



The Suffolk Intergroup

BULLETIN

Volume 41, Number 6

OCTOBER 2014

OUTSIDE ISSUES



Writing on Tradition 10 in the September 1948 Grapevine, Bill said:

To most of us, Alcoholics Anonymous has become as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar. We like to believe that it will soon be as well known and just as enduring as that historic landmark. We enjoy this pleasant conviction because nothing has yet occurred to disturb it; we reason that we must hang together or die. Hence we take for granted our continued unity as a movement.

But should we? Though God has bestowed upon us great favors, and though we are bound by stronger ties of love and necessity than most societies, is it prudent to suppose that automatically these great gifts and attributes shall be ours forever. If we are worthy, we shall probably continue to enjoy them. So the real question is, how shall we always be worthy of our present blessings?

Seen from this point of view, our A.A. Traditions are those attitudes and practices by which we may deserve, as a movement, a long life and a useful one. To this end, none could be more vital than our 10th Tradition, for it deals with the subject of controversy -- serious controversy.

By not expressing opinions on "outside issues," AA hopes to avoid con-

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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.



ViewPoints: The Preamble; A History

THE PREAMBLE was introduced in the June 1947 issue of the AA Grapevine magazine. It was written by the then-editor, who borrowed much of the phrasing from the Foreword to the original edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

In those early years, the Grapevine had just begun to circulate among non-alcoholics, and the Preamble was intended primarily to describe for them what AA is and is not. It is still often used for public information purposes.

As time passed, it began appearing in all Conference-approved publications, and many AA groups now use it to open meetings.

The original version differed in two ways from the familiar form we all know:

- 1) It stated that the only requirement for membership is an *honest* desire to stop drinking," and
- 2) It contained only the very brief statement

"AA has no dues or fees."

People often ask why the word "honest" was deleted. At the 1958 General Service Conference, a delegate asked about the words "honest desire to stop drinking," suggesting that since "honest" does not appear in the Third Tradition, it might be deleted from the Preamble. In discussion, most Conference members felt that as AA had matured, it had become almost impossible to determine what constitutes an honest desire to stop drinking, and also that some who might be interested in the program could be confused by the

phrase. Thus, as part of the evolution of AA, the phrase had been dropped from common usage. The midsummer 1958 meeting of the General Service Board of Trustees ratified

the deletion, and since then the Preamble has read simply "a desire to stop drinking."

At the same time, the

phrase "AA has no dues or fees" was clarified to read as it presently does: "There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions."

The current version of the Preamble appears on page one of every issue of the Grapevine.

When reprinted, the Preamble should carry the following credit line:

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***These highlights
of the history of
AA's Preamble
were suggested
for reprinting in
the Bulletin by
Kevin C. and the
Third Legacy
Committee***

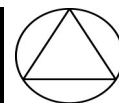
The AA

PREAMBLE

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.

AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.



My Family of Alcoholics

I was blessed enough to find the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous through my husband. He was 12 stepped by a guy and his wife who were sober for a while but had not gone to meetings in a long time. They knew enough that my guy needed a meeting and they each drove him to his first weeks of meetings.

A few years later, my brother found sobriety. He was 19 at the time and his life was out of control. George was a crazy, dedicated member of this fellowship who 12 stepped everyone he met, even starting meetings in New York City and Long Island, namely the Oak Beach meeting. He was one of the first founders of the Young People's group. After that, my sister's husband found it necessary to have an intervention for her drinking. I was a dedicated member of Alanon at the time, so was asked to fly with her out to her rehab.

Unfortunately, I was trying to control my drinking for many years. You all know what that is like, right? At an emotional and spiritual bottom, I came to believe that I, too, had this problem. I came to my

first AA meeting in January, 1991. It was the first time I admitted that I had this disease. It wasn't them, it wasn't my family of origin, it was ME! The moment of clarity came slowly to me. I had all these examples of people getting sober around me. I wasn't "the identified patient", they were really bad and needed AA. But my HP had other plans for me and guided me into this wonderful life through my family members.

Thanks to those that came before me, especially my husband, brother, sister and the sponsors who gently guided me along in this journey, I have seen how this disease can help a family together and encourage each other to keep sober.

Since then, our son and two nephews have found their way into this wonderful fellowship. Another sister never made it and died two years ago. Are we arresting the disease in our family? Maybe, but it's for those who want it.

