



Suffolk Intergroup Association

Bulletin

November, 2009

Volume 36 Number 7

December Meetings & Events

December 1st SIA office-7:30 PM*[SIA Officers' & Chairpersons' Meeting](#)

December 3rd SIA Office-7:00 PM
[Archives](#)

December 8:15PM
(400 Sunrise Hwy, Amityville)
[LI Committee of Young People in AA](#)

December 8th Cleary School,
Ronkonkoma
7:00 PM [SIA Orientation](#)
8:00 PM [SIA Meeting](#)

December 18th
Trinity Lutheran Church, Rocky
Point-8:00 PM [GSO Meeting](#)

December 16th SIA Office 7:00 PM
[Public Information Mtg.](#)

December 23rd SIA Office 7:00 PM
[Treatment Facilities](#)

"The Bulletin"

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MY GROWTH IN SPIRITUALITY

About six years ago, I was in terrible turmoil. I had blamed God for my troubles, past and present, because He *allowed* them to happen. At least that was what I was thinking. One day I decided that I could not deal with life anymore. Suicide was the only answer, so I thought. I gave God an ultimatum. Either he come and save me or I would end my life. Before I could succeed at the deed, he came to me in a very special way. As I pressed a gun to my chest, I closed my eyes as I squeezed the trigger. Before that moment, the only thing on my mind was the emotional pain I was feeling. Then, all of a sudden, my mind was filled with the image of my grand daughter's face. It snapped me back to my senses and I knew that God had not forsaken me. Shortly thereafter, I heard a man speak at a meeting. He seemed to glow when he spoke of God in his life. His spirituality and the happiness and peace that came along with it could not be denied. After much thought and reflection, I approached my sponsor and told him that I wanted to ask that man to be my sponsor. He asked me why. I answered, "because of his spirituality." So, this man agreed to be my sponsor. I started the steps with this man and realized I was having a real problem with step three. You see, I had stayed "dry" for twenty four years. My ego told me that I didn't need God to help me stay sober. After all I had done it myself for all those years. Sure, I had God back in my life, but on my terms. Every time I had a problem I went to God for the solution. Most times I didn't find the solution because I wasn't open to him. I wasn't listening for his answers to my prayers. I couldn't accept the fact that God works through other people. I couldn't see that the answer to my prayers were right in front of me. I was looking right through them like they were not even there. I did not have an open heart. I wasn't totally surrendering. When I thought my prayers were going unanswered I isolated. I crawled into bed. I lost myself in the TV set. I spent hours on the computer. I was miserable. I was using my own free will. I was not looking for or asking for his plan for me. I did not ask Him to show me "His will." Every time I took back my will I wound up isolating. I missed meetings. I didn't make phone calls. One day my sponsor asked, "How is that working out for you?" The answer was, "It's not." He told me to start my day with the Third Step Prayer.

"God, I offer myself to thee - to build with me and do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love and Thy Way of Life. May I do Thy Will always!"

Over the past six years something wonderful has happened to me. I have found peace and serenity. Oh, I have my bad days but I reach out to friends and deal with it. God put these people in my life and I have the awareness to hear His message through them. My sponsor introduced me to some Spiritual rock bands. This music has become a big part of my sobriety. My sponsor and support group is "priceless." Whether you know it or not, something you share at a meeting may be just what a person needs to deal with a crisis. In the past ten months, I have gone through being served with divorce papers after thirty nine years of marriage, my brother being in a coma after bypass surgery, a daughter with thyroid cancer, another daughter being arrested. You know what? I can still smile. I can still be grateful for what I have and what God has given me. I pray daily. I stay "God conscious" with music. I attend a prayer group life is simple and I am happy and at peace.

TOMMY K.
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...***

Looking for a way to accomplish that “I need to give something back to Alcoholics Anonymous” feeling?

Well, well, well...the Archives may be right up your alley. We are still looking for people to help us out. A ton of work yet to do.

Can you take pictures? We are collecting photos of group meeting places to save as a permanent record.

Can you do research? We need people to track down specific articles about Alcoholics Anonymous that ran in local newspapers and more.

Can you type? We always need people to type histories.

Can you file? Our Archives needs major restructuring so items are easily accessible.

Can you interview people? We are always looking for people to interview our old timers.

Can you have fun? If you think service makes one a glum lot, you should have been there for our last Archives holiday party. Roll on the floor antics! We are again coming up to the holidays and you can bet your bottom dollar we will be having another party this year. Why not come to our next Archives Committee meeting the first Thursday of every month at 7:00pm at the SIA Office. Sobriety can be lots of fun.

Concept XI

While the trustees hold the final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants.

In the previous ten Concepts we have been reading a lot about the service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, and all the principals that apply. This Concept differs in the fact that it talks about the "other" internal structure of our fellowship. This includes but is not limited to: non-trustee members of the trustees' committees, the non-trustee directors of the two operating boards and the executives and staff members. They not only support the leadership of the trustees but they share the leadership with them.

This is the second longest of the Concepts so I can't even come close to giving you all the details in this short article but it covers all the various standing committees and their functions. A good read, especially the part on finance. It really lays out self-support. It describes the status of executives, how we compensate our paid workers, why we rotate and the principal of participation as covered in a previous Concept.

This Concept is one we can practice in our own lives each day and especially in the work place.

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

"Institutional Service Recognition and Appreciation Meeting..

Chairpersons...Speakers you are invited to Attend

Dec 12th 2009 at 10AM at the SIA office 112-8 Bay Ave, Patchogue

Coffee, bagels muffins and cake will be served. Please come and share your experience, strength and hope with us...and be recognized for your service".

RSVP please Call 654-1150

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

Things we cannot change

Our friend from Islip Live and Let Live, Ted B. Passed away. He will be missed.