



Suffolk Intergroup Association

Bulletin

April 2010

Volume 36 Number 12

May Meetings & Events

May 4th SIA Office

7:30 PM SIA Officers' & Chairpersons' Meeting

May 6th SIA Office

7:00 PM Archives

May 10th

400 Sunrise Hwy, Amityville

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

May 11th Cleary School, Lake Ronkonkoma

7:00 PM SIA Orientation

7:00 PM Share-A-Thon Meeting

8:00 PM SIA Meeting

May 19th SIA Office

7:00 PM Public Information

May 21st Trinity Lutheran Church, Rocky Point

8:00 PM GSO Meeting

Don't forget to send your groups' Share-a-thon Rep. to the Share-a-thon Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month.

"The Bulletin"

Is published monthly by the Suffolk Intergroup Association of Alcoholics Anonymous, PO Box 659 Patchogue, NY 11772. "Alcoholics Anonymous" and "AA" are registered trademarks of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Quotes from AAWS literature and AA Grapevine are used with permission and gratitude.

Happy April!

I would love to hear from every AA in Suffolk County. Anything you want to share with us? I promise to keep it between you, me, and 800 of my closest friends. Why 800 you ask? That's the number of Bulletins that we print each month. Of course that is not counting anyone who visits the S.I.A. website and reads the Bulletin there.

Look for me at the SIA Meeting the second Tuesday of every month or simply e-mail the information to me at bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org.

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

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

The new Meeting Lists (March 2010) are now available. The deadline to make any changes for the July 2010 printing is June 1st. You can send in your revisions at any time prior to that date, as well. Norbert is the current Meeting List Chairperson; feel free to seek him out at the next SIA Meeting.

Step Four – Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Tradition Four – With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of The Alcoholic Foundation. On such issues our common welfare is paramount."

Concept Four – At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

113-8 Bay Ave. / P.O. Box 659, Patchogue, NY 11772 (631) 654-1150

SIA Officers & Chair people 2010-2012
631-654-1150 www.suffolkny-aa.org

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Official email address</u>
Chairperson	Richie N.	Chairman@suffolkny-aa.org
Alt Chairperson	Liz T.	alt-chair@suffolkny-aa.org
Treasurer	Maria C.	treasurer@suffolkny-aa.org
Corresponding Sec	Lisa M	corsec@suffolkny-aa.org
Recording Sec	Vikki B.	recsec@suffolkny-aa.org

Committee Chairs

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Official email address</u>
Archives	John C.	archives@suffolkny-aa.org
Bulletin	Debbie P.	bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org
Corrections	Raymond	correct@suffolkny-aa.org
General Service	LC	sgso-liason@suffolkny-aa.org
Grapevine	Richard W.	grapevine@suffolkny-aa.org
Literature	Rosemarie S.	books@suffolkny-aa.org
Meeting List	Norbert M.	meetings@suffolkny-aa.org
Public Information	Bob W.	pubinfo@suffolkny-aa.org
Schools	Krista K.	schools@suffolkny-aa.org
Share-a-thon	Chris W.	share@suffolkny-aa.org
SIA Office Manager	Mike F.	siaoffice@suffolkny-aa.org
Special Events	Dorothy F.	specevent@suffolkny-aa.org
Telephone Hotline	Janet O.	phones@suffolkny-aa.org
Third Legacy	Dean J.	thirdleg@suffolkny-aa.org
Treatment Facilities	Karen D.	treatment@suffolkny-aa.org
Webmaster	Steve W	webmaster@suffolkny-aa.org

Men or Women Wanted....

to speak at the Yaphank DWI Facility/Jail or the Riverhead Jail. Raymond (Corrections Chairperson) has the Clearance Forms for you to fill out. Bring some back to your groups and let other members have an opportunity to speak at a Correctional Facility. Once the forms are received by Raymond, he will have them processed and then you will receive a call from one of the Chairs to set up a date and time for you to speak.

NOTE: Anyone with an outstanding arrest warrant should probably not apply!

Tired of spring cleaning? Why not take a quick break from that and check out a new meeting? Saturday afternoon at 3:15 p.m. St. Thomas of Canterbury Church basement - Edgewater Avenue (on Brooksite) in Smithtown

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

- 1939, April - The First Edition of "Alcoholics Anonymous" was published at a selling price of \$3.50.
- 1940, April 19 – The first AA group in Little Rock, Arkansas was formed.
- 1940, April 24 – The first AA pamphlet, "AA", was published.
- 1941, April 3 – The first AA meeting was held in Florida.
- 1941, April 11 – Bill and Lois finally found a home - Stepping Stones in New Bedford, New York.
- 1941, April 19 – The first AA group in the state of Washington was formed in Seattle.
- 1951, April 25 – AA's first General Service Conference was held.
- 1989, April 30 – The film "My Name is Bill W." was broadcast on ABC.

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

If your group doesn't have an SIA Rep, or a Share-a-thon Rep, or a Literature Rep, or Treatment Facilities Rep, or Public Information Rep, why not come to the next SIA Meeting to see what you or your group members can do to get involved?

There are over 300 groups in Suffolk County but you wouldn't know that by the attendance at the monthly SIA Meetings.

Come on down and check it out. Service is good for the soul.

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

SAYVILLE GROUP, Christian Reformed Church, 31 Rollstone Avenue, West Sayville

The Sayville Group is one of the oldest groups in Suffolk County and its origin can be traced to the founder of the group, Charlie. Charlie was a resident of Bayport and had already been a member of our fellowship in a group in New York City when he joined the Huntington Group shortly after its inception in 1946. He remained a member of that group until 1947. Our group lore says that Charlie decided on starting the Sayville Group simply as a matter of convenience since travel between his home in Bayport, his work in New York City, and meetings in Huntington was wearing him down.

In February of 1947, the Sayville Group was first listed in the A.A. World Directory. The meetings were held twice a week, on Sunday and Monday evenings at 8:30pm. On Sunday nights, they met in the Sayville Fire House on Main Street where the first Sunday of the month was an open meeting and the remainder of the month they held closed meetings. On Monday evenings, the group met in the Odd Fellows Hall on Foster Avenue where the second and fourth Mondays were open meetings with the remainder closed meetings. The Directory listed Walter as our secretary, the member count as 12 and the phone number for the group contact as Tel: 55.

Several of our 'old-timers' speak fondly of the beginner's meetings that were started up in the mid 1960's where they would discuss a topic and also take questions that would be answered by any of the group members. It was actually held as a beginner's discussion. They would try to get people with six months of sobriety to speak and they would do so with their sponsor present in case help was needed.

Sayville has always been one of the more visible groups in Suffolk County with respect to sobriety for women. A 1958 meeting list shows that there was a Central Islip Women's Group that met in Building G5 in Central Islip State Hospital but no other meetings for women were listed until the Westhampton Women's Discussion which started somewhere between March of 1965 and March of 1968. The Sayville Group listed a women's meeting that was started up somewhere between October 1969 and April of 1970 by several women including Nancy, who is still an active member of the group, and the meeting took place on Friday nights at 7:30pm. Records indicate this meeting remained active through 1973 but no later than early 1975. The most recent start-up of the women's meeting was in 1992 and it remains an important meeting for our group today.

I think it can be safely stated that our group founder, Charlie, had made one of the most significant impacts on alcoholism within Suffolk County if not New York State. He was a counselor from 1948 -1953 for the Seamens Church Institute of New York City after serving a long and meritorious career in the U.S. Navy. He played an important role in alcoholism treatment in New York State.

Gladys, who was a group member, became the first female counselor in G5. Another Sayville Group member of note was Howard who was to become the first alcoholism counselor in New York, if not the U.S.A., when he worked in the men's unit in Building D4, Central Islip State Hospital. Eventually there was a building in his name at Pilgrim State Hospital but the building was eventually renamed. According to our group elders, Howard would have preferred the anonymity anyway. *(History provided by Sayville group circa 2006)*

ARCHIVES NOTICE

It's here! The buds, birds, squirrels, the motorcycles, the sandals, the shorts and T-shirts popping, spilling, revealing [well, practically] and ... Wait, A N D the monthly reminder from the Archivists to our fellow recovered alcoholics in the A. of A. [heard that at a meeting and love it.] Yes, we've arrived! Our recently revealed [more will be ya know] new, archival website at www.suffolkaaarchives.com is anchored in the World Wide Web for you to drop by and peruse or hang and reminisce. There are pictures, histories, a slide show, links, an artifacts' page, and current events as well as information for any history gatherers among you as to how to write one. Sign our guest book or read the Twelve and Twelve. By any and all means join us and...

