



Suffolk Intergroup Association

Bulletin

March, 2009

Volume 35 Number 11

April Meetings & Events

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

April 2nd SIA Office
7:00 PM Archives

April 13th
90 Higbie La, W. Islip,
7:45 PM L.I.C.Y.P.A.A.

April 14th Cornell Cooperative, Riverhead
7:00 PM SIA Orientation
8:00 PM SIA Meeting

April 16th Trinity Lutheran Church, Rocky Point
8:00 PM GSO Meeting

April 15th SIA Office
7:00 PM Public Information Mtg.

April 22nd SIA Office
7:00 PM Treatment Facilities

"The Bulletin"

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Some Warm Thoughts.

As cold as it has gotten this winter, I don't think I have ever felt warmer towards the people in my life, and that includes my friends in AA.

I moved to Ronkonkoma a couple of years ago and joined my third home group, after my first group in Hicksville, and my second group North Babylon..(I keep moving eastward, Montauk here I come?) I've been given the honor by my group to serve as SIA rep. so I decided to send a few thoughts to share

My last drink was on November 16, 1989. I drank whatever I felt like at the time, and never thought I would need (never mind WANT) to go to an AA meeting. I won't go into details. but I'll just say, I had enough. I was alone and had no idea what my life had come to.

I had to admit I could not "drink like a man"..and I didn't even want to drink, I thought I had to . What else is there to do? How will I relax and unwind? How will I enjoy a meal? a date? a concert? a night at home? I used to say : IF ONLY . If only I didn't say that, or do that, or think that, IF ONLY I could go back and change my actions, take back what I said IF ONLY I didn't get sick IF ONLY I would stop vomiting IF ONLY I didn't keep screwing up..IF ONLY IF ONLY IF ONLY... So when, somebody gave me a piece of paper with a few slogans on it like: LET GO LET GOD and HOW IMPORTANT IS IT, I thought, maybe these people understand me better than I thought,, when's the next meeting?I assumed I'd always be a drinker, maybe I'd lighten up for a while, or stop for a while, but I really thought I'd just have to paywhatever the price, and keep on drinking. I thought it was fate. But something changed, and it changed WITHIN ME, and this turned out to be the key to my current sobriety which just passed the 19 year mark.

I think a lot about this. I am in my 20th year of sobriety. My gratitude to AA, its founders and my fellows is beyond words. Recently, I read 2 AA books I had not read until now and I would like to STRONGLY urge everyone reading this to read them as well: AA COMES OF AGE and PASS IT ON. These are really important documents that gave me a deeper understanding of the disease itself, as well as the history of recovery which has preceded us. It will give you a lot of information , and I think a lot of inspiration to read these two books. I skipped around Comes of Age, and there is a lot of legalistic language about the General Service Conference that I didn't get that deep into but I think the General Warranties - the 12th section is one of the most eloquent summaries of AA's spirit, I was amazed. Also, Dr. Silkworth has a longer description of alcoholism than that which appears in the big book, from a medical paper he wrote in 1939, describing early AA..CHECK IT OUT !! Superb. And Pass it On is Bill W's life story - much detail ,,and a cool picture of Lois and him and their motorcycle (with sidecar) , lots of cool pix..They and the other "friends of Bill" really blazed a trail..and I am ever grateful they did! Our job is to carry on their legacy and let other alkie's know they have a seat at the table if they want it, too. It's a really great table, it's alcohol-free. (As long as we are!)OK, so thanks for reading this. I just want to say, I hope you have what I want for myself: sobriety today and always..peace, Brian, from *The Cleary Group*

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		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
Corrections	Krista K	correct@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

Did you know the original name of the Cleary Group was the Boulevard Group?

Did you know that the Lincoln and Lee Group of Wainscott got its name from a temperance group?

Did you know that there was once a group called Amityville Horror?

Did you know that there is a group in Centereach called Little Rascals Clubhouse?

Did you know that the Archives Committee still needs lots of help to continue gathering nifty little facts like the first four noted here?

Did you know that The Archives has a Big Book from 1951 that we are asking all Suffolk AAs with 30 plus years of sobriety to sign/

**Did you now that this is one fun way to do service...
Contact the SIA Office and join us.**

Concept II

“When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference-excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter- the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.” *

Accepting the gifts of this program means that I have to do my part on a daily basis- through prayer, affirmation and a request for guidance. The Concepts ask us to become responsible & to embrace this gift. How? With little measured steps & affirming that we are responsible for the future of A.A..

The first 2 Concepts set the stage: giving the gift, embracing the gift & affirming that we have the process of Tradition II – being able to elect and trust servants to serve us. If we couldn’t develop trusted servants to act on our behalf we couldn’t function as a fellowship. Once elected, we have to let them do their jobs – mistakes may be made, but we have to trust they’ll do the best they can! Our assuming the responsibility for the future of A.A. starts in our home groups and the way we elect our trusted servants. It’s all about delegation.

“Concept I establishes the “final responsibility and ultimate authority” of the A.A. groups; but, in actual practise, how are they to manage A.A.’s service affairs? By *delegation*, Concept II declares.” *

Concept III

“As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional “Right of Decision”.” *

Concepts 3 through 5 describe those pivotal principles that can be found in the Traditions and Steps. This Concept makes me think about a couple of important principles. The first one is the care we must take in choosing our trusted servants and the second one being trust. This Concept gives our trusted servants, whether it is our group’s GSR, our Area delegate or a Conference Committee, the right to decide on the Issues at hand, on their own, even if that means going against an informed group conscience. We need to know that these people will always act on the behalf of what’s best for Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. We need to place our informed group conscience and our trust in their hands and know that they will make right decisions.

*“Our entire A.A. program rests squarely upon the principle of mutual trust. We trust God, we trust A.A., and we trust each other.” **

Concept III checklist:

- Do we understand what is meant by the “Right of Decision”? Do we grant it at all levels of service or do we “instruct”?
- Do we trust our trusted servants – G.S.R., D.C.M., area delegate, the conference itself?

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 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

Special Events: Please come and join us for a 3rd and 4th Step Workshop. April 01, 2009 From 7:00 – 9:00 PM at the SIA office in Patchogue. To reserve a seat call 631-654-1150 or email at: specevent@suffolkny-aa.org

Meeting changes

The Brookhaven Womens Group that meets at: St. James Episcopal Church in Brookhaven, has chanced their Tuesday evening meeting time from 7:15 to 7:50PM