



Suffolk Intergroup Association

Bulletin

August, 2008

Volume 35 Number 4

Meetings & Events In September

September 2nd 7:30 PM SIA office
 *SIA Officers' & Chairpersons'
 Meeting

**September 9th Cleary School,
 Ronkonkoma**
 7:00 PM Share-A-Thon Meeting
 7:00 PM SIA Orientation
 8:00 PM SIA Meeting

**September 19th Trinity Lutheran
 Church, Rocky Point**
 8:00 PM GSO Meeting

September 17th SIA Office
 7:30 PM Public Information Mtg.

September 24th SIA Office
 7:30 PM SIA Treatment Facilities
 Meeting

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and gratitude.

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

Have you seen the SIA Office lately????

Please stop by and take a look. We should all give a special thanks to Cathy S. and Bob W. along with all the other volunteers who worked so hard to make the office a clean 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.**

This summer is flying by. It's a nice time of year for some sober reading. I've been asking some of our fellows to submit stories for the Bulletin. I really enjoyed the one below and I hope you do too. Please keep them coming, *Chris W.*

PHONE-Y-BUSINESS?

After years of being a dry drunk and having another relapse, I reluctantly came back to A.A. I followed no suggestions and spent over a year loitering with the intent to get sober. This attitude of indifference led me away from the rooms and into the arms of another drink.

During my stay in the rehab, I had acquired a new willingness to take my sobriety and A.A. seriously. Upon my release, I returned to my home group, raised my hand full of panic and fear and said my name, I'm an alcoholic, and I sincerely need help. The end result of this statement was life changing. The speaker immediately told me to stick around because he wanted to talk to me.

As I stood by the door with my meeting list full of phone numbers I received words of support from all who walked by. "Frank" soon appeared with a broad smile and warm-hearted handshake. My feeling of panic and fear started to subside. During our conversation I had stated how absolutely impossible it was for me to make a phone call. "Don't we all feel this way at first?"

During the course of our conversation Frank had told me at least three different times that he wanted me to call him that day. He said that his phone number was on the list. As we got into our cars, he said that he would be very disappointed if I didn't call him.

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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
Archives	Bob R	archives@suffolkny-aa.org
Bulletin	Chris W	bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org
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General Service Liaison	Dan G	sgso-liason@suffolkny-aa.org
Grapevine	Debbie P	grapevine@suffolkny-aa.org
Literature	Richie N	books@suffolkny-aa.org
Meeting List	Dennis	meetings@suffolkny-aa.org
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Share-a-thon	Al	share@suffolkny-aa.org
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Webmaster-Alt	Nick P	altwebsup@suffolkny-aa.org

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That afternoon I looked at the list and to my surprise there was no Frank on the list. I immediately felt depressed and disappointed. How could he be so absent minded? As I sat there gathering my thoughts I came to realize what he was up to. I would have to call the other members on the list to track him down. Fear set in and the thought of claiming ignorance entered my mind. I would point out his mistake at the next meeting. In short order, my conscience got the best of me. Reluctantly I accepted the challenge.

Could ego have played a part? The phone weighed a hundred pounds and my hands were shaking and clammy. Somehow I managed to dial the first number on the list and explained why I was calling. The man laughed while telling me that he didn't have the number. He asked me what meeting I was going to that night and this led to a short conversation. The next four phone calls were similar, especially the laughter. For a minute there, I wondered if they were all in on it. I finally got Frank's number and called. I told him not to say anything, that he had made his point. He laughed and said "it didn't kill you" "was it that painful?" I had to admit with a laugh that I did survive the experience. He ended the conversation with "call me tomorrow", which I did.

The next day with a new found confidence I called more numbers. I simply said that I had gotten their numbers off the list, I'm nervous and I'm practicing using the phone. In every case they took over the conversation from there. The phone enabled me to get to know people and more importantly they got to know me. One of the results was the confidence to approach members before and after a meeting, put out my hand and introduce myself. I consider myself truly blessed. I wish that every newcomer could be fortunate enough to learn to use the phone on their very first day in A.A.

