



# Suffolk Intergroup Association

# Bulletin

January 2013

Volume 39 Number 9

## January Meetings

February 5<sup>th</sup> SIA Office  
7:30 PM SIA Officers' & Chairpersons' Meeting

February 6<sup>th</sup> SIA Office  
7:00 PM Archives  
\*\*Date has changed from 8pm on 4<sup>th</sup> Wed to  
7pm on 1<sup>st</sup> Wed

February 11<sup>th</sup>  
400 Sunrise Hwy, Amityville  
8:15 PM L.I.C.Y.P.A.A.

February 12<sup>th</sup> Cleary School for the Deaf,  
Ronkonkoma  
6:30 PM SIA Orientation  
6:30 PM Share-a-Thon  
7:30 PM SIA Meeting

February 19<sup>th</sup> SIA Office  
7:00 PM Public Information

February 15<sup>th</sup> Trinity Lutheran Church,  
Rocky Point  
8:00 PM SGS Meeting



### "Catchy Quotes"

"Spirituality – I started with nothing  
and I still have most of it left"

"T.I.M.E. = Things I Must Earn"

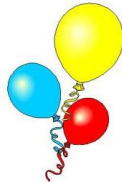
Please submit your "catchy quotes" to:  
bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org

### "The Bulletin"

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## THE STONY BROOK UNITY GROUP IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THEIR 13TH ANNUAL GROUP ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



PLEASE COME JOIN US:

**Date:** Saturday, January 26th  
**Time:** 6:00 PM – Buffet Supper  
7:00 PM – Speaker  
Followed by Dessert & Coffee  
**Place:** Temple Isaiah  
1404 Stony Brook Road  
Stony Brook, NY

**Step One** – We admitted we were powerless over alcohol – that our lives had become unmanageable.

**Tradition One** – Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.

**Concept One** – Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

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

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

#### OAKDALE SOUTH SHORE SERENITY GROUP

St. John's Episcopal Church  
1 Berard Blvd., Oakdale, NY 11769

The South Shore Serenity group began in August or September of 1983, so I was told that when I arrived there in the winter of 1984.

One Thursday night some friends and I went South Shore Serenity on Greeley Street. When we walked in the door, we were immediately taken by the hand by a rather forceful woman who sat us down, got us coffee and "suggested" we join the group. She was Marion S., who was something of the matriarch of the group. Marion had the attitude that you were going to get sober and she was going to help you and, by God, she'd hear no nonsense about it. A lot of the old-timers seemed to have shared that attitude. Marion had come from the Brentwood group, and was sober about 11 years when I met her, if memory serves. She later moved to Florida. She was one of those "legendary" sponsors who many of the women with 20+ years still talk about. There seem to have been several of them up in Brentwood-Commack- Northport area. I still see a quite a few of the women Marion sponsored, still sober.

We met in the Senior Citizen Center section of the old Sayville Junior High School, in a large modern classroom that had been fitted out with various sized tables, chairs and couches. South Shore was a "candlelight" meeting, meaning that there were candles on the tables and the lights were dimmed. A comfortable atmosphere for a bunch of people used to hanging out in bars! I think a lot of people shared more than they would have if they'd been in bright light. South Shore kept the candle tradition for years, one of the last of the candle light meetings. We only relinquished it in the late eighties when "Little Mike K." joined the group and the candle smoke aggravated his emphysema, it couldn't take the smoke.

A couple of years after I joined the group, we ran into a problem with our landlord. The Senior Citizens had a problem with us meeting in "their" area, and began to file complaints about us with the town. I had to go to the town hall to discuss the situation with the Commissioner of Senior Services and was presented with a pile of complaints, a couple of inches thick, accusing us of causing every ill in the world from bad breath to the kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby. I could see that we would not be meeting in the Senior Center much longer, and sure enough, we were soon "asked" to leave.

However, we didn't move far. We left the back of the building, which housed the Senior Center, and moved to the front, which was run by Parks and Recreation. This meant we were meeting in a much more public area. Some members, fearful for their anonymity, left for other groups. On the positive side, we were able to go from one room to two rooms and one night to two nights. We added a Step meeting and a Beginners meeting. We also launched a women's meeting, but it never really took off. We stayed in the front of the building until it was sold back to the Sayville Board of Education and they put us out (along with all the other groups that rented space there).

Somewhere during this period, some of the group decided to split. The majority stayed in the front of the building, and the minority moved to the back, forming "Oldies but Goodies". Both groups managed to survive.

During the late Nineties, attendance dwindled, and we went from four meetings a week to three and eventually to two; one each on Tuesday and Thursday. When the school board tossed everyone out of the Greeley Avenue building, we found our new home at St. John's. And we're still there!

