



Suffolk Intergroup Association

Bulletin

March 2010

Volume 36 Number 11

April Meetings & Events

April 1st SIA Office

7:00 PM Archives

April 6th SIA Office

7:30 PM SIA Officers' & Chairpersons' Meeting

April 12th

400 Sunrise Hwy, Amityville

8:15 PM L.I.C.Y.P.A.A.

April 13th Cornell Cooperative Extension, 423 Griffing Avenue, Riverhead

7:00 PM SIA Orientation

7:00 PM Share-A-Thon Meeting

8:00 PM SIA Meeting

April 16th Trinity Lutheran Church, Rocky Point

8:00 PM GSO Meeting

April 21st SIA Office

7:00 PM Public Information

If you are looking for a fun commitment, come on down to the Archives Mtg. on March 4th and join us (taking pics, typing, editing, documenting group histories, etc.) and hang with the rest of the group.

"The Bulletin"

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Hello

Got any interesting news regarding your group? Are you having a Group Anniversary, or how about a group member who is celebrating 30 years or more? Want to let everyone in Suffolk County know about it?

If the answer is yes, then just e-mail me the information at bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org or look for me at the SIA Meeting the second Tuesday of every month.

The deadline for submissions for the following month is the 25th of the previous month. (i.e., for April's Bulletin, you would have to get the information to me by March 25th)

Glad to be in/of service. - Debbie P.

Treatment Facilities Meeting on 3/13/2010

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 13th at 9:00 a.m. at the SIA Office in Patchogue. Coffee and bagels will be served. Institutional reps, chairpersons, and speakers are all invited.

Step Three – Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God, as we understood him.

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.

Concept Three – To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. - the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives - with a traditional "Right of Decision."

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SIA Officers & Chair people 2009-2010
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The Things We Cannot Change

Our good friend, Richie D. of Bay Shore Twelve Steps of Hope, has moved on to the Big Meeting in the sky. We miss you, big guy!

New Meetings!

The One and Only (CD)
 St. Thomas of Canterbury
 90 Edgewater Avenue
 (on Brookside Drive) in Smithtown
 Saturday at 3:15 p.m.
 No children please.

Woman Helping Woman (W-CD)
 Church of Resurrection
 50 Granny Road
 Farmingville
 Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

Sag Harbor Men's Beginners (M-B)
 Old Whaler Presbyterian
 44 Union Street
 Sag Harbor
 Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

From the Archives

East Hampton Group

One of the pioneer groups in Suffolk County, this meeting began in August of 1948 in the Methodist Church Hall of East Hampton, also known as the Session House of the Methodist Church. A letter written to the New York Alcoholic Foundation dated August 16, 1948 by group secretary, Elizabeth, stated that the group had 10 members. At that time the only other option for alcoholics on the east end of Long Island was the Southampton Group.

Sometime between 1948 and 1955, the group moved to St. Luke's Church Center, 18 James Lane-off Main-Town Rd. There is no record of date they moved. Jed, one of us, remembers going to this meeting in 1955. He said about 15 older people were there; he was in his twenties at that time.

An A.A. named John went to this meeting in 1968 when only this meeting existed at that time. John was back there in 1970 or 1971 and the 8:00 p.m. Beginner's Meeting had started.

From this 9:00 p.m. Open Meeting, the group grew to: a 7:45 p.m. Beginner's Meeting (it started as an 8:00 p.m. meeting sometime between 1968 and 1971); a 7:45 p.m. Beginner's Baby Room Meeting started July 1981; and an 8:00 p.m. Thursday Step Meeting sometime before August 1973. The 12:00 noon Friday Closed Discussion Meeting came into being; no date is known at this time.

All the meetings had to move out when the St. Luke's Center was being torn down. All moved to the East End Church of Christ 500 Sag Harbor Turnpike, East Hampton in September 2007.

The original 9:00 p.m. Open Meeting has for years suffered from lack of attendance with only 2-6 people showing up and has closed down as of November 2007 but leaving us a legacy of 4 other meetings.

Russell M.
 March 25, 2008

The Beginner's Baby Room

This group was started in 1981 by Kate P. and Tony P. It meets at 7:45 p.m. on Tuesday. One of the first speakers was Phil G. It began because the Beginner's Meeting became overcrowded with over 80 people.

This meeting was supposed to have originally started back, probably, in the early 1950's, which is still being researched. The 9:00 p.m. Open Meeting just after the Beginner's Meeting goes back to 1948 which was started in the Methodist Church in East Hampton. This meeting then moved to St. Luke's sometime in the early 1950's.

This is a unique meeting. In 1981, the original Beginner's Meeting became so overcrowded that it outgrew the large room where it was housed. A second Beginner's Meeting was created called the Baby Room. This meeting would have a chairman and a speaker, but only beginners, under one year, were allowed to attend. Once you had one year of sobriety you were not allowed to return to that room unless you are invited to speak or became chairman of the group.

