



The Suffolk Intergroup

BULLETIN

Volume 41, Number 12

April 2015

SPRING COLOR ISSUE

MEMBERS ART ON THE THEME OF

“SPRING/REBIRTH”





ViewPoints: HOTLINE FAQ

...or everything you never wanted to know about the Hotline and didn't want to ask

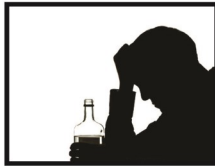
It has been suggested to me that perhaps the reason AAs do not volunteer to answer the Hotline is because they don't know enough about what is expected in that commitment.

Here are answers to some of the questions I have heard asked:

1. Where do I have to go to answer the Hotline? . You can answer the Hotline in the comfort of your own home. The Hotline number is forwarded to your cell phone or landline at the beginning of your shift. We do ask that you try to stick close to home during your 12 hour shift.
2. How do I know what to do? Everything you need to know is found in "The 12 Step Book". There are step- by-step directions from how to answer the phone in a pleasant and courteous way, how to direct people to appropriate help, etc. There are phone numbers for Al Anon, Cocaine Anonymous, various area Hotlines, rehabs, detoxes, etc. Most of all you ever need to know about services in recovery are all handed to you in "The 12 Step Book."
3. What if I don't know how to help someone? That's what "The 12 Step Book" is for. There are about 1500 names of sober alcoholics in there who are willing to be of service. All you have to do is connect a sick and suffering alcoholic with an alcoholic in recovery. That person will do all the heavy lifting!
4. Do I have to be able to drive? No. You can be at home. If someone needs 12 Step work done, you will be the facilitator, not the 12 Stepper. You will call someone from the appropriate area to determine

SIA HOT LINE

Humility is not Humiliation



Pick up the phone
before you pick up
the drink.

"Our common means of deliverance are effective for ourselves only when constantly carried to others."



"The fact is that he should work with other people to maintain his own sobriety."

631.669.1124

Humility is Humanity



True happiness is
found in service.

upon the number of groups in your district and the interest level/ willingness of groups to participate, your group could be tapped every couple of years.

8. Is there any way I can help now? Sign up to be the Phone

the course of action. Actually, you have the easier job!

5. I hear there's a pervert who calls. What about him? My simple answer is "Hang up!" There are whistles attached to each of "The 12 Step Books" if you are completely grossed out just blow. That should make his ears ring for a while. If he leaves messages don't listen to them; erase them ASAP. I have to believe the discomfort I may feel dealing with the pervert is overshadowed by the thought that I am helping another alcoholic with not drinking (and while you are at it- read the top of pg. 67 in the Big Book.).

6. Why does this have to be a 12 hour shift? It is very difficult to get anyone to do any shift at all. We need 14 people for a week's service commitment. Imagine trying to get 28 people for 6 hour shifts! Someone calculated the time commitment for the Hotline spread over a year, it comes down to 1/700 of the year. I think I am getting off easy for what AA has given me. But hey- that's me!

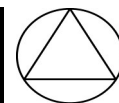
7. How often are you going to expect me to do this? Suffolk Hotline is divided into 16 phone districts. Each district is composed of many local AA groups. The Hotline rotates throughout Suffolk County week by week. So your district is eligible for Hotline duty every 16 weeks (approximately 4 times a year). All groups should be asked to offer their services- some are not interested. Depending

Contact person for your individual group. All you have to do is get up to 14 of your group members to sign up for a 12 hour shift during the week of your Hotline duty. Your Area Phone Captain will contact you with all the information you need 2 or 3 weeks prior to your "tour of duty." Minimal work for maximum rewards.

9. Who is my Area Phone Captain? How do I contact him/ her? Your SIA rep has a list of all the Area Phone Captains and contact info for each one. If not, contact the SIA office.
10. What do I get out of this commitment? Sobriety! "God- moments". Gratitude. Patience. Tolerance. Love. Amazement.

This is my experience: I received a Hotline contact from a woman wanting information about a beginners' meeting on a Saturday at St Charles Hospital. She said she was brand-new to AA, and really wanted to stop drinking. Saturday was four days away so I told her I would meet her at a local meeting the next morning if she were interested. She jumped at the chance. She showed up; she got a sponsor; she got a commitment and, on February 16th, she celebrated one year as a sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous. That is how it works! THAT is what you can get out of a mere 12 hours of service every couple of years. Who has it better than we?

Dolores K. Steps to Life



Group History of the Month

Babylon Big Book

It's been said that all you need to start a meeting is resentment and a coffee pot! For some time before this group started, there has been a discussion among some members of the Deer Park Group about starting another group. It was a long process with much discussion, prayer and many "coincidences" that have been a part of this group's beginnings-and we are still beginning. Although we thought there was a need for a Big Book meeting in the Babylon area, there did not appear to be an available location, until someone suggested to Linda C. that Christ Episcopal Church was looking to have an Alcoholics Anonymous group meet there. So with some misgivings, Linda contacted the Church's pastor, Rev. Jeffrey Reichmann, and arranged to meet with him.

Among those who met with the pastor were George F., Bob S., Linda C. and a few others. We talked with the pastor about our needs and their concerns, since they had never had an A.A. group there before. Rev. Reichmann let us know that they received \$100.00 a night for use of their room, which was well beyond our means. We had asked other groups in the area what they paid in rent and let him know that most groups paid about \$50 a month, but as a new group starting out, we hoped to be able to pay \$25 in the beginning and would work to increase our payments to \$50 a month. Now it was the pastor who appeared concerned, but said that any agreement would be subject to the Church's Board's approval. As we were leaving, somewhat disheartened over the financ-

es, Rev. Reichmann grew thoughtful and said "I've always thought that there was something wrong with a church that didn't have an A.A. meeting in its basement". Prophetic words!

On December 8, 1998 we held our first meeting with our borrowed coffee pot from Bob S's office. Dennis Mc C. spoke on the Preface and Forwards from the Big Book. Among the 16 who attended was Kevin S. (Treasurer), Linda C. (Chair), Bob S. (Coffee Maker), Hank B., Ed C., George M., Freddy K., (Secretary), Bobby and Tommy. The collection was \$93. It was decided that we would meet on Tuesday's at 7:30 for a Big Book meeting and the last Tuesday of the month would be an open meeting. Carolyn S. was also involved in forming the group and Bob S. was an early member. Jay L. also attended.

In October 2005, a bad storm severely damaged our meeting place. By that time additional A.A. and other recovery groups were also meeting there. Our group was able to make temporary arrangements to meet at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Babylon.

For several months, we kept our meeting supplies in member's car trunks. When the repairs were completed at Christ Episcopal Church, not all of the A.A. Groups were invited back. After a few conversations with Church Board members, we returned

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The Archives Committee is always looking for volunteers to help save our Alcoholics Anonymous history.

Contact the SIA Office at 654-1150.

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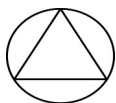
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The Bulletin

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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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HotLine April Commitments

4/5—4/11 Area 270 Pat McK
Amagansett Men's Meeting
Sag Harbor Spiritual Solutions

4/12-4/18 Area 250 Rich W
Hampton Bays Morning Miracles

4/19-4/25 Area 220 Bob P

4/26-5/2 Area 90 Matt G

Thanks to March's volunteers:

Area 210 Willie Riverhead groups

Area 70 Mike M
Serenity at 7; 12 Steps of Hope

Area 50 Ron A West Islip; Good Sobriety

Area 100 Dave Centereach Open Door

May Meetings

Archives Committee: Check with SIA Office

Institutions Committee: 5/20/2015 7:00 PM SIA Office

Public Information Committee: 5/19/2015 7:00 PM SIA Office

SIA Monthly Business Meeting: 5/5/2015

True North Community Church,
Lakeland Ave., Bohemia

7:00 PM New Group Rep Orientation

7:00 PM Share-a-Thon

8:00 PM Intergroup Meeting

SIA Officers & Chairs: 5/26/2015 7:00 PM SIA Office

Suffolk General Service: 5/15/2015 8:00 PM

True North Community Church,
Lakeland Ave., Bohemia

Special Events: 5/5/2015 7:00 PM

True North Community Church,
Lakeland Ave., Bohemia

Third Legacy Committee: 5/26/2014 7:30 PM SIA Office



ANNOUNCEMENTS

A New Meeting

A Vision For You

Step Meeting

Friday 8:00 P.M.

First Baptist Church

175 Second Ave

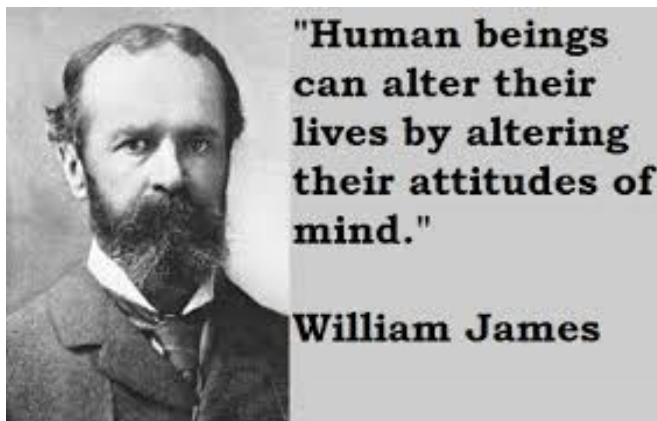
Bay Shore



The Bulletin staff would like to know 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.

