



Suffolk Intergroup Association

Our Bulletin

July, 2008

Volume 34 Number 12

Meetings & Events In August

August 5th 7:30 PM SIA office
 *SIA Officers' & Chairpersons'
Meeting

August 12th Cleary School,
Ronkonkoma
 7:00 PM SIA Orientation
 8:00 PM SIA Meeting

August 15th Trinity Lutheran
Church, Rocky Point

8:00 PM GSO Meeting

August 20th SIA Office
 7:30 PM Public Information Mtg.

August 27th SIA Office
 7:30 PM SIA Treatment Facilities
Meeting

"The Bulletin"

is published monthly by the Suffolk Intergroup Association of Alcoholics Anonymous. PO Box 659 Patchogue, NY 11772. "Alcoholics Anonymous" and "AA" are registered trademarks of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Quotes from AAWS literature and AA Grapevine are used with permission and gratitude.

If you're "thinking"...
Perhaps you should run
it past your sponsor

Have you seen the SIA Office lately????

Please stop by and take a look. We'd like to extend a special thank you to the Volunteers who worked so hard to upgrade and make the office a pleasant and beautiful place to visit.

The SIA Office Is Now Open
 Till 7PM On Tuesday Nights
 For People Who Can't Get In
 Before 3PM.

Big Meeting

An open meeting of AA
 Suffolk General Service &
 Suffolk Intergroup Association
 Invite you to "Dinner & A Movie"

Bill Wilson: His Own Story

August 9th

5:30PM - 10:00 PM

New Village Recreation Center

20 Wireless Road

Centereach, NY 11720

631-732-2338

A Happy Summer to all,

I hope you find the story below interesting and informative. We welcome all or your stories about Sobriety so keep em coming.

Chris W Bulletin Editor

My Best Thinking

Hi my name is Paul and I am an Alcoholic. I came into the rooms some time ago. When the dust cleared I took some of the suggestions I'd been hearing about. I got a *Sponsor*, I got a *Home Group*, and then I got a *Commitment* in that home group. I was able to put some time together. I was getting involved in my home group, meeting a great bunch of guys and was proud to have my commitment. I called my sponsor everyday and to my surprise my life was getting better. I told my sponsor things that I had pushed down for years. Things I had never planned on telling anyone EVER. I asked his advise on every part of my daily life. He gave me suggestions on it all, my wife, my kids, and my jobs, all of it. I shared everything with this man and he seemed to be able to assist me in all of my affairs. He became a true friend.

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SIA Officers & Chairpeople 2008-2009
631-654-1150 www.suffolk-aa.org

Elected Officers

Office	Name	Official email address
Chairperson	Janet O	Chairman@suffolkny-aa.org
Alt Chairperson	Cathy S	alt-chair@suffolkny-aa.org
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
Corrections	Krista K	correct@suffolkny-aa.org
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Schools	Teddy T	schools@suffolkny-aa.org
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Share-a-thon	Al	share@suffolkny-aa.org
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Telephone Hotline	Bob	phones@suffolkny-aa.org
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

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Now don't get the wrong idea, I didn't take all of his suggestions so when I would try running the show myself, he'd always ask: "How's that working for you? ".

I soon realized my best thinking was what got me in trouble every time. I soon was taken every suggestion he made and my life was getting better again. He became my friend, my spiritual adviser; basically he became my advisor for life. Then something happened that I did not plan, he moved away. Oh no, what now. I didn't know what to do. I was devastated. I felt lost and alone again. I I I. Well someone in my support group suggested I get a new sponsor. I thought what do they know. My sponsor only lives 4 hours away, I can still call him everyday. (My best thinking again). Well I'm sure you can guess what happen, you got it, I relapsed. I returned to hell and became a slave to my disease again. After a few months and only when the pain got bad enough I returned to the rooms and took that suggestion and got a new sponsor. Well again I've been able to start putting some time together again and my life is getting better one day at a time.

This was a learning experience for me. I learned sponsors sometimes move away, they even sometimes die. If this happen to you, my suggestion would be " Get a new Sponsor " . I call my new sponsor everyday and as far as the sponsor who moved away, well he is still my best friend and I look forward to talking to him every weekend. Today I can. Life is Good and I Thank God. Thank you for letting me share.

Paul from the Lindenhurst group

Tradition VII

Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

“Passing the basket” at meetings is our way of meeting our responsibility for the work of A.A. Our own contributions support the group, the General Service Office and all A.A. activities. As active alcoholics, we were always looking for a handout – in one way or another. Part of our personal recovery came in making ourselves into responsible members of society.

