



Suffolk Intergroup Association

Bulletin

September, 2009

Volume 36 Number 5

October Meetings & Events

October 6th SIA office-7:30 PM*SIA Officers' & Chairpersons' Meeting

October 1st SIA Office-7:00 PM
Archives

October 12th 90 Higbie La, W.
Islip 8:15PM LI Committee of Young People in AA

October 13th Cornell Cooperative,
Riverhead
7:00 PM SIA Orientation
7:00 PM Share-A-Thon Meeting
8:00 PM SIA Meeting

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

October 21st SIA Office 7:00 PM
Public Information Mtg.

October 28th SIA Office 7:00 PM
Treatment Facilities

"The Bulletin"

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Qualities of a good Sponsor

The Quality of sobriety sets a great example

With serenity that's much more than ample

Spirituality is the way of life

With peace of mind that deals with any strife

Lives life with a great attitude

With a heart filled with gratitude

Patience and understanding are just fine

Would never ever say "you're wasting my time".

Pete H.

East Moriches Group

Remember?

Remember how far the road from your house to your first meeting was? Remember how scared you were walking into your first AA meeting...alone?? What if you could have taken years off your drunken log? Alcoholics that still suffer need our help. Please see the Treatment Facilities Flyer inside or visit our table at the Share-A-ton

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SIA Officers & Chair people 2008-2009
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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

So what is an Alcoholics Anonymous group? There is talk on the streets that you have to be able to celebrate an anniversary at one to be able to call yourself a group. Or that it having a step meeting is a requirement. Still others state it is necessary to meet twice a week. Yet some voices claim that to be a group you must have a Big Book meeting. Add to the mix people who believe it must start with the preamble, have How It Works read and end with the Lord's Prayer. So what's the deal? What makes a group of people gathered together in an effort to stay sober an A .A. group? Are there rules, mandates or requirements?

For those of us perplexed by this question. The answer is a very simple one and is found in the long form of Tradition Three "**Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. Group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.**" That's the whole of it. Although it is a great idea to register your group with A.A. General Services in Manhattan and be an active supporting partner of Suffolk Intergroup and Suffolk General Services. Good idea to find out what is happening out in Suffolk County and be part of the decision making process. But that is a suggestion only.

But more importantly what makes an Archives Committee?. You ought to be crazy about sobriety and want to save its history. You ought to love our collective history. You ought to be so nuts about your gratitude that you want to do a different kind of service so you can give back. If you can take photos, do typing, love talking to old-timers, can file, sort documents, do research or any of the above, you're in. Why not select someone from your home group to be an Archives representative. Or why not be one yourself!

The Archives Committee meets the first Thursday of the month at the SIA office in Patchogue at 7:00PM. If you can't make the monthly meeting, that's okay too. Call 654-1150. Be ready to have a heck of a lot of fun!

Concept IX

Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

It's that time again that we really have to take a close look at this concept. Suffolk Intergroup will be electing new board members, our General Service Area will be electing new officers and appointing new committee chairs and many of home groups will be holding elections soon and possibly looking for a new GSR.

So who's willing to serve? I hear people talk about letting "them" do it. We need to remember that this isn't an "us and them" type of organization. It's all of us. Our first Concept and our second Tradition remind us of that.

So what about you? Don't think you're qualified? I think if you ask anyone of our trusted servants at any level if they felt qualified you'll get the same answer across the board. "I didn't think so." A lot of times others see in us what we don't see in ourselves.

Service in sobriety has given me a lot of things I never expected, like accountability. To be able to do the things you said you would do to the best of your ability and be in the places you said you'd be and to be prepared when you arrive. I think that's probably the biggest qualification right there.

Are we, as trusted servants, taking on responsibilities out of love for Alcoholics Anonymous, or out of gratitude for our sobriety, to give what was so freely given to us, to place principals before personalities, and to be willing to give of ourselves the time and effort required to get the job done? Let's do it for the right reasons.

A.A. has such a diverse membership and each member possesses their own special skills, it's our job to recognize them and put them to good use for the well being of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

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.

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

Third Legacy Committee

InterGroup's Third Legacy Committee was formed to promote service work beyond the group level. We have brought together several former InterGroup Chairs, General Service DCMCs and service committee chairs to take commitments to speak at 12th Step meetings, Traditions meetings or group business meetings. These speakers bring a wealth of experience of service work and of applying the principles of our Fellowship in the outside world.

If you are responsible for booking these types of meetings for your group, see us at the exchange meeting, call the SIA office at 654-1150 and leave a message for the 3rd Legacy Chair, or reach us on the Internet: thirdleg@suffolkny-aa.org

Note: Suffolk General Service maintains a separate list of Traditions speakers which can be obtained at the monthly meeting in Rocky Point

Upcoming Events

2009 Share-A-Thon: "KEEPING IT GREEN IN SOBRIETY"

Sunday October 18th 2009 - St. Joseph's College Patchogue, NY

From the: LI Committee of Young People in AA

Thank you to all who attended LICYPAA's 6th Annual Luau. Another sober day, another great success. We're very grateful to the NECYPAA XX Host Committee (New England Conference of Young People in AA) for making the trip all the way from Boston to speak at our beach meeting! Over 150 people got the chance to hear their wonderful speaker Stevie.

We are now looking ahead to our 2nd (perhaps annual?) campout which we are co-hosting with the 52nd ICYPAA Host Committee (International Convention of Young People in AA)! We are very excited about ICYPAA coming to NYC next summer, and are psyched for this opportunity for unity and LI support. Last year was a huge hit, and we expect to have a great turnout and an amazing time all over again. Please visit licypaa.org for our flier. Visit icypaaahost.org for how to get involved with ICYPAA.

Lastly, but not least, we are very pleased to report we have begun moving forward with our Bridging the Gap to youth treatment facilities idea, and have been in conversation with SIA and Suffolk General Service to coordinate our efforts. It is wonderful to see everyone working together to better carry the message. If you have room to grow, then you are young like us. We invite everyone that would like to join us to come to our campout and committee meetings on the 2nd Monday of the month South Oak's chapel @ 815 pm.-

Fred M. LICYPAA Chair