FREE OFFER!

We would like to email you your own copy of the Bulletin! Please send your email address to bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org and include "Send me my copy" in the body of the message.



Alter your attitude: do service.

Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

80th Anniversary



REFERRING TO THE DATE NOW CITED AS THE DAY ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WAS FOUNDED: Dr. Bob's sobriety date, Bill W. writes:

"During this bender he hit bottom never to drink again, dating from June 10, 1935."

Sunday, June 28, 2015

1:00 - 3:00pm

New York Hilton Hotel

1335 Avenue of the Americas (Between 53-54)
New York, NY 10019 • Grand Ballroom 3rd Floor

Hosted By Staten Island ~ Andy V., Chairperson

~ Nominations forms currently being accepted for Guest Speakers ~

- ❖ **Three Speaker Meeting** (*Seventh Tradition collection will be taken*).
- ❖ **The meeting will be interpreted for the Deaf.**
- ❖ **There will be simultaneous English to Spanish translation.**

Please contact the New York Inter-Group office for more information
bigmeetinginfo@nyintergroup.org • www.nyintergroup.org
307 Seventh Avenue • Suite 201 • New York, NY 10001
(212) 647-1680 • (914) 949-1200 • Fax (212) 647-1648



Group History

(Continued from page 3)

in March 2006. It was good to be home, but we again lost some members who had found other meetings in the interim.

Since the group was not holding regular formal business meetings, we also stopped rotating commitments. Eventually, some of the members felt that the quality of our meetings had begun to deteriorate and some even left the group. A.A. newcomers who were still counting days were regularly asked to lead meetings though they had little experience, strength or hope to share on that Night's Big Book topic. After one such meeting in November 2009, two group members decided that a business meeting might be a good idea and it was scheduled for December 15th, 2009 after our regular meeting. It was announced at our interim meetings to the amusement of some, but also resulted in a few more people deciding to join the group.

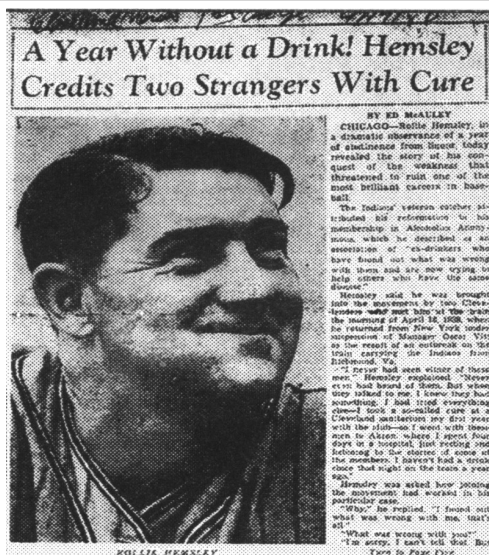
That night, another dissatisfied group member walked out during the poorly led Big Book meeting, but was persuaded to come back and stay for the business meeting, which seven people attended. Although the business meeting could have easily turned into an angry finger pointing session, it was something of a group inventory as well as a business meeting. New group officers were selected, monthly business meetings were brought back to be held on the third Tuesday of the month, and the last Tuesday of the month is again an open meeting.

Although there is a new energy in our group, we are still a work in progress. We were again reminded that our group will continue to exist only for as long as the Higher Power has use for us.

Linda C. January 2010

To the Right:

AA's first anonymity break came in 1940. Often forgotten is that Rollie was one of AA's first 100 members and died sober in 1972.



AA History:

Anonymity Breaks

In a sport known just as much for two-fisted drinking as it is for peanuts and Cracker Jacks, there was no one more two-fisted than Rollie H. So great was his propensity for the high-life that he came to be known as "Rollicking Rollie". Although he was a superb catcher, his alcohol-fueled escapades kept him sidelined on the bench or in front of a judge's bench. However talented he was as a ballplayer, his unreliability eventually ended in his being traded from team to team. In 1939 he ended up playing for the Cleveland Indians. That trade would save his life.

Who knows when that magic will happen and the alcoholic reaches his moment of truth? In Rollie's case, it wasn't his manager's ire or his wife's entreaties to stop drinking or even the possibility of being banished from playing the sport he was so good at. The spark came from the daughter he loved. The realization hit him one day like a misguided fastball that maybe his drinking was hurting her. He asked his general manager for help. That same general manager had recently heard about a new organization called Alcoholics Anonymous, which had a strong base in Cleveland. Under an alias, Rollie was admitted to a hospital for drying out. His doctor was Bob Smith.

A year later a very sober, totally refurbished Rollie made headlines when he caught a no-hitter pitched by future Hall of Famer Bob Feller. He not only caught the game but hit a triple which led to the game's only run in a 1-0 squeaker. Baseball writers who once reveled in reporting the stories of Rollie's latest antics, were quick to question him about his miraculous reformation. In what would have very long term ramifications, Rollie gave full credit to Alcoholics Anonymous. This made headlines nationwide. It was A.A.'s first anonymity break.

Not to be outdone, Bill W. took it upon himself to go on his own barnstorming tour, telling everyone who could type a news story that he was the founder of Alcoholics Anonymous. He figured if some ballplayer could get away with this, why couldn't he? When the dust settled in a few years, the reality of the ego-driven tear he was on hit home. Out of all of this came the rudiments of the Twelve Traditions. Originally these appeared as series of essays in the Grapevine. The Fellowship adopted them and in 1953 they were given their own forum in our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book.

As baseball season starts and the first pitch is tossed, keep an eye on that catcher. Those signals he is relaying may mean pitch high and inside or he may be telling his sponsor watching that he is ready to do his 5th Step.

Bob R., Archivist Emeritus



Suffolk Intergroup Association (S.I.A.)
Special Events Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous

Presents

The 2015 Spring Sobriety Dance
Saturday May 9th from 6-10pm

@

Silo Community Center.
2111 Lakeland Ave.
(The cross street is Ocean Ave.)
Ronkonkoma NY 11779

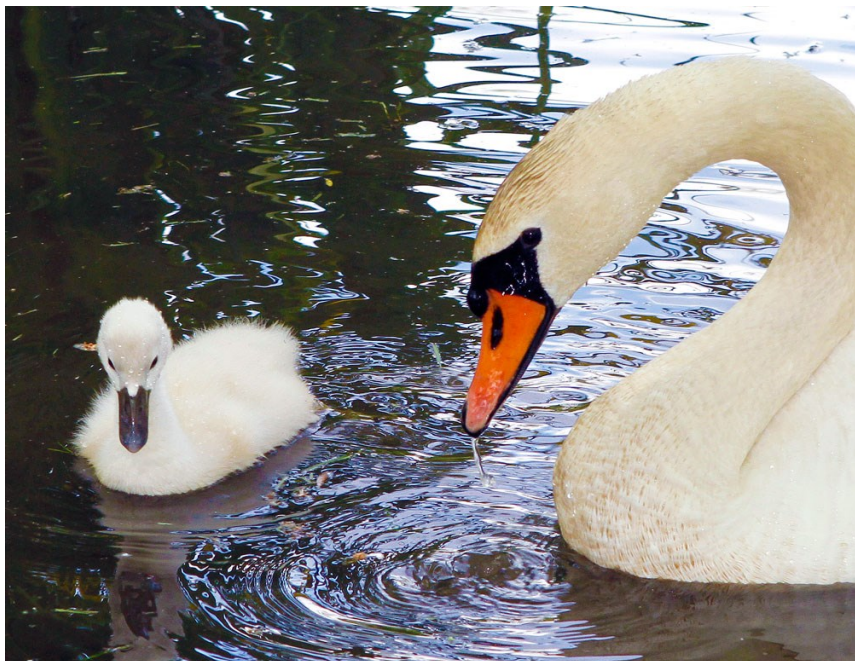
Open Speaker Meeting @6:30pm

Music by DJ Matty Jr

Food and Dancing

Service Opportunities will be available.

Email specevent@suffolkny-aa.org or Call The S.I.A Office 631-654-1150



CREDITS

Front Cover:

"AA Spring" - Bob A., Bayport Middle Road

"Flowers" - Russ M., Sag Harbor Friday Fellowship

"Field w/ Trees" - Jessica M.

Back Cover:

"Sunflower Field" - Jessica M.

"Cygnet" - Russ M., Sag Harbor Friday Fellowship

"Stained Glass" - Caryn R, Blue Point Traditions

"Daffodil" - Russ M., Sag Harbor Friday Fellowship

"Lily" - Russ M., Sag Harbor Friday Fellowship





Russ M., Sag Harbor Friday Fellowship



Jessