



Suffolk Intergroup Association

Bulletin

August 2010

Volume 37 Number 4

September Meetings & Events

September 2nd SIA Office

7:00 PM Archives

September 7th SIA Office

7:30 PM SIA Officers' & Chairpersons' Meeting

September 11th SCCC

8:00AM Speaker Exchange
(Rain or Shine)

September 11th SIA Office

9:00 AM Treatment Facilities

September 13th

400 Sunrise Hwy, Amityville

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

**September 14th Cleary School,
Lake Ronkonkoma**

7:00 PM SIA Orientation

7:00 PM Share-A-Thon Meeting

7:00 PM Hotline Captains' Meeting

8:00 PM SIA Meeting

September 15th SIA Office

7:00 PM Public Information

**September 17th Trinity Lutheran
Church, Rocky Point**

8:00 PM GSO Meeting

AA to Change Way of Doing Things (Remember Rule 62!)

New York, July 18, 2010 - Due to the downturn in the economy, Alcoholics Anonymous will NO LONGER be dues and membership free, as has been the case for almost 75 years.

Like many businesses, AA will now be charging for some things that used to be free, such as:

1. Being Rocketed into the 4th Dimension -- \$49.99 per trip, fuel surcharge applies, extra baggage NOT included. 5th Dimension trips optional; additional fee applies. See your sponsor for details.
2. Sponsorship -- was free, NOW \$9.99 per month, with 4 visits/20 phone calls per month free, after that, \$2.00 each. Surcharge for calls after midnight: \$1.50 per call.
3. Membership Dues -- now \$29.99/month, 10% discount for a 1-year plan.
4. Seating charges -- Each seat now \$1.00 per meeting, with a 20% discount for the 90-in-90 plan.
5. Pink Cloud -- was free, NOW \$14.99 per cloud, with a \$5.00 per event environmental cleanup fee. These are the NEW ozone-free Pink Clouds that do NOT add to global warming.
6. Coffee -- \$1.50 per cup, with a 10% discount for 5 or more cups.
7. Hugs -- will now be \$2.50 each.
8. Conscious Contact with God -- now \$9.99/month, with the first 450 minutes free, then 10 cents/minute over 450.. New Double your Minutes for Life plan is a low \$49.99 one time charge. Holidays and weekends extra; see rate schedule, as God is VERY busy.
9. Accidental cell phone call during meeting -- charge now set at \$25.00 per incident. Intentional calls: \$75.00
10. "I've been thinking" fees to now be \$3.00 each, with a Relapse Reentry Fee of only \$99.99 (each occurrence), if you're lucky enough to make it back into the rooms. Fees will be used to purchase additional white chips.

Kinda makes you think twice about how lucky we are that they decided to have the 8th tradition and not professionalize A.A. Imagine having to pay for a professional sponsor. We probably have the only disease whose cure has not been commercialized. Makes us special and lucky. But, it's so easy to think that the cure isn't worth it's weight in gold because we don't have to pay big bucks for it!!

"The Bulletin"

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Step Eight – Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all

Tradition Eight – "Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers."

Concept VIII – The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.

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SIA Officers & Chair people 2010-2012
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The Share-a-thon theme is
Living in the Solution.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, October 17, 2010 for the Share-a-thon at St. Joseph's College in Patchogue.

If your group doesn't have a Share-a-thon Rep, please encourage someone to come to the meetings (second Tuesday of every month directly before the S.I.A. Meeting) to represent your group.

Does your group have any extra Grapevines lying around? The AAs in jail enjoy reading them despite how old they are. The stories and the messages of hope for a new beginning are timeless. You can drop them off at the S.I.A. Office for Raymond, or bring them to the S.I.A. Meeting the second Tuesday of the month.

Recycling is a good thing!

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

- 1879, August 8 – Dr. Bob is born in St. Johnsbury, Vermont.
- 1938, August 11 – Akron and New York members begin writing stories for the Big Book.
- 1939, August 16 – Dr. Bob & Sister Ignatia admit the first alcoholic to St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, Ohio.
- 1941, August – First A.A. Meeting in Orange County, California is held in Anaheim.
- 1941, August 19 – First A.A. Meeting in Colorado is held in Denver.
- 1943, August 9 – LA groups announce 1,000 members in 11 groups.
- 1954, August 28 – "24 Hours a Day" is published by Richmond W.
- 1981, August – Sales of the Big Book passes 3,000,000.
- 1988, August 18 – First Canadian National A.A. Convention was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

ICYPAA- the International Conference of Young People in A.A. is coming to NY!

A New Life- the 52nd ICYPAA Conference will be held in Times Square August 26-29, 2010! The number of young people suffering from alcoholism who turn to A.A. for help is growing, and ICYPAA helps to carry A.A.'s message of recovery to alcoholics of all ages. This meeting provides an opportunity for young A.A.'s from all over the world to come together and share their experience, strength, and hope as members of Alcoholics Anonymous. A.A. members who attend an ICYPAA return home better prepared to receive young people who come to A.A. looking for a better way of life. For more information about the conference visit <http://www.icypaahost.org/>.

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

HOLBROOK LOVE AND SHARE

Greenbelt Recreation Center

Greenbelt Pkwy and Patchogue Holbrook Rd. in Holbrook

The Holbrook Love and Share group was formed in December 1978 and has always been held in the Greenbelt Parkway Recreation Center. The group was formed by five individuals: Steve and Terri who were married, Steve's sponsor, Tom B., who went to rehab with Jackie K. and Jim A. Ray A. was the first speaker. The original members included Tommy B., Gus the Lawyer, Joe C., Steve A., Jackie K., and Jim D. among others.

Other attendees were Diane, Joe C., Marianne, Gus, Ed K., Marilyn, and Annie. At one time there were 100 members. Wednesday was open meeting on Wednesday, Friday—beginners at 7:30 then step and closed. The chip system was: red, one day, white, three months, blue, six months, and light blue, one year. A Big Book Meeting was tried around 1983 but failed.

Jackie was the adopted mother of the group and often opened her home to meetings. Once we had no electricity and we met there. Another time we celebrated Tom B.'s first anniversary at her home because our room was accidentally locked. Jackie eventually moved to Florida but up until then she was a true support to the group and exemplified its loving and compassionate nature.

As the group grew it put on sobriety plays, dances, and picnics which other groups picked up on and followed suit. Members who came later and were a great influence were Clarence B., Michael the Hairdresser, George S., Marilyn L., Eddie K., Sergio T., Eddie the Coffee Maker, Dianne A., Quiet Bob, and Crazy Richie. Some of these people are still around others have passed on to the big meeting in the sky and still other moved away. Yesterdays members passed it on and the group is still solid supporting A.A., holding business meetings and caring for each other.

Submitted to SIA Archives Committee

December 11, 2004

Suffolk County General Service & Suffolk Intergroup Association

INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THE

“BIG MEETING”

SERVICE & CELEBRATION

LIVING OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE

Refreshments

Exhibits

Entertainment



SATURDAY SEPT. 4TH 7-11 P.M.

Westhampton Presbyterian Church, 90 Meeting House Road, Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

If there is anything you want printed in the Bulletin, the deadline for submissions for the following month is the 25th of the previous month. (i.e., for September's Bulletin, you would have to get the information to me by August 25th). You can e-mail me at bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org or call the office and leave me a message. Thanks.

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

Something I heard at a meeting:

“I keep it simple. I wake up and say ‘whatever’ and before I go to sleep I say ‘enough’. That’s what works for me today.”

If your group wants to donate anything to the Share-a-thon, you can drop it off at the S.I.A. Office in Patchogue, or you can bring it to the S.I.A. Meeting the second Tuesday of each month. Please check the website for location information.

**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.**

Did the A.A. Hotline save your life?

Do you, or someone you know, have an inspiring 'Hotline Story' you'd like to share with us? You can either send it directly to me (Bulletin Chair), or to Janet (Answering Service Chair). See Page 2 for contact info.

The Special Events Committee

will be holding a

6th & 7th Step Workshop

on September 12, 2010
from 12:00 - 4:00 PM

at the S.I.A. Office in Patchogue.



It was December 2007. I was alone in my dark bedroom, surrounded by empty beer cans and fruit flies from all the juice and vodka I had spilled. I lost my business, my home, and my ability to survive due to terror and addiction. My eyes were yellow, I was a hundred pounds at five seven, and I couldn't stop throwing up every five minutes even though I couldn't eat for days. With a quart of vodka and a twelve pack of beer a day-habit and no money, no license, no family or friends, I was in bad shape. My body was shutting down. I was 39 years old.

I had been in AA since I was 16, stayed for 13 years, then went full out for eleven. Now I was at the point where I couldn't deny I was an alcoholic anymore, but I didn't believe in God, so I thought the program would not work for me. I didn't know how desperate I would become from the loss, fear and self-loathing. I found myself on my knees in the bathroom, where I spent most of my time, and I prayed "God help me. I'll do anything." I went back to the bed and started looking for the phone book under all the mess. I found it by some miracle and looked up the A.A. hotline and called almost without thinking - as if something was moving me.

That night I talked to two compassionate women who identified with me and were comforting enough to give me the courage to get picked up for a meeting. When I sat in that familiar kind of room for the first time in twelve years, shaking and sweating, and heard myself say, "My name is Heather, I'm an alcoholic." I instantly felt relief for the first time in years. I had hope.

That was the beginning of a rocky start, but hopefully it would be good the rest of the way in sobriety for me. I am healthy and beginning to feel more whole. I have a sponsor, home group, commitment, and support group I love. I am slowly learning to apply the steps in my life. I thank the God of my understanding every day for this program of recovery and those two women who called me back and saved my life by carrying the message of A.A.

Submitted by Heather N. (Freedom Group in Riverhead) June 2010