Officers' & Chairpersons' Meeting April 1, 2008 7:30 PM at the SIA office.

### WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

#### The Friends of Bill and Bob Committee's 9<sup>TH</sup> Annual Dinner Dance

The Friends of Bill and Bob Committee is looking for volunteers to help us organize our 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Dance and our annual Dinner Cruise on the Great South Bay. We need volunteers to keep the Committee going. Monthly meetings will begin in March with day & location of meetings to be determined. Please call: Nancy B. 631-654-1150

Friday, May 16th – SPONSORSHIP

Friday, June 11th - STEPS 1,2, &3

#### Meeting Changes and announcements.

**GSO & SIA** will be sponsoring the **BIG Meeting** this June – **Dinner & a MOVIE (Bill Wilson – His Own Story.)** Date & time to be announced.

**Committee members & Food donations** are needed. Call the SIA office & 631-654-1150 / Terry, & leave a name & phone # for the Special Events Chair if interested & willing.

**The S.I.A. Special Events Committee** will be hosting a series of workshops on the Steps and other topics. The first 2 of these will be held at the SIA office in Patchogue from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**The Kings Park Group** is happy to announce its 60th anniversary this year. We meet every Tuesday (Big Book at 6:45pm/ Step at 8:00pm) and Fridays Closed Discussion and Beginners at 6:45pm /Open at 8:00pm). Why not stop by and say hello

**The 50th Anniversary ICYPAA** is scheduled for Thursday, July 3rd - Sunday, July 6th of 2008 at the Cox Convention Center located at 1 Myriad Gardens, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73102 we will keep everyone updated as more news about the conference develops. We are excited to be hosting the 50th ICYPAA and look forward to seeing all of you in Oklahoma City July 4th Weekend! For more information please visit us at [www.50thicypaa.org](http://www.50thicypaa.org).

**The Patchogue Group** St Joseph the Worker Church, 510 Narragansett Ave, East Patchogue Has changed the Saturday Afternoon meeting from 1PM to 2PM EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

**The Port Jeff Big Book Group** proudly announces the celebration of our 27th group anniversary. Where: J.T.Mather Memorial Hospital, Conference Rooms 3,4, and 5. Date: May 15th, 2008. 7:00 PM  
We will have good food and a guest speaker. All are welcome.