For the other members of my family, I can hopefully be a walking copy of that Big Book we so love and never stop reaching out my hand to anyone who wants to share this gift!

Barbara B. — Twelve Steps of Hope

Tradition Ten

(Continued from page 1)

trovery, both publically and within the Fellowship itself. This policy also helps members keep the focus on their common purpose.

As AA's Preamble says, "AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution. It does not engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes".

If this Tradition is followed, it works to keep the

Fellowship as a whole from engaging in public controversy, but the principle can also be applied to "all the affairs" of individual members. For example, if AA members apply this principle to our lives then someone else's recovery -- or more importantly, lack of recovery -- becomes an outside issue, allowing us to "detach" from the problems of others and focus on our own recovery. We can further apply this principle to the emotional recovery of family members and others in our lives. It is sometimes necessary to "step over the bodies", applying the Tenth Tradition in our private lives.



Group History of the Month

BAY SHORE JANE DOE'S GROUP

The Jane Does Group was started by Peggy S. and Anna D. Anna lived across the street from a rabbi and it was through this connection that the group first met at the Jewish Temple. Sometimes the ladies of the Temple needed the Jane Doe's meeting room which sent the JD's scrambling to the nearest Burger King for a make-shift meeting. Over time, this happened at an increased rate. This shuffling around became disruptive, especially for newcomers, so Peggy approached Father Fagan at St. Patrick's Church. He agreed to let the group move in. The Rabbi was thanked for his support and the parting was amicable.

Two weeks after the move the Jewish Temple burned down!



Home for Dinner

It started out as a Big Book Meeting and also a 12 Step Meeting. We'd read a paragraph at a time, share about it until no one had any further questions. Then we'd go to the next paragraph, instead of reading right through, where you might miss some of the nuances. By reading a paragraph at a time, it really dissected the Steps. That was the idea."

My sponsor used to say when I called and told him I was at the meeting again and nobody showed up today, "Did you drink or drug today?" I'd say, "No." He would say, "You never had it so good." In July, I will be 16 years sober. I went through a very tough divorce in 2004. My sponsor helped save me by walking me through a hard time. Mark M. 2007



A NOTE ON HISTORIES

The observant reader will have noticed that there are three group histories in the Bulletin this month. This is because they are short. The Archives committee could use your help in adding to these and many other histories. You need not be the founder of your group to help out. Much of our history in Suffolk County will be lost without your help. Why not contact the Archives Committee and help with this important work .



WEST ISLIP GROUP

According to some this group was started by Louie Y., a former pilot, a tall, bald headed fellow. His sponsor was Randy the Marine from Boston who got sober in 1965. He'd been a low bottom drunk, homeless on the New York City streets for years. He helped many people. However the original contact form for Alcoholics Anonymous World Services lists Lauretta B. and Louise B. as the original contact for West Islip. The group was registered November 20, 1970

Originally, they had a doctor and nurse present who would give Vitamin B-12 injections before every Tuesday meeting. They first met at the Church of Christ but later moved because, although the new pastor wanted the group, the Church board asked for a rate increase beyond what they could afford. It was a shame, said one member, as the church was in a great location right on Montauk Highway with a large parking lot. According to the Suffolk County meeting list the group was settled into its present home, Our Lady of Consolation Nursing Home as of February 2000.

The Tenth Step

The most precise description of the Tenth Step is found in the *Big Book* of Alcoholics Anonymous which states:

"Continue to watch for selfishness, dishonesty, resentment, and fear (4th Step). When these crop up (6th Step), we ask God at once to remove them (7th Step). We discuss them with someone immediately (5th Step) and make amends quickly (9th Step) if we have harmed anyone (8th Step). Then we resolutely turn our thoughts to someone we can help. Love and tolerance of others is our code. (Emphasis and parenthetical annotations supplied)

There are two critically important aspects to these instructions: First, it is clear that the purpose of the 10th Step is to incorporate into our daily lives that which has been learned in working the Fourth through Ninth Steps. As above noted, the directions include ongoing inventory, consultation with trusted advisers, identification and treatment of character defects, and making amends for harms done. Second, "progress not perfection" pro-

vides the framework from which the 10th Step is practiced. Notice that the language of both the step itself and the ensuing instructions anticipate future setbacks: "when we were wrong" and "when (as opposed to 'if') these [character defects] crop up". As such, while the spirit of the Tenth Step involves the turning of one's intention toward certain virtues and ideals and acting along those lines as best we can, there must remain an understanding that attaining spiritual perfection is highly unlikely, if not impossible. And yet transformative *spiritual progress* which borders on the miraculous *is* to be expected at this point in the recovery process.

