



# Suffolk Intergroup Association

# Bulletin

November 2011

Volume 38 Number 7

## December Meetings & Events

**December 6<sup>th</sup> SIA Office**

**7:30 PM** SIA Officers' & Chairpersons' Meeting

**December 10<sup>th</sup>**

**SCCC, Selden Campus, Parking Field #7**  
**8:00 AM** Speaker Exchange

**December 12<sup>th</sup>**

**400 Sunrise Hwy, Amityville**  
**8:15 PM** L.I.C.Y.P.A.A.

**December 13<sup>th</sup> Cleary School for the Deaf, Ronkonkoma**

**6:30 PM** SIA Orientation

**6:30 PM** Share-a-thon

**6:30 PM** Hotline Captains

**7:30 PM** SIA Meeting

**December 16<sup>th</sup> Trinity Lutheran Church, Rocky Point**

**8:00 PM** SGS Meeting

**December 21<sup>st</sup> SIA Office**

**7:00 PM** Public Information

**December 28<sup>th</sup> SIA Office**

**8:00 PM** Archives

What can I say about my experience as having the privilege of serving as your Bulletin Chairperson for the last two years? It has been some of the best times in my sobriety: happy, sad, pissed, awakened, surprised, awe-struck, angry, evolved, and humbled.

I always describe my sobriety in terms of the 3 Ss. The state of my Sobriety is tightly intertwined with the condition of my Spirituality and my Serenity that I must be ever vigilant to stay at peace and remain sober and grounded. Now I have come to realize that there is a fourth S; that one being Service.

Let's face it. Where can a person go every month for free fellowship and growth? I have met AAs through my S.I.A. service commitments that I never would have met otherwise. That is mind-blowing. Talk about a common bond. It is my belief, and has been my experience, that people who are involved in service are a different breed. I'm not making any judgments or casting aspersions on those who are not, but I personally would rather hang with peeps who take their commitment to A.A. beyond the group level. A.A. saved my life and I can't say that enough and I certainly can't give back enough. Don't get me wrong, I love my group and I have close A.A. friends who are not involved in service.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for allowing me to be your trusted servant in the publication of the Bulletin. When it is all said and done, our primary purpose is to help another alcoholic...and for that – I am responsible.

*With Peace and Love,*

*Debbie P., Brookhaven Women's Group,  
Bulletin Chair (2010-2011)*



### Something I heard at a meeting –

*When I cross talk I'm no longer sharing the message of recovery, I'm telling somebody what "I" think "they should do".*

### "The Bulletin"

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**Step Eleven** – Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

**Tradition Eleven**– Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.

**Concept XI** – The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

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

**SIA Officers & Chair people 2010-2011**  
**631-654-1150**     [www.suffolkny-aa.org](http://www.suffolkny-aa.org)

The Treatment Facilities Chair will be having a workshop on December 11 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. Check it out and meet the new Chair of Treatment Facilities – Chris W.

<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	Ed L.	corsec@suffolkny-aa.org
Recording Sec	Vikki B.	recsec@suffolkny-aa.org

Looking for something to do? Check out a new meeting (The Boho Group) starting on November 4 at the True North Community Church, 1101 Lakeland Avenue, Bohemia. Fridays – 7:00 p.m. is a Beginners Meeting; 8:15 p.m. is a Big Book Meeting; and Sunday is an Open Meeting at 3:00 p.m. We will meet in the cafe.

**Committee Chairs**

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Official email address</u>
Archives	John C.	archives@suffolkny-aa.org
Big Meeting	Joanne & Tom C.	bigmeeting@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
Hotline/Answering Serv.	Janet O.	phones@suffolkny-aa.org
Literature	Rose	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	George C.	share@suffolkny-aa.org
SIA Office Manager	Mike F.	siaoffice@suffolkny-aa.org
Special Events	Joanne Z.	specevent@suffolkny-aa.org
Third Legacy	Dean J.	thirdleg@suffolkny-aa.org
Treatment Facilities	Chris W.	treatment@suffolkny-aa.org
Webmaster	Steve W	webmaster@suffolkny-aa.org

**Save the date!**

**Special Events presents a Square Dance on Sunday, December 11, 2011 at 281 Phelps Lane Annex in North Babylon. Open meeting at 7 p.m. and Square Dance at 8:30 p.m.**

There will be a Literature Workshop/Brunch at Cornell Co-op on Sunday, Nov. 20th. This will be joint event with S.I.A Third Legacy and Suffolk G.S. Service Participation Chair. We will have literature presentations from Rose, the S.I.A. Literature Chair, and the G.S. Literature Chair. 10:00 a.m. - fellowship and Literature DVDs; 11:00-12:30 Workshop.

**Looking for a service commitment?**

There are open Hotline Captain positions for the following Districts: District 100 - Centereach, Coram, Farmingville, Medford, Selden, and Terryville & District 200 - Cutchogue, Greenport, Mattituck, Orient, Southhold, and Aquebogue. Please contact Janet at [phones@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:phones@suffolkny-aa.org) if you are interested.

