



# Suffolk Intergroup Association

# Bulletin

November, 2008

Volume 35 Number 7

## November Meetings & Events

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> SIA office**  
**7:30 PM \*SIA Officers' &**  
**Chairpersons' Meeting**

**December 4<sup>th</sup> SIA Office**  
**6:00 PM Archives**

**December 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**90 Higbie La, W. Islip,**  
**7:45 PM L.I.C.Y.P.A.A.**

**December 9<sup>th</sup> Cleary School,**  
**Ronkonkoma**  
**7:00 PM SIA Orientation**  
**7:00 PM SIA Hotline Captains**  
**8:00 PM SIA Meeting**

**December 19<sup>th</sup> Trinity Lutheran**  
**Church, Rocky Point**  
**8:00 PM GSO Meeting**

**December 17<sup>th</sup> SIA Office**  
**7:00 PM Public Information Mtg.**

*"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.

## 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.*

## Grace

Sent along by a friend of Bill & Lois W in San Diego, CA.

**This is a true story: Sometime in the early 1990's I was treating a woman in an intensive outpatient chemical dependency group. Let's call her 'Grace.' Grace was a flight attendant and had been suspended from her job with a major airline due to her untreated alcoholism. She had been stealing the little miniature liquor bottles and drinking in airport bars in uniform, etc. Her employer, realizing she needed treatment sent her to us. After the eight week program, I suggested to her it might be a good idea to solidify her foundation in recovery before returning to work as she would be working in a high-risk environment (serving alcohol, being out of town alone, etc.).**

*Continued on page 2*

# Thank you

# God!!!!

113-8 Bay Ave. / P.O. Box 659, Patchogue, NY 11772 (631) 654-1150

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

**Elected Officers**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Official email address</b>
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		corsec@suffolkny-aa.org
Recording Secretary	Liz T	recsec@suffolkny-aa.org

**Committee Chairs**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Official email address</b>
Archives	Bob R	archives@suffolkny-aa.org
Bulletin	Chris W	bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org
Corrections	Krista K	correct@suffolkny-aa.org
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
Public Information	Richard W	pubinfo@suffolkny-aa.org
Schools	Teddy T	schools@suffolkny-aa.org
Share-a-thon	Lee	share@suffolkny-aa.org
Share-a-thon	Al	share@suffolkny-aa.org
SIA Office Manager	Tom L	siaoffice@suffolkny-aa.org
Special Events	<b>Open</b>	specevent@suffolkny-aa.org
Telephone Hotline	Ted	phones@suffolkny-aa.org
Third Legacy	Brian C	thirdleg@suffolkny-aa.org
Treatment Facilities	<b>Kathy</b>	treatment@suffolkny-aa.org
Webmaster	Steve W	webmaster@suffolkny-aa.org
Webmaster-Alt	Nick P	altwebsup@suffolkny-aa.org

Grace did, however, return to work shortly after completing outpatient treatment. One day while she was departing from a plane at the end of long day a major craving for alcohol overpowered her. There she was, in the Los Angeles International Airport pulling her roller-bag behind her when this massive craving to drink came over her. She tried to just 'think through it,' or 'just forget about it,' but it was way too powerful. It was so powerful, in fact, that she had resigned to herself that she would just go drink. Grace thought, Oh, heck with it, I'll get another job; or maybe no one will find out anyway.' But deep down inside Grace did not want to drink. She truly had wanted to stay sober, but she was in trouble. On her way to the bar in the airport, Grace had a moment of sanity. She stopped, picked up the airport paging phone and said, 'Will you please page friends of Bill W., 'she paused, quickly looking around for an empty gate, to come to Gate 12?' Within minutes, over the paging system in the LA International Airport came, 'Will friends of Bill W. please come to Gate 12. Will friends of Bill W. please come to Gate12.' Most people in recovery know that asking if you are a friend of Bill W. is an anonymous way to identify yourself as a member of AA. In less than five minutes there were about fifteen people at that gate from all over the world. That brought tears of amazement, relief and joy to Grace. They had a little meeting there at that empty gate, total strangers prior to that moment. Grace discovered that two of those people had gotten out of their boarding lines and missed their flights to answer that call for help. They had remembered what they had seen on many walls of meeting rooms: 'When anyone anywhere reaches out their hand for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there and for that I am responsible.' Grace did not drink that day. I would venture to guess that none of the people who came to Gate 12 drank that day either. Instead Grace had a moment of sanity, realized she could not do it on her own, took the action of asking for help and received it immediately. This help is available to all of us if we want it and sincerely ask for it. It never fails. Let's keep it that way!

## Tradition XI

*Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.*

Ours is not a secret society, we carry the message anywhere we can, but we must always be aware that self appointed messiahs speaking for A.A. through public media can do us great damage.

Without its legion of well-wishers, A.A. could never have grown as it has. Throughout the world, immense and favorable publicity has been the principal means of bringing alcoholics into our fellowship. The questioning voices are not all alcoholics or their families, however - doctors, clergymen and even employers call for more information. Therefore, the responsibility fell on A.A. to develop a public relations policy. It is the opposite of usual promotional practice. We have to rely on the principle of attraction rather than promotion.

Alcoholics who have recovered through our program are themselves the strongest attraction that A.A. has. When people are asked what led them to seek A.A. help, the answer given most is: "An A.A. member." This would not have happened if all of us had remained in hiding. But many of us have chosen to tell a few trusted friends, our doctors or spiritual advisors that we are in A.A. – and when we do, we are not breaking our anonymity in the meaning of this Tradition.

When speaking to the public, we may admit that we are recovering alcoholics, but we must not divulge that we are associated with A.A. Giving the general public an accurate picture of A.A. is the chief job of our public information committees. In addition, they often carry the message to certain groups-from police officers to personnel directors-whose work includes contact with active alcoholics.

This represents far more than a sound public relations policy. It is more than a denial of self-seeking. This Tradition is a constant and practical reminder that personal ambition has no place in A.A. In it each member becomes an active guardian of our fellowship.

Yours in service,  
Terry L

**Opportunities for some 12th step work:  
I Am Responsible...**

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

**Office volunteer needed at the SIA office**

People who are committed to service are needed to take shifts at the SIA office in Patchogue. Shifts are available from 9:00 AM to noon & noon to 3:00 PM. Monday through Saturday. Please call Tom at the SIA office. (654-1150)

**Telephone Captain needed**

for District 90: Bayport, Bluepoint, Bohemia, Oakdale, Patchogue, Sayville areas will be covered by this Capt. If interested please call Ted Phone Chair @ 631-654-1150 or email

[phones@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:phones@suffolkny-aa.org)

..... sometimes to fill in when the assigned group can't get enough people to fill their commitment, in which case you will have several days notice.

.....sometimes we will need you to fill in for emergencies or last minute cancellations, in this case you will not have much notice.

.....sometimes it will be for a full 12 hour shift, or sometimes for a few hours

If you are interested, please contact your phone captain, your group rep.

**From the Archives**

Help! Help! Help! Help! Help! Help!. The Archives Committee needs help like never before. We are aiming to set up our website with photos of meeting places and histories and we need help with people who are good at editing and have a knack with computers. You can work from home. You can work from the beach. You can work from a blimp if that's the case. We meet the first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at the Intergroup Office in Patchogue. We also need people good at filing to help us keep the Archives in order. If you can fly, swim or crawl it's a good it's a good bet the Archives has a job for you. Why not help us out and help yourself out at the same time. Contact the Intergroup office for more information 631 654-1150

**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 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

**Meeting Changes and announcements.**

**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.