Ultimately, the work of the 10th Step provides a bulwark against the reaccumulation of resentments, self-pity, shame and irrational fears. Recovery may only be preserved and enhanced with vigilance and persistent effort. The temptation to rely on the work already done — though it has been significant and undoubtedly beneficial — must be avoided if happiness, joy, and freedom are to persist.

From "The Tao of Recovery"



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The Bulletin

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Please note:

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

Brian C., Editor

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Next Up on the HotLine:

October Commitments

10/5 - 11 Bob P., District 220 Mt Sinai AM

10/12 - 18 Matt G., District 90 Blue Point

10/19-25 Jeff A District 230

We Are Responsible Port Jeff Station

10/26-11/1 John K District 30 Northport Trinity
and Fort Salonga Workshop

Thanks to September's volunteers:

Rich W District 250
Outstanding Sobriety, Westhampton Beach
Ron District 50
Pat District 270
East end groups
Bob L District 40
Cold Spring Harbor groups

November Meetings

Archives Committee: 11/5/2014 8:00 PM SIA Office

Institutions Committee: 11/19/2014 7:00 PM SIA Office

Public Information Committee:
11/18/2014 7:00 PM SIA Office

SIA Monthly Business Meeting:
11/11/2014 Cleary School
Ronkonkoma

6:30 PM New Group Rep Orientation

6:30 PM Share-a-Thon

7:30 PM Intergroup Meeting

SIA Officers & Chairs: 11/4/2014 7:00 PM SIA Office

Suffolk General Service: 11/21/2014 8:00 PM
True North Community Church,
Lakeland Ave., Bohemia

Third Legacy Committee: 11/25/2014 7:30 PM SIA Office



ANNOUNCEMENTS



I went to AA once...no one was there!

Ten years ago, the meeting list was filled with meetings that no longer existed. In order that this situation not happen again, every group is required to contact SIA once each year to let us know you are still in existence. The deadline for contact is October 1st. If we have not heard from you, your group will be dropped from the meeting list. Don't let this happen: contact the Intergroup office, update your group information, stay listed

The Suffolk Intergroup Public Information Committee

Presents

Speaking at Non -A.A. Functions

Sunday December 7 2014, from 12pm - 2pm

Learn how to present AA to schools and the Professional Community. This presentation will take place at the SIA Office at 113-8 Bay Avenue Patchogue. It is suggested that you have 2 years of continuous sobriety.

This workshop is limited to 25 people. Please contact the PI/CPC Chairperson by email Pubinfo@suffolkny-aa.org to reserve your spot. Refreshments will be provided.

Young people in A.A. are strongly encouraged to attend!! Help us get the message out there to the next sick and suffering alcoholic. Attending the public speaking seminar is REQUIRED for those who wish to speak at schools or to non-AA groups.

The Freedom To Live Group

of Smithtown, meeting on Wednesdays at 12:30, wishes to clarify their meeting list entry: They are a women's group, but they are not handicapped accessible. They have a ramp and elevator, but no bathroom accommodations for a wheelchair.



Write us and tell us what you think of, well, pretty much anything A.A. related. We'd like to make the Bulletin the voice of the members of A.A. in Suffolk County. This means YOU! Tell us what we're doing right; tell us what we're doing wrong; share your experience with others.

ANNOUNCING A NEW MEETING

"11th Step Meditation"

Presbyterian Church

South Country and Beaver Dam Rds.

Brookhaven

6:30 PM Thursday Nights



Suffolk County InterGroup
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
THREE LEGACIES
ANNUAL SHARE-A-THON
Unity Service Recovery

DATE: SUNDAY-OCTOBER 12, 2014

TIME: 9:00AM-4:30PM

LOCATION
ST. JOSEPHSCOLLEGE
Waverly Ave
Exit 51 Sunrise Highway
PATCHOGUE, NEWYORK

Friends old and new
Food for your tummy too
Workshops we can all use
Memories you'll never lose

So Mark Your Calendar & Spread The Word...

So We can Spread The Joy!!!!!!

AA Workshops ... Yoga & Meditation ... L.I.C.Y.P.A.A.
Handicapped Accessible – Spanish Speaking-Alanon
Old Timers - Young People - Gay/Lesbian meetings and lots more