While inspired by all the effort, organization, sorting, filing and delegation [say it ain't so. It Ain't!] this offering took; consider putting your mind to service with us on Terrell Street in Patchogue. Yes, hello: You in Northport, Huntington, Stonybrook and further north [hello Oyster Bay], south [Yo, Islip Terrace], west and east ['allo Bridgehampton]; keep our stories up-to-date by joining our archival enterprise. Plenty to do - Writing, photographs, organizing, tidying or simply sitting every first, Thursday O De Month regaling us with your take on Sobriety's main fellowship, A.A. We'll listen, maybe even write it down, then edit, rewrite, edit, rewrite and...get the picture?

Remember: join us at our monthly Archives Committee Meeting, on the first Thursday [interesting editorial note. This to avoid repeat words, a no-no in Flash writing. What am I talking 'bout? Come find out.] at 7:00 PM, SIA Office on Terrell Street in Patchogue.

We'll be there, seriously, pens in hand. For Temperance History-Buffs Hooray!
Submitted by Lucinda K.

**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.**

Open Commitment:

Yaphank DWI Men's Jail – Monday Meeting (meets 5:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.) needs a male Chairperson.

There was a Recognition and Appreciation Meeting for the Treatment Facility Group Reps, and for those who serve as Chairpeople at treatment facilities and institutions, and it was a huge success. The next one will be on Saturday, June 12, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the SIA office.

My Friend Bill

He was a mainstay of the Kings Park group for many years before moving to Florida. Periodically he would introduce a motion at our business meetings to raise the starting time of our group from 8:00pm to 9:00pm - and that would be overwhelmingly defeated every time.

The most disorganized man I ever met in Alcoholics Anonymous. When he was the group secretary he would be opening the letters in the front of the room to read the announcements as he stood there. Probably he just picked them up at the post office, yet the ironic thing was that his line of work was selling business organizing systems. For years he was one step ahead of both the bill collectors and the I.R.S. - and this was many years into his sobriety. He did finally make his financial amends to all.

Yet I never meet a man who so espoused the principles of A.A. He lived this program. He gave so much to so many of us. He would take a phone call at 3:00 in the morning or drive a newcomer to any meeting. Once we booked a speaking commitment in Connecticut and Bill drove us up there. When I was a patient in Brunswick House rehab, many moons ago, because I asked for it, he ran over a copy of the 24 Hour Book. Amityville is not around the block from Kings Park! But that was Bill's style. Early on, I was told, he would go into saloons to try to twelve step his old cronies.

You don't have to be either overly organized or financially astute to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. What you have to have is a heart, a love for our fellowship and a strong belief that service is at the basis of our program. Bill had all of these. He had some rough times in the last years. His wife got very sick. Then he got very sick. I don't ever recall hearing him complain about anything that was thrown his way. He had an immensely powerful faith. I doubt very much if I'd be sober today if it wasn't for Bill T. He will be missed.

1937-2010

Submitted by Bob R.

"We read to know we are not alone." - C. S. Lewis

Big Books, Step Books, Living Sober, Daily Reflections - you want it - we've got it at S.I.A.! A.A. literature is available for sale, at cost, at our office in Patchogue. Office hours are 9-3 Mon - Sat. We stock all pamphlets and books in all different sizes and languages. We also have signage, regional directories, and other service resources. If you or your group's S.I.A. Rep would like to place a large and/or special order, please do so by emailing books@suffolkny-aa.org or leaving a message at the office- (631) 654-1150.

Love & Service, Rose

THE DATE FOR THE 2010 SHARE-A-THON HAS BEEN RESERVED AT ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE IN PATCHOGUE. MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OCTOBER 17, 2010!!!!