



Suffolk Intergroup Association

Bulletin

September, 2008

Volume 35 Number 5

Meetings & Events In October

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

**October 14th Cornell Cooperative,
 Riverhead**
 7:00 PM Shar-A-Thon Meeting
 7:00 PM SIA Orientation
 8:00 PM SIA Meeting

**October 17th Trinity Lutheran
 Church, Rocky Point**
 8:00 PM GSO Meeting

October 15th SIA Office
 7:30 PM Public Information Mtg.

October 22nd SIA Office
 7:30 PM SIA Treatment Facilities
 Meeting

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**Get a commitment &
 stay sober**

We're looking for your articles and stories

This publication belongs to the members of AA in Suffolk County. Please send in personal stories about your sobriety or one about your group. Make an announcement and it will appear in an upcoming Bulletin. I would like to thank all the people who have submitted stories already. I look forward to receiving even more interesting commentary like the one published below.

Thanks Chris W.

Please Don't Forget

A message from the SIA Chairperson Janet O.

"I hope no one died because The Hotline was down"

I made this statement to a friend who is very well known in AA, has many years of sobriety and many years of service. I apologized for being overly dramatic. She told me that I wasn't being dramatic at all and that's how she found Alcoholics Anonymous. It was three o'clock in the morning and she felt that there were only two options left for her. One was to swallow the pills in her hand, the second was to use the phone in her other hand. Thank God she chose the phone; the hotline saved her life that night. After five years of sobriety, a tragic loss of her husband found her at the same crossroads. Should she have gone to a bar to stop the pain or call The Hotline? Again The Hotline saved her life. I was not one of those people who were saved by The Hotline, I never once dialed that number. Attending years of AA Meetings, I hear how many people have used that as their lifeline.

With that in mind I was very upset a couple of weeks ago, when a group was unable to man the phones, The Hotline Chairperson had quit and I was told that the phones were switched over to the SIA office. There's usually a person in the office from nine to three, but what do we do after that? Since we didn't know where the emergency volunteer list was the calls for help would have to go to the answering machine. This wasn't a great answer, but it was the best we could do at the time.

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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
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Corresponding Secretary	Marianne	corsec@suffolkny-aa.org
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Committee Chairs

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Webmaster-Alt	Nick P	altwebsup@suffolkny-aa.org

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I made a call to the person who switches over the phones (I promised Not to use his name) and explained the problem. When I tell you that God was watching over us-He sent me an Angel-he got the phones covered from Wednesday morning till Sunday, when the next group took over. I want to thank him and all the people that he called who stepped up to the plate and possibly saved a life. I want to tank all AA members who answer The Hotline 24/7.

When my group had The Hotline, I didn't want to sign up-I was scared, I didn't know what I was doing, but there so many openings that I felt obliged. After my shift I was really tired... but my heart felt full, I felt wonderful. I never knew how rewarding or how much I would get out of helping others that night. I was not like my friend, but I hope if I ever need to dial that number, someone will answer. I know things happen, we get busy with life... We forget that people kill themselves because they have nowhere to turn to at three in the morning. So when your group has The Hotline...

Please Don't forget

Janet O.
Chairperson

Tradition IX

A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

In the contents of the 12 and 12 for Tradition 9, appears the sentence: “The aim of our services is to bring sobriety within the reach of all who want it.” At the Intergroup level this is done by and through committees. The direction that the committees take comes from the groups in A.A. That is why your participation by sending representatives to the meetings is critical. The committees are where the action is – both at the Intergroup and at District levels. The last few years there has been a shift in responsibilities for some committees. Changes and expectations are sometimes confusing but the essential work is being done.

Another principle held within this tradition is that there is no A.A. authority or police. Organization does not mean authority or power. We are guided by our traditions and any decision that falls outside the traditions MUST be decided by the representatives. It is our group conscience that guides us to the right action.

The least possible organization is our ideal. No dues, no fees, no rules imposed on anyone, one alcoholic bringing recovery to the next is what we most desire. A.A. has always vehemently resisted the idea of any general organization. Yet, paradoxically, we have always stoutly insisted upon organizing certain *special services*; mostly those absolutely necessary to effective 12th step work. But by none of these special services, has our spiritual or social activity, the great current of A.A. ever been really organized or professionalized. Yet, our recovery program has been greatly aided – with so small a degree of organization. A.A. miraculously does work!

Yours in service,
Terry L.

Opportunities for some 12th step work

From the Archives

Did you know that the original phone number for the Suffolk County AA hotline was 654-1124. Back in October 1973 there was a notice in The Link telling one and all "that the Answering Service of the Suffolk Intergroup Association has a new telephone number. It is...516 654-1124. An easy number to remember "stay away from 1 drink, 1 day at a time for 24 hours". We will try to track down when it switched to its present 669-1124 but are open to memories from any of you when or why this happened.

The Archives Committee keeps chugging along. It has been meeting twice a month since obtaining a website and as if things weren't busy enough, now the team is working on putting many things up on the website. This involves much editing, scanning and patience. It also involves tons of work and if you think you would like to give something back to this wonderful fellowship called A.A. give us a call at 654-1150 and volunteer. We need your help to get this up and off the ground. For the first time ever you will be able to read group histories on line, look at photos of group meeting places and there will be other goodies. This will all happen when we can get the help we need to put it all together. Anyone out there able to professionally frame pictures? Boy we could use your assistance! There are many things we would like to put up on the walls to decorate the SIA Office. C'mon and help out!

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

Opening for a chairperson (female) 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:

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.

'When You're Down to Nothing, God is up to Something'