Donations vs. Contributions

Donate: Give a gift

Contribute: Help or assist

Years ago I remember my mother collecting all of our old unused household items for the Salvation Army. She told me she was donating these items because it was for a worthy cause. When I first came to A.A., that is what I thought I was doing – donating to a worthy cause. It took me quite a while to begin to understand the difference between a contribution and a donation. In A.A., if I was going to support its services, I needed to be a regular contributor to those services and there were a number of ways I could do that. I started by helping at my home group by supporting the services they provided to the alcoholic who was new to our group. I soon learned there was more to this A.A. service than my home group. The newcomer had found our meeting through the Intergroup Hotline, which in turn got it’s literature from G.S.O. A.A. services and carrying the A.A. message costs a little bit of money. I learned that these contributions become spiritual when funds contributed are used with the hope that another man or woman might find Alcoholics Anonymous.

I guess that’s why they say “money & spirituality do mix.” It becomes a contribution to help others and not a donation for a worthy cause. I found that my life and other lives depended on my willingness to be self-supporting, and to inform my Home Group of our continued responsibility. For the most part it is up to us to set a better example when the hat gets passed around.

The wonderful thing about our 7th Tradition is that we do not need a great deal of money; we’re not like other organizations. Sponsorship and gratitude also play a role in self-support. We do not charge for our 12th step work but we do have expenses. The more I can be part of self support the more confidence I have that our 12 step services will be carried out to the next alcoholic, no matter where they live. So, when we make a contribution to Alcoholics Anonymous we do so with immense spiritual value.

Yours in service,
Terry L.

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 us 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 Volunteer: Answer phones at the SIA office in Patchogue. If you're interested in this opportunity to give back what was freely given please call the SIA office for details or attend the next SIA Officers' & Chairpersons' Meeting August 5, 2008 7:30 PM at the SIA office.

Meeting Changes and announcements.

Call for Articles

The AA Grapevine is your meeting. Please feel free to share. If you would like to share a story with us, please keep in mind that we need to receive it at least three months prior to publication. The Grapevine welcomes articles on every aspect of recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous. We especially need stories for upcoming themes for 2008:

September - Hardest Amends I Ever Made

October - Getting Sober Over 60

December - Resolving/Overcoming Shame or the Stigma of Alcoholism

We are always glad to get stories about helping others and working with professionals. In addition, we always welcome articles about the Traditions and the Twelve Steps.

Suggested manuscript length is three to seven double-spaced pages. Include your full name, address, phone number, and e-mail address. Please keep a copy of your work because manuscripts cannot be returned.

Refer to our Submission Guidelines for more information.

Mail to: Editorial Department, Grapevine 475 Riverside Drive New York, NY 10115

GSO & SIA will be sponsoring the **BIG Meeting– Dinner & a MOVIE (Bill Wilson – His Own Story.)** August 9th 5:30PM - 10:00 PM

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.

HANDS OF PEACE First United Methodist Church

51 Wheeler Rd. Central Islip, NY 11722

Meets Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 8:00pm could use some support. Why not stop in, say hello and check out one of our meetings.

The Patchogue Group St Joseph the Worker Church, 510 Narragansett Ave, East Patchogue
Has changed the Saturday Afternoon meeting from 2PM to 1PM EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY
Third Legacy would also like to put in something about the following:

The Third Legacy Committee will be hosting a workshop for Group Treasurers On Friday, August 22nd at 7:00 PM, at the SIA office in Patchogue,. The panel will include Bill C., former Delegate, Fred H., former Intergroup Treasurer and Chair, Jim C., current Intergroup Treasurer, and Lori K., professional insurance agent. Topics will include managing group funds, dealing with banks, group insurance, and more. Refreshments will be served. Attendance is limited to 50 people due to the size of the office, so please call the office to "reserve" a spot.

ONE CALL FILLS ALL

InterGroup's Third Legacy Committee was formed to promote service work beyond the group level. We have brought together several former Intergroup Chairs, General Service DCMCs and service committee chairs to take commitments to speak at 12th Step meetings, Traditions meetings or group business meetings. These speakers bring a wealth of experience of service work and of applying the principles of our Fellowship in the outside world.

If you are responsible for booking these types of meetings for your group, see us at the exchange meeting, call the SIA office at 654-1150 and leave a message for the 3rd Legacy Chair, or reach us on the Internet:

thirdleg@suffolkny-aa.org

Note: Suffolk General Service maintains a separate list of Traditions speakers which can be obtained at the monthly meeting in Rocky Point.

2008

Share-A-Thon

XXXII

Date: October 12, 2008

Time: 9A-4:30P – Lunch will be available for a nominal fee

Location: St-Joseph's College, Patchogue

Activities: Workshops, Old Timer and Spiritual Speakers

We need you to have your group organize one or more workshops to be given on that day.

Also please contact other AA members and have them organize a workshop or two in their own group.

Become the Share-A-Thon Rep. of your group and come to our next meeting to be held on August 12th at 7:00 P.M. at the Cleary School for the Deaf

****We also need volunteers to help at the Share-A-Thon****