Pete H. Sunrise Sobriety, Center Moriches

Tradition VIII

“Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.”

Throughout the world A.A.s are “12 stepping.” Almost entirely unorganized, and completely non-professional, this mighty spiritual current is now flowing from alcoholics who are well to those who are sick. One alcoholic talking to another is all that it is.

Could this vast and vital face to face effort ever be professionalized or even organized? Most emphatically, it could not. The few efforts to professionalize straight 12th step work have always failed quickly. No A.A. member will tolerate the idea of paid A.A. therapists or organizers. Nor does any A.A. member like to be told how he must handle that new prospect. No, this great life-giving stream can never be dammed up by paid do-gooders or professionals. Alcoholics Anonymous is never going to cut its own life lines.

But what about those who serve us full time in other capacities – are cooks, caretakers, and paid secretaries “A.A. professionals?”

Our thinking about these people is unclear. The impression of professionalism subtly attaches to them, so we frequently hear they are “making money out of A.A.” We sometimes go further & underpay them on the theory they ought to be glad to help A.A. cheaply. Now isn’t this carrying our fears of professionalism too far? If these fears ever got too strong, none but a saint or an incompetent could work for A.A. Our supply of saints being quite small, we would certainly end up with less competent workers than we need.

Our few paid workers are performing only those service tasks that our volunteers cannot consistently handle. These folks are not doing 12 step work. They are just making more & better 12 step work possible.

Your Intergroup in Suffolk County has been able to admirably do what is necessary to maintain its services without paid help. However, even in the not so distant past, the question of whether or not we could continue to maintain our “all volunteer” Hotline came up. There are still many groups who do not volunteer to take the “phones” for a week & still more who do not submit 12 step lists. There are also many groups who do not have an S.I.A. rep to attend S.I.A. meetings.

This is the case of a few doing for the many. The time may come when “our” Intergroup office may need to hire one or more professionals to help make more & better 12 step work possible for “us.”

Yours in service,
Terry L.

Hugs, Hope and Healing 2008 FAMILY RELATIONSHIP WORKSHOP

Saturday September 27, 2008
St. Matthew Roman Catholic Church
Parish Center-2nd Floor
35 North Service Road
Dix Hills NY 11746
Registration Opens - 10:30AM
Meetings Start - 11:30AM
Closing Speakers - 4:00PM - 5:00PM.

Opportunities for some 12th step work

From the Archives

Plans are in the works to go digital and put the Archives on the Internet. The digital would save our precious files in the event of a catastrophe of any kind and this would also make our material more accessible to our members. Naturally strict guidelines would be followed regarding anonymity. But as is the case with any project like this to get off the ground--WE NEED YOUR HELP! This will be a long term monumental task but what a wonderful way to do service. The Archives Committee meets on the first Thursday of every month at the SIA Office in Patchogue at 6:00pm. If you have been a bit reluctant to get involved in that all important service, maybe now is the time to jump in with both feet. Look forward to you joining us. The only disclaimer is that we have a lot of fun doing this, so if you are terminally serious perhaps another job might be more up your alley.

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 September 2, 2008 7:30 PM at the SIA office.

Opening for a chairperson (female) Thanks to those that attended the Corrections chairperson's meeting in July. It was a success and there is currently an opening for a female chairperson for the women's DWI facility in Yaphank on Thursday night from 7-8 PM. Inquiries can be made by contacting Krista @ 631-654-1150 or:correct@suffolkny-aa.org. In Love and Service, Thank you!

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

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.

ALL ABOARD!!

**THE 2008 SHARE-A-THON
WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 12, 2008 AT ST-JOSEPH'S
COLLEGE IN PATCHOGUE**

**SIA REPS: We Are In Need Of Additional Workshop Topics
From AA Groups In Your Area. Please Get Some Of Your AA
Friends Involved And Get Them To Submit Topics. Topics
Should Be Submitted No Later Than The September 9th SIA
Meeting At The Cleary School In Ronkonkoma.**