



Suffolk Intergroup Association

Bulletin

January, 2009

Volume 35 Number 9

February Meetings & Events

February 3rd SIA office
7:30 PM *SIA Officers' &
Chairpersons' Meeting

February 5th SIA Office
7:00 PM Archives

February 9th
90 Higbie La, W. Islip,
7:45 PM L.I.C.Y.P.A.A.

February 10th Cleary School,
Ronkonkoma
7:00 PM SIA Orientation
8:00 PM SIA Meeting

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

February 18th SIA Office
7:00 PM Public Information Mtg.

February 25th SIA Office
7:00 PM Treatment Facilities

"The Bulletin"

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Happy, Joyous and Free In 2009

PROOF of how smart "I" am!!!!

I was the Golden Boy of my homegroup from the day I joined. I was elected to any commitment that I wanted or my sponsor suggested. My poor sponsor couldn't get elected "Dogcatcher" if he tried. As it turned out he was the respected Elder of the group versus the bleeding deacon we so often come across. If the group had a sticky situation, to figure out, they inevitably came to my sponsor but I guess he wasn't popular enough. Enough about him (ha-ha)

On election night I decided that I would become the new Step Chair. Funny but my Higher Power had other plans. Unbelievably someone ran against me and as hard as it might seem to believe I came in second. After the initial shock wore off, I realized that I didn't have a plan B. The only one office that remained opened was the unwanted (by me), unfulfilling Beginners Chair. As my humility (or lack of) would not allow me to have no position in the group, I reluctantly won the position.

Now here's the proof of how smart I was: it turned out that every Thursday night at 7pm, I got to greet newcomer after newcomer and welcome them not only to AA but our home group as well. In addition I gave them a chip, mentioned God's love for them and told them to keep coming. God knows much better than I do what is good for me.

Now it's about 12 years later and I belong to a different homegroup. On Tuesday night at 7pm I chair the Beginners meeting and I continue to welcome the newcomer just like I was welcomed. I have received through the gift of sobriety the knowledge that I am not in charge and I welcome God's will for me and that is enough PROOF for me!!!!!!

Joe M.

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**SIA Officers & Chair people 2008-2009
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***Please send in
your stories,
Miracles and
announcements
and we will
publish them in
this Bulletin.
Perhaps there's
someone who
needs to read
what you have to
write...
Thanks, Chris W.***

Happy New Year everyone

Looking for a way to accomplish that "I need to do some service this year" resolution? Well, well, well...the Archives may be right up your alley. We are still looking for people to help us out. A ton of work yet to do.

Can you take pictures? We are collecting photos of group meeting places to save as a permanent record.

Can you do research? We need people to track down specific articles about Alcoholics Anonymous that ran in local newspapers and more.

Can you type? We always need people to type histories.

Can you file? Our Archives needs major restructuring so items are easily accessible.

Can you interview people? We are always looking for people to interview our old-timers.

Can you have fun? If you think service makes one a glum lot, you should have been there for the Archives holiday party. Roll on the floor antics. If you want to know why we are cracking King Tut jokes ever since, come to our next Archives Committee meeting the first Thursday of every month at 7:00pm at the SIA Office. That should spark your curiosity.

The Twelve Concepts For World Service ~ Introduction

This issue, as many others, includes calls for help needed by various chairs of the SIA. Most members have heard of the 12 Steps & 12 Traditions, however, few know about or understand the 12 Concepts for World Service.

When I was a beginner & had achieved barely a year of sobriety, I had a choice on Thursday nights of a Beginner or a Step meeting. My then to be 2nd sponsor told me that I should “graduate from Kindergarten” and go to the Step meeting.

Service work has been like that for me. I still took commitments for my group but also became the SIA rep. I eventually moved up to become the then, Bulletin Editor. Each job has taken me out of myself & broadened my network of friends & enlarged my support group.

I hope, in the ensuing articles, to introduce you, the reader, to the Concepts in the hope that an understanding of them, even at a basic level, will induce you to become more involved in service – over and above group commitments. Join the front end team – the folks that really make it happen!

The Concepts are where the rubber meets the road. They insure that the fellowship stays as vibrant, as active, as open & as inviting as it is today – that is their mission. They are all about helping us reach outside of ourselves. At the end of the day, it’s all about love & service.

“As A.A. grew up, it began with the groups - first only a few (groups), then hundreds and then thousands. Very early an *Alcoholic Foundation*, later renamed *The General Service Board*, was formed to be responsible for our affairs. And with Dr. Bob’s death and Bill facing up to his own mortality, a General Service Conference assumed the leadership, which had fallen to the co-founders. Meanwhile, a tiny publishing operation and service office had grown in size and importance to the Fellowship, and a monthly journal, the *A.A. Grapevine*, was being published.

Which of these entities was supposed to do what? Little wonder there was confusion! What was their relationship? Who was in charge? What were their responsibilities-and what were their rights? Bill W. himself sometimes took part in the pulling and hauling that took place, and so he saw the need to “reduce to writing” *his* concepts of the “why” of the whole structure, the lessons to be drawn from experience, the relationships and, above all, the spiritual principles.

As Bill set them down, the Twelve Concepts are a potpourri: Concepts III through V, IX and XII deal with spiritual principles; the remainder, though they have spiritual overtones, are devoted to describing the relationship of the various service entities and how they work together.” *

Next month I will talk about how the Concepts fit into the whole and attempt to explain the basics of Concept I.

Yours in service,
Terry L.

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The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated

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

..... 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.

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

Announcements

Bulletin: will gladly accept, review & consider, from any member, submissions on the Twelve Concepts. Please contact me at the SIA office or email me at: www.bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org.

Archives: Are you a Suffolk AA with thirty plus years of sobriety? Please sign our old AA Big Book. Contact us at: archives@suffolkny-aa.org

Grapevine: 2009 Wall Calendar \$8.50 each Full-color photographs taken by our readers, accompanied by brief quotes selected from Grapevine articles. The quotes aren't directly related to either AA or alcoholism, so the calendar may be displayed anonymously. Trilingual (English/Spanish/French) Contact us at: grapevine@suffolkny-aa.org

Grapevine: 2009 Pocket Planner \$4.50 each A companion to the Wall Calendar, the Planner (annual) features a month-at-a-glance spread and quotations from the Calendar. Great for keeping anniversary dates. Trilingual (English/Spanish/French) Contact us at: grapevine@suffolkny-aa.org