



## Suffolk Intergroup Association

# Bulletin

May, 2009

Volume 36 Number 1

### June Meetings & Events

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

**June 4<sup>th</sup>** SIA Office  
7:00 PM Archives

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

**June 9<sup>th</sup>** Cleary School,  
Ronkonkoma  
7:00 PM SIA Orientation  
7:00 PM Share-A-Thon Meeting  
8:00 PM SIA Meeting

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

**June 17<sup>th</sup>** SIA Office 7:00 PM  
Public Information Mtg.  
**June 26<sup>th</sup>** SIA Office 7:00 PM  
Treatment Facilities

#### *"The Bulletin"*

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**Please keep submitting your Announcements, Stories, Prayers and Poems to be published in our Bulletin. It's no coincidence that someone needs to read what you have to write...**

**Keep em coming!!!!**

*All the best, Chris W.*

#### **Happy Anniversary Suffolk Intergroup!**

It was 36 years ago in May 1973 that our forefathers and foremothers took it upon themselves to break away from New York Intergroup and go out on their own. Bad feelings had been brewing for some time. Various efforts to work together in such a way that the alcoholics of Suffolk County would have access to prompt and efficient help did not work out. Several meetings were set up and the solutions put forth only seemed to lead us in the one course of action--Suffolk County had to split off and set up its own Intergroup. This is what happened to the benefit of all concerned. It was not a smooth break. Problems still remained and it would take some time to be fully operational but for the sick and suffering out there--- help was available immediately! Many of the services out there today for Suffolk County alcoholics in and out of the rooms that we take for granted were ironed out in the early days by our pioneers. A moment or two of quiet reflection and gratitude may be in order but in keeping with the spirit of those who started Suffolk Intergroup...let's go out there, do some service and give back for this wonderful gift of sobriety.

S.I.A. Archives Committee

**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**

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***Please send in  
your Story, a  
Miracle or an  
Announcement  
and it will  
published in  
this Bulletin.  
Perhaps  
there's  
someone who  
needs to read  
what you have  
to write...***

**Beyond Your Wildest Dream**

By: Jay W East Northport Big Book Group

I've been around the program for many years, and my favorite AA saying is.. DON'T DRINK! GO TO MEETINGS! AND YOUR LIFE GETS BETTER BEYOND YOUR WILDEST DREAMS!. This has certainly been true for me and many of my AA friends.

The week before Christmas I sat at my group and saw four alcoholics sitting next to each other and thought that saying was certainly true for them. The first was a female, sober for several years, who was a college graduate and decided she wanted to be an architect. After much soul searching she applied to several schools and was home for Christmas break after finishing her first semester (on full scholarship).

Next was a female sober 4 plus years who has come to love her profession and exhibits a joie de vie which didn't exist when she first showed up in the rooms.

Next was a gentlemen who went to law school after getting sober and is now happy to be a trial attorney.

Last was a female sober 8 years who is recovering from donating a kidney to a loved family member.

Obviously, it was a coincidence that these 4 active AA members were sitting next to each other. However, I believe it happened as a reminder to me -- and to all the folks I've told this story to -- of just how wonderful our program is.

## Concept V

**Throughout our world services structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.**

I like the part in this concept that talks about our world service structure. It certainly applies at our General Service Conference and at our Area Assemblies. What about at our group business meetings, Intergroup meetings and District meetings? Are we stopping to ask for a conflicting opinion or is everybody always in agreement? Hard to believe that everybody agrees all the time.

This “Right of Appeal” recognizes that minorities frequently can be right. The well heard minority is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed hasty or angry majority.

Sometimes, or even most of the time, the minority opinion is not always the most popular one. Many a time I’ve seen a majority act upon an idea with little background information or react to a situation out of emotions. We generally do these things in a hasty manner. With that many people moving in one direction at the same time, who wants to stop and listen to reason? Many times we tend to want to resolve things “now” because we have our own agendas or other matters of business to discharge. Sometimes it’s a wiser thing to do to postpone an action rather than act out of haste.

The process of debate in A.A. can be mistaken as an elongated, exhausting process. The truth is, in order for a group conscience to speak it must be an informed one. Thus, the importance of the small tiny voice should be heard, because the big booming voice of ego may be festering in a group conscience. The Right of Appeal preserves a voice for everyone, and actually should be viewed as a “duty” by the minority to present its views. The recognition of an informed minority can sway a majority into agreement, avoiding hasty, uninformed or angry choices to be made. This concept warns us of the “tyranny of the majority,” as a trusted servant should always hear the minority voice and even pay special attention to their perspective. An example of the minority swaying the majority was to add the words “as we understand him” to step 3---Imagine if there wasn’t a concept of a “right to appeal” in A.A.

Hence we believe that we shall never be subjected to the tyranny of either the majority or the minority, provided we carefully define the relations between them and forthwith tread the path of world service in the spirit of our Twelve Steps, our Twelve Traditions, and our Conference Charter – in which I trust that we shall one day inscribe these traditional rights of “Appeal” and “Petition.”

Yours in service,  
Terry L.

## **The Miracle is That I'm Sober**

A Poem from: Joe at the Pt. Jeff Solution group:

Come all ye drinkers that sigh & complain -  
While the tyrant of alcohol just laughs at your pain  
Come get sober with me and be happy and free  
I'll share my love and the bliss I enjoy  
That evil nor envy can destroy!

**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.**

**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 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

**Suffolk Intergroup Open House**

**Come Celebrate A.A.'s 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary And Suffolk Intergroups 36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!  
Be There As We Unveil The Brand New SIA Archives Website**

**Free Food, Displays, Great Fellowship and a 12 Noon Gratitude Meeting!!!**

**Our Original 1951 Big Book Will Be Available For Suffolk A.A.'s With 30 Years Of Sobriety  
To Sign  
Spread The Word!!!!**

**The Suffolk Intergroup Office Is On The Corner Of  
Bay Avenue and Terrell Street In Patchogue**

**For More Information Please Call 631-654-1150**

**Meeting changes**

**The Greenlawn Village Group** that meets at: Bethany Presb Church in Huntington Station has changed the group name to: Huntington Station Bethany Group.

**The Patchogue group** that meets at St. Joseph the Worker church in E Patchogue has changed it's Saturday Meeting time from 2:00 PM to 1:00PM

**Things we cannot change**

Our old friend Lee B. passed on to the great meeting in ther sky in April 2009.

Long a fixture at **Kings Park** and **Kings Park Courage to Change**. He will be missed.