**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.**

Keep this philosophy in mind the next time you hear, or you are about to repeat a rumor. Character assassination runs rampant in A.A.

In ancient Greece (469 - 399 BC), Socrates was widely lauded for his wisdom. One day the great philosopher came upon an acquaintance, who ran up to him excitedly and said, "Socrates, do you know what I just heard about one of your students?"

"Wait a moment," Socrates replied. "Before you tell me, I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Test of Three."

"Test of Three?"

"That's correct," Socrates continued. "Before you talk to me about my student let's take a moment to test what you're going to say. The first test is **Truth**. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?"

"No," the man replied, "actually I just heard about it."

"All right," said Socrates. "So you don't really know if it's true or not. Now let's try the second test, the test of **Goodness**. Is what you are about to tell me about my student something good?"

"No, on the contrary."

"So," Socrates continued, "you want to tell me something bad about him even though you're not certain it's true?"

The man shrugged, a little embarrassed.

Socrates continued, "You may still pass though because there is a third test - the filter of **Usefulness**. Is what you want to tell me about my student going to be useful to me?"

"No, not really."

"Well," concluded Socrates, "If what you want to tell me is neither **True** nor **Good** nor even **Useful**, why tell it to me at all?"

The man was defeated and ashamed and said no more. This is the reason Socrates was a great philosopher and held in such high esteem.

It also explains why Socrates never found out that Plato was banging his wife.

**From the Archives** - This history and others like it can be viewed at [www.suffolkaaarchives.com](http://www.suffolkaaarchives.com).

### **Patchogue Big Book, United Methodist Church, 80 S. Ocean Avenue, Patchogue**

I got sober in the Deer Park Group 3-2-83. By the following year, I had moved from North Babylon to Selden. One of the directions from my sponsor, Dennis M., was to attend two step meetings and one Big Book meeting a week - easy to do at that time in western Suffolk. In my new area, there was one Big Book meeting in Port Jefferson and one at the Cleary School in Ronkonkoma...that was it!

After a year in my new area, I guess it was about 1985, I saw in the meeting list a new meeting in Patchogue at the Four Sisters Community building. I began attending. It was started by Peggy P. from Sayville. It was small – Peggy, me, and a few regulars who were living in independent living situations placed in the town from the state hospital began to show up. Peggy brought the coffee pot and we sat and read the Big Book. She told me it was just a big book meeting and not a group. She told me she thought that someone would turn it into a group - someone like you she said.

After six months or maybe a bit longer, Peggy stopped showing up. Not seeing anyone there, but in the habit of going that direction on that meeting night, I went over to the nearby Blue Point Tradition group. The second Tuesday I was attending a woman sitting next to me began to speak of how she had gone to Patchogue earlier that evening and found the meeting was not open. A man was also looking for the meeting. She said with some concern she put the fellow in her car and drove to the nearest group. She said she felt the need to go back and keep that meeting going as it was listed in the meeting list but being a woman she felt concern about how she could do this. I then shared that I knew something of that meeting, had been attending myself, and would meet her there next Tuesday.

So it became Dave and Diane's Big Book meeting. One week she got a speaker and made coffee, the next was me. Turned out her dad was "Mike the Pipe" who had like 40 years at that time, she had seven, I had my two and a half. I recall one night a new guy came in. I asked him if he wanted to read a bit and maybe share. Turned out he had 33 years and had been a founding member of the Babylon Mid Island group, my very first A.A. meeting. Others began to show up regularly, some new guys were staying sober. I encouraged them to find home groups and sponsorship in other local groups.

One day, Rob, the sign man, walked up to me. He told me he had a year that month and was going to celebrate his anniversary there. I told him he couldn't, that it wasn't a group - just a meeting. He told me he could and was going to. He said I got sober here, this is where it happened. Again, there was only one thing to do. I went to Diane and said we have to have a business meeting and turn this into a group. We promptly did and The Patchogue Big Book Group began. Or did it begin that day in Blue Point or when Peggy P felt the need to read the book with others?

One defining moment was just before the group moved from Four Sisters into the Patchogue Methodist Church. My sponsor had come out to make a meeting with us. There were probably 20 in attendance. The secretary made announcements, including anniversaries in our group. Dennis poked me on the side and said isn't that amazing. I said what do you mean it's just announcements. He said a few years ago there was nothing here, see what God has done. My experience with the group lasted some seven years. I moved over to the East Moriches Group until I left Long Island.



### **FROM THE ARCHIVES CHAIR**

We all are aware of the Dr. William Silkworth, physician to Bill Wilson and author of the letter found in the Chapter of the Big Book entitled "The Doctors Opinion". Further into our studies we come across a reference to Dr. Carl Jung a prominent Swiss psychiatrist to whom Bill Wilson would correspond with in the sixties, his name notated on pages 26 and 27 of the Big Book. Who was Carl Jung and what was his role in the development of AA? According to our sources, Jung promoted the idea of "spirituality" as a cure for a chronic alcoholism. On page 27 of the Big Book Jung states that a "vital spiritual experience" might occur if one is to "cast to one side past ideas emotions and attitudes. His findings were based on his work with a patient named Rowland Hayword, who would in turn, introduce Ebby Thacher to the teachings of the Oxford Group, an assembly of people dedicated to the improvement of "self" Ebby would embrace these teachings and would in time, bring them to the attention of a suffering ,skeptical friend and alcoholic named Bill Wilson, rejoicing in his personal recovery from alcoholism based on the seemingly simple fact that "I have got religion". Eventually, this would open the door to the formation of AA and its reliance upon spirituality as a cure for Alcoholism. We learn these lessons simply by the mere fact that someone took the time to record these incidents.

