



Suffolk Intergroup Association

Bulletin

February, 2009

Volume 35 Number 10

March Meetings & Events

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

March 5th SIA Office
7:00 PM Archives

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

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

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

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

March 25th SIA Office
7:00 PM Treatment Facilities

"The Bulletin"

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We're always looking for stories and announcements

It's just one of those Miracles in AA to say or write something that someone else needs to hear. As I read and entered the letter below I got choked up so I know this is true. Please keep them coming and they will appear in "Our Bulletin".
 Thanks, *Chris W.*

Here's a nice gift

Today, my phone, once so silent, is just ringing off the wall. Together, my sponsees and I work out how to apply the tools of the Big Book and the Twelve and Twelve to issues that come up in our daily lives. Sometimes I don't have the answer and I'll say, Let me get back to you, I need to check with my sponsor. What we are all doing, sponsor and sponsee alike, is learning how to have intimate relationships. How's that for a gift?

At a recent AA Meeting, Two of my guys took chips, one for 30 days and one for 60 days. After the Prayer, I rounded them up for a group hug. Two other sponsees of mine, one with over 2 years and the other with over 90 days, saw us and came over to join the celebration, acting like two solicitous big brothers in a very close family. As I stood there, an unfamiliar feeling came over me: at last, I who never had children felt the serene satisfaction of fatherhood.

Then my sponsor – their grandsponsor – spotted us from across the room. I motioned for him to come over and as he approached I broke out of the huddle and cried, "Here comes the Granddad!" He smiled and shook hands all around, beaming as he acknowledged the accomplishments of his AA progeny.

My sponsees are the gifts that keep on giving. As I guide them through the Steps, they keep my own sobriety green, drawing me ever deeper into the profound healing that occurs when I work the twelve steps from top to bottom, over and over with each new sponsee.

Anonymous

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

**SIA Officers & Chair people 2008-2009
631-654-1150 www.suffolkny-aa.org**

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 Sec	Lisa M	corsec@suffolkny-aa.org
Recording Sec	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
General Service	John	sgso-liason@suffolkny-aa.org
Grapevine	Debbie P	grapevine@suffolkny-aa.org
Literature	Richie N	books@suffolkny-aa.org
Meeting List	John	meetings@suffolkny-aa.org
Public Information	Richard W	pubinfo@suffolkny-aa.org
Schools	Teddy T	schools@suffolkny-aa.org
Share-a-thon	Open	share@suffolkny-aa.org
SIA Office Manager	Tom L	siaoffice@suffolkny-aa.org
Special Events	Dorothy	specevent@suffolkny-aa.org
Telephone Hotline	Ted	phones@suffolkny-aa.org
Third Legacy	Brian C	thirdleg@suffolkny-aa.org
Treatment Facilities	Kathy	treatment@suffolkny-aa.org
Webmaster	Steve W	webmaster@suffolkny-aa.org
Webmaster-Alt	Jack M	altwebsup@suffolkny-aa.org

***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.***

From the Archives

Attention all sober scholars. Is your idea of a good time curling up in bed with a nice book or spending a quiet afternoon in the library? If so maybe you can combine your love of books with your love of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are desperately in need of people like you to help us research the history of A.A. right here in Suffolk County. We have such a wonderful diverse history and you can help us unearth it. We are told that more will be revealed and you can be a very big part of that process.

Set your own pace and schedule. No time clocks to punch. No bosses to answer to. An alcoholic's dream! Just the joy of being part of the wacky but dedicated Archives Committee. We meet the first Thursday of every month at 7:00pm in the S.I.A. office in Patchogue. But that's not a requirement either. Call the office and leave word for us 631 654-1150. Although we have need for people all over Suffolk County to help out, we especially need people on the East End, Bay Shore, Lindenhurst, Amityville, Smithtown and Huntington. Give us a call.

A great different way to do service.

The 12 Concepts

Last month I wrote a little bit about why the concepts were needed, how they are all about helping us reach outside of ourselves and the fact that they are all about love & service.. In this issue I will attempt to introduce you to Concept I.

Concept I

“Final responsibility and ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.”

In AA the group conscience is the real boss. Our mission is to try to align our will to a higher power in personal recovery, in our home groups and in world services. Everyone is welcome in A.A. We hope all will come to an open meeting. Membership is for those who want it - we are not a closed society. Everyone is equal. The sum of the group conscience, equality & inclusiveness is the way in which we insure there are checks & balances & everyone has an opportunity to participate in A.A. and practice the 3 Legacies: the base of Recovery, the spiral of Unity & the spiral of Service beyond the group - all within the circle of AA love.

“Alcoholics Anonymous has been called an upside-down organization because the “ultimate responsibility and final authority for...world services” resides with the groups-rather than with the trustees of the General Service Board or the General Service Office in New York.

In Concept I, Bill traces how this came to be. The first step in 1938 was “the creation of a trusteeship,” first called the Alcoholic Foundation, renamed in 1954 the General Service Board. Why? To perform the services the groups could not do for themselves: e.g., uniform literature, uniform public information about A.A., helping new groups get started, sharing with them the experience of established groups, handling pleas for help, publishing a national magazine, and carrying the message in other languages and in other countries. A service office was formed to carry on these functions under the board’s direction. Both the board and the office looked to the co-founders, Bill and Dr. Bob, for policy leadership.”

The question arose as to what would happen when Bill & Dr. Bob were gone. “The answer, Bill felt, was to be found in the collective conscience of the A.A. groups. But how could the autonomous, widely scattered groups exercise such a responsibility?

Over great resistance by trustees and members devoted to the status quo, Bill managed to “sell” the idea of calling an A.A. General Service Conference...”

“This concept is rooted in Tradition Two, which states:

‘For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern.’

The principles of Tradition Two are crystal-clear, Bill asserts: “The A,A, groups are to be the final authority; their leaders are to be entrusted with delegated responsibilities only.”

The outside world cannot imagine an organization run this way, but Bill calls it “a spiritualized society characterized by enough enlightenment, enough responsibility, and enough love of man and of God to insure that our democracy of world service will work....”

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 Desperately 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 or 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

Things We Cannot Change

Sadly, we have to report the death of a good friend, Joe C. the founder of the Northport group who moved on to the great meeting in the sky on January 8, 2009. Joe would have celebrated his 55th anniversary on January 10. No doubt he did celebrate up in heaven with his old sponsor, Clint F. and many others who have moved on. We'll miss you, Joe