



Suffolk Intergroup Association

Bulletin

June, 2009

Volume 36 Number 2

July Meetings & Events

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

July 2nd SIA Office
7:00 PM Archives

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

July 14th Cornell Cooperative, Riverhead
7:00 PM SIA Orientation
7:00 PM Share-A-Thon Meeting
8:00 PM SIA Meeting

July 17th
Trinity Lutheran Church, Rocky Point
8:00 PM GSO Meeting

July 15th SIA Office 7:00 PM
Public Information Mtg.
July 22nd SIA Office 7:00 PM
Treatment Facilities

"The Bulletin"

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Coincidence??? I Think Not

I'll start off by saying my name is Bill K. and I just recently celebrated 14 years as a member of A.A.

On November 8 2006 my Father was diagnosed with stage 4 throat cancer and in his thyroids surrounding the neck, he was given 8-12 months to live. I just happened to be visiting him in Florida at the time he was diagnosed. Well, my Father began extremely painful chemo & radiation over the next few months and within a year the cancer stopped spreading. During this time I made a few trips back and fourth with my Wife and Children and we made the best of the situation. In the spring of 2008 the cancer came back stronger than ever and the doctor told us Dad will only have a few months left. We all got to spend time with my Father and toward the end we where all able to get out for a day of fishing. My Father also mustered up enough strength to go for steamed oysters, something we always enjoyed doing together. Anyway, he passed on August 22, 2008

As per my parents wishes my Father was to cremated and a memorial service would be held. The Church my parents picked for the service also had a private garden where the remains where to be placed. I must say at the time my Father first became ill I would go to a Step Meeting there Mondays and he joked that when he was gone any time I went to that meeting I could stop by and see him.

My fathers service happened to be held on my 49th Birthday. It was decided that I would say a few words. The morning of the service I received 3 phone calls from my AA friends and they weren't going to make it. Now I'm not one to panic but I then realized I was going to have to talk in front strangers and not talk about AA.

When we arrived at the church we met the pastor who explained the Ceremony in detail and asked who was going to be saying a few words. My sister and my Wife pointed at me and said "he is". I explained that I was extremely nervous and was planning on having some friendly faces in the crowd but they couldn't make it. I then broke my anonymity to the pastor by saying that I go to that church on Monday nights. The Pastors next question was: are you a friend of Bills? The relief that came over me at that moment, I cannot explain. I hesitantly said yes. The Pastor said "so am I and I just celebrated 25 years. Now, again I can't explain the feeling of joy knowing there would be another Alcoholic in the crowd. We spent the next minutes talking AA. I can honestly tell you that I never felt such a Spiritual connection as I did that day. My belief sense I got sober and stayed sober was spiritual part of AA was one alcoholic talking to another and One not getting drunk. Also God has a plan for me and drinking is not a part of it.

The hardest part after that one little chat was getting up in front of the crowd and not saying my name is Bill and I' an alcoholic. To this day I thank God constantly for putting that Pastor in my path that day.

Bill K. From The Lindenhurst Group

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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...***

From the Archives

By the time you read this our Archives website should be up and running. More details on this in next month's Bulletin. A tip of the Archives hat to all who worked so diligently on getting this online. Keep in mind however that this is only phase one. There is a ton of work yet to do. We are sure---despite checking and double checking---that there are some mistakes that have slipped through .

Spearheaded by John C. of Huntington West Neck who made a convert out of many of us who believed it would never happen. Now he can go back out in the sunshine after being hunched over his computer for thousands of hours. Likewise Russell M. of Sag Harbor who has ventured out there taking scads of photos and like a bloodhound tracked down many a group history. He deserves a round of golf on us. Special mention to Tony of Hauppauge Touchstones, Alan from Islip There is a Solution, Debbie from Brookhaven Women, Dan from East Patchogue, Vin from Islip Terrace, Lou from Hauppauge Touchstones and Lucinda from Fort Salonga. The Archives Committee meets the first Thursday of every month at the SIA Office in Patchogue at 7PM. Our history is so wonderful what a shame to lose any of it!

Concept VI

On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Concept VI lays out the balance of responsibility between the General Service Conference as a whole and the General Service Board – the Trustees. Because the General Service Conference is made up of over 100 voting members, most of them volunteers, it is too big to handle the number of decisions that must be made each year for A.A. as a whole, and sometimes research and special knowledge is necessary for some decisions.

Once again we are talking about delegation. Our Conference recommends “Advisory Actions” which mean nothing unless we have a means of discharging them. Our General Service Board has the legal power to act on behalf of Alcoholics Anonymous and to carry out the advisory actions which are handed down from our Conference. We trust our trusted servants to act on our behalf even when they have the legal right to veto any advisory action given to them. They haven’t found it necessary to do so yet.

The role of the Trustees is described briefly in the *Concepts...Illustrated** pamphlet:

The trustees are also responsible for A.A.’s public information activities. They are the guardians of the Twelve Traditions. They are responsible for carrying the A.A. message to other countries around the world. They are “bankers,” overseeing the financial operations and investing A.A.’s substantial Reserve Fund.

As this Concept states, large matters of general policy or finance shall be referred to the conference meaning that we, as members of Alcoholics Anonymous, have the final say through a loving God as he may express himself through our group conscience.

This very real analogy makes it even more clear that, just like any other board of directors, our Trustees must be given large powers if they are to effectively manage the principal world affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous.

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.

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

This Month We Celebrate AA Founders Day

Dr. Robert Smith and his wife Ann joined the Oxford Group where they talked about their prayer needs. Dr. Bob confessed that he was a silent drinker and couldn't stop and asked for prayers. Henrietta Seiberling was in that religious group as well and committed to pray for him. A friend, Bill W, came into town for a business venture that fell through, wanted to get drunk, and asked Henrietta if there was another drunk that he could talk to. His theory was that only another drunk could understand what he was going through and would help him maintain his sobriety. Ms. Seiberling got Dr. Bob and Bill together for a six hour meeting where they talked about the problems that they went through as a drunk. That meeting in 1935 led to Alcoholics Anonymous. It was that simple.

Meeting changes

The Stony Brook Women's Step Meeting that meets at the Stony Brook Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Nicholls Road on Tuesdays at 6:45 p.m. is sad to announce the group will be disbanding and the meeting will be closing.

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

The Greenlawn Huntington Station Group That meets at the Knights of Columbus On Boulevard Ave in Greenlawn has added a step meeting on Friday Afternoons at 1:30PM

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

In May, our dear friend, Fran M. of Bay Shore 12 Steps of Hope passed away
She will be missed