When I was given the gift of sobriety in 1987, I heard about the Baby Room. The rumor was that if you attended this meeting the averages were above normal for a successful recovery. This room was having a higher survival rate than other meetings. I attended every Tuesday during my first year of sobriety. It was above the main Beginner's meeting, in a 15 by 20 ft. room. When I was there it was always packed and crowded; in the summer it was a sweat box but I continued to go.

To date, this meeting room is found only by word of mouth; it is not listed in the schedule as a second Beginner's Meeting at that location.

Russell M.

This history and others like it can be viewed at www.suffolkaaarchives.com.

John C., Archives Chair

Here are just a few interesting facts about Alcoholics Anonymous that happened throughout history during the month of March:

March-May 1938 – Bill begins the book Alcoholics Anonymous. Works Publishing Inc. established to support writing and printing of the book.

March 1941 – 1st Prison AA Group formed at San Quentin.

March 1, 1941 – Jack Alexander's Saturday Evening Post article was published.

March 10, 1944 – New York Intergroup was established.

March 31, 1947 – 1st AA group formed in London, England.

March 22, 1951 – Dr. William Duncan Silkworth dies at Towns Hospital.

March 21, 1966 – Ebby dies.

March 22, 1984 – Clarence S., "Home Brewmeister", dies.

Check back next month to see all of the interesting things that occurred in A.A. in April!

Meeting changes, updates, and additions that were made to the Meeting List this month:

Zone 1: *Bay Shore Love & Service* – Monday 10 a.m. S moved to 1 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m. B is defunct; Friday 1 p.m. OD is now B. *Cold Spring Harbor* – no 8:30 p.m. BB on Tuesday. *Copiague Evening Group* – Sunday 6:45 p.m. B has changed to 5:45 p.m. B.

Zone 2: *Coram Farmingville Open Arms* – Monday 8 p.m. S will be a T on the last Monday of the month. *Port Jefferson Group* – Monday 8:15 BB is now CD and the Wednesday 7:30 CD is now BB.

Zone 5: *Sag Harbor Sunday Night Beginner's Group* has split it two – Sunday 7 p.m. C-B has relocated to Watermill and is now called *Water Mill Sunday Night Beginner's* at Beacon Church, 1225 Montauk Hwy. (at Scuttle Hole Road) in Water Mill. The meeting time and type remains the same. The Thursday 1:30 p.m. O meeting has been renamed *Thursday 1:30 Afternoon Group*. Location remains the same.

Please check website for all updated meeting list revisions and additions.

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.

Treatment Facilities Open Commitments:

John J. Foley Center in Yaphank - Friday at 3:00 p.m.

Pilgrim State in Brentwood - Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday at 7:00 p.m. (MICA population)

AA Telephone Hotline

Do you have something to say about the way the AA Hotline is run? Then contact Janet, the Hotline Chair, and get involved with the Hotline. It's your chance to become a part of the "solution", if you dare!

Two for Ten

For the twenty five years I've been in Alcoholics Anonymous, I have done a pretty good job of ducking the obvious. Things have gotten more expensive all over and I have stuck to my buck in the basket. Gas approaches three dollars a gallon and there's my buck. Rents have increased. Insurance rates have increased. The prices of coffee, sugar, milk, and Styrofoam cups have increased. Still I put my buck in the basket. Pretty nice of me I have always thought. When I am at my smuggest, I look around and see people with a 7-11 cup of coffee in one hand and a pack of cigarettes in their pocket push the basket aside empty and I laud over the fact I still put my buck in the basket.

This year it hit me. The buck in the basket doesn't cut it anymore. However sanctimonious I can get at times or regardless if the person next to me wears a huge diamond bracelet and puts nothing in the basket; that's not my business. What my business is carrying my weight. This A.A. has been pretty darn good to me. The least I can do is double my contribution. Hardly the stuff of philanthropy but for someone for twenty five years has held the line at a buck a pop, this is improvement of sorts. There is that "this is a program of progress..." stuff, remember?

So for 2010, I have started putting two dollars in the basket. And when the basket goes around, I try to stare at the wall or ceiling so I don't even get tempted to see what is put in the basket as it goes around. The jangling of that diamond bracelet does get annoying at times but I suppose that is the topic for another day on patience and tolerance.....

Anonymous

Does your group have a Share-a-thon Rep.?

What's that? - No.

What are you waiting for? The evolution of the Share-a-thon Event waits for no one.

Seriously, please bring the message back to your groups that the Share-a-thon Meetings have started and every group ought to be sending someone to proudly represent them in this awesome event!!!!

Does your group need any literature? Why not come to the SIA Meeting to take care of all of your literature needs? Big Books, Step Books, and everything else that is A.A.W.S. approved can be purchased there.

Need any Grapevine materials? You can also purchase those at the SIA Meeting.