Member Brian C.  
May 2007

***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.***



**From the Big Meeting Committee Chair**

**Singing to the Choir**

*Remaining Teachable - What Can I Learn About Myself Through Service Outside the Group* was the topic of the 2012 Big Meeting held November 10 at the True North Church. How difficult it is to get people to attend a meeting when the subject is service. We hear that those who show up at service events are *AA junkies* or we are *preaching to the choir* - but no matter how you look at it, those of us who perform service outside the group level understand why we do what we do, and more importantly, how we change from it. We experience the deepening of our recovery and the increase of our commitment to AA and our sobriety. It was wonderful to see the number of people that are not "*members of the choir*" or *AA service geeks* in attendance and I would like to thank all those sponsors who brought their sponsees to a service event.

Our current Suffolk General Service District Committee Member Chair Rob M. addressed the meeting. He spoke of his experience in service, directly of the last two years as DCMC and the feelings about his upcoming rotation out of service and the void it will leave in his life. Thanks Rob for your past, present and future commitment to service.

There were three wonderful speakers - Steve G. (member of the Gunhill Group, Bronx) the sitting SENY Area Treasurer and SENY Area Chairman Elect, Greg S. (member of Longwood Love and Service, Ridge) GSR (past), Alternate DCM (past) and Suffolk General Service Web Chair (past), and Rick W. (member of the Forest Hills, Queens group Prayers, Promises, Warnings & Actions Group), Queens County General Services DCMC-Elect, Website Standing Committee Chair (QCGS), GSR (past) and this year's Bill W. Anniversary Dinner Speaker. Each of them shared their experience, strength and hope with the audience and spoke directly to what a person can learn about themselves doing service outside the group. Some of the topics touched on: identifying our individual commitment to AA, money and spirituality, learning to make informed decisions, learning from the minority opinion, how we have to be careful not to let service be a self-promoting action (read that "*EGO inflator*") and seeing first-hand the benefit of service commitments. During the post meeting fellowship I even heard that a new member inquired whether there was a GSR position open in his home group!!

We had a special guest appearance by *Ernestine* who took the commitment of the Hotline (for those of us old enough to remember the nosy, self-centered Ma Bell telephone operator!) and added quite a few laughs in the spirit of *not a glum lot*. Thank you Marilyn for your service through humor!

A special thanks to everyone who pitched in; especially the Big Meeting Committee and its work in making this event a success!

To those of you who missed the Big Meeting this year – be advised there are open auditions for the CHOIR!!!

Gratefully in service,

Cindy S.

Big Meeting Committee Chair

**FROM THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE**

Would you like to learn about the history of AA in Suffolk County?

The SIA Archive Committee is looking for AA members to join us to preserve our history and carry the AA message.

We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month from 7:00-8:30pm at the SIA Office, 113 Bay Avenue in Patchogue. Questions? Contact Cyndy at [archives@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:archives@suffolkny-aa.org)

Are you interested in writing something for the **Bulletin**?

Do you wish to share your experience, strength, and hope with others?

Is your Home Group having an event you'd like announced?

If so, please email [bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org)

*Please note:  
All submissions must be emailed by the 25th of the previous month.*

Beginning Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> the **Brookhaven Women's Group Step Meeting** will be starting at 6:30pm (instead of 6:45pm) and ending at 7:45pm (instead of 8:00pm) because we are starting a *new* Big Book Meeting from 8:00pm to 9:00pm on Tuesdays.

**SIA Officers & Chair people 2012-2013**  
**631-654-1150 [www.suffolkny-aa.org](http://www.suffolkny-aa.org)**

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**Committee Chairs**

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**FROM THE TREASURER**

Thank you so much for your group contributions to Suffolk Intergroup Association. Your contributions help *Carry the Message* in so many ways!

Please include your group's name and town as it appears in the meeting list along with your group mailing address when submitting your contribution.

Vikki B., Treasurer

***Please note:***

Inclusion of articles and announcements in The Bulletin does not constitute AA endorsement. Rather, members of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous have been encouraged to share their experience, strength and hope through this humble publication. Opinions expressed are those of the writer unless otherwise noted. Suffolk Intergroup Association makes these announcements solely as a service to the reader, not as an endorsement.

From: Mon. AM Office Volunteer  
To: Michael F., Office Manager  
Subject: Salary and Fringe Benefits

Michael, I saw in my evaluation report that I didn't get a raise in salary. At first I was disappointed, until I reviewed my benefit package; which consists of the following:

1. A tremendous abundance of God's Grace=Quality Sobriety.
2. The opportunity to assist newcomers and returnees.
3. To come into personal contact with other members of AA.
4. The honor and privilege of learning more about AA.
5. To be able to assist people with AA meetings.
6. To view the abundance of AA Literature that we have on hand and able to assist people with their questions and purchases.
7. To be able to assist callers and visitors with inquiries as to what services are available.
8. To assist anyone looking for an AA meeting.
9. To be of service to Suffolk Intergroup Association of AA.
10. To have the honor and privilege to meet and be in contact with other people that are part of this God-given program and fellowship; to witness and watch their unselfish dedication to service to others.

I could go on but I'll stop for now.  
Forget the salary raise, just let me retain my benefit package.

With sincere gratitude,  
Mike McA.