Become part of the Archives. We meet on the fourth Monday of each month at eight pm At the SIA Meeting house located in Patchogue Come join us and have a Happy Thanksgiving.

**SUFFOLK INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION  
PROPOSED 2012 Operating Budget**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Actual YTD</b>	<b>2011 Projected</b>	<b>2011 Budget Total</b>	<b>2012 Budget Proposed</b>
Collections	\$ 702.00	\$ 936.00	\$ 740	\$ 1,000
Grapevine	\$ 1,395.10	\$ 1,860.13	\$ 1,020	\$ 1,820
Group Contributions	\$ 43,253.51	\$ 57,671.35	\$ 62,880	\$ 60,545
Literature	\$ 29,404.12	\$ 39,205.49	\$ 31,500	\$ 37,000
Miscellaneous	\$ 88.43	\$ 118	\$ 80	\$ 100
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 74,843.16</b>	<b>\$ 101,943.87</b>	<b>\$ 96,220.00</b>	<b>\$ 100,465.00</b>

**EXPENSES**

**Office**

Cablevision	\$ 696.51	\$ 928.68	\$ 840.00	\$ 840.00
Computer	\$ 659.49	\$ 879.32	\$ 600.00	\$ 800.00
Insurance	\$ 990.87	\$ 1,321.16	\$ 1,890.00	\$ 2,000.00
Leased Equipment	\$ 950.13	\$ 1,266.84	\$ 1,320.00	\$ 1,350.00
Maintenance	\$ 1,329.58	\$ 1,772.77	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 75.93	\$ 101.24	\$ 310.00	\$ 300.00
Officer Expense	\$ 415.05	\$ 553.40	\$ 550.00	\$ 500.00
Postage	\$ 290.13	\$ 386.84	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 600.00
Rent - Cleary School	\$ 420.00	\$ 560.00	\$ 630.00	\$ 630.00
Rent - Office	\$ 9,922.50	\$ 13,230.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,824.00
Supplies	\$ 1,381.04	\$ 1,841.39	\$ 1,220.00	\$ 1,800.00
Service Contracts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ -
Telephone	\$ 698.85	\$ 931.80	\$ 840.00	\$ 880.00
Utilities	\$ 3,917.97	\$ 5,223.96	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 5,066.00
<b>Total Office Expense</b>	<b>\$ 21,748.05</b>	<b>\$ 28,997.40</b>	<b>\$ 29,050.00</b>	<b>\$ 30,590.00</b>

**Committees**

Hot Line				
<b>Answering Service</b>			\$ -	
Telephone	\$ 803.30	\$ 1,071.07	\$ 960.00	\$ 1,020.00
Supplies	\$ 234.45	\$ 312.60	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
Bulletin	\$ 3,220.00	\$ 4,293.33	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,230.00
Meeting List	\$ 9,671.45	\$ 12,895.27	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 14,400.00
Archives	\$ 1,728.21	\$ 2,304.28	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,500.00
Big Meeting <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 1,214.83	\$ 1,619.77	\$ 1,400.00	\$ -
Bylaws	\$ 1,317.40	\$ 1,756.53	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,100.00
Conventions	\$ -	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 2,000.00
Grapevine	\$ 1,076.83	\$ 1,435.77	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,100.00
Corrections	\$ 934.00	\$ 1,245.33	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Literature	\$ 27,600.00	\$ 36,800.00	\$ 31,500.00	\$ 35,000.00
Public Information	\$ 29.73	\$ 39.64	\$ 700.00	\$ 500.00
Schools	\$ 20.00	\$ 26.67	\$ 40.00	\$ 100.00
Share-A-Thon	\$ 60.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 2,630.00	\$ 2,500.00
Special Events	\$ 264.91	\$ 353.21	\$ 600.00	\$ 700.00
Special Needs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Third Legacy	\$ 135.92	\$ 181.23	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Treatment Facilities	\$ 360.00	\$ 480.00	\$ 470.00	\$ 500.00
Webmaster	\$ 632.19	\$ 842.92	\$ 670.00	\$ 600.00
<b>Total Committee Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 49,303.22</b>	<b>\$ 67,437.63</b>	<b>\$ 67,170.00</b>	<b>\$ 69,850.00</b>
Gifts and tips	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ 25.00
Late Fees, Interest & Bank Charges	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -
Sales Taxes Paid	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Grand Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 71,181.27</b>	<b>\$ 96,560.03</b>	<b>\$ 96,220.00</b>	<b>\$ 100,465.00</b>

Note <sup>(1)</sup>: We host Big Meeting every other year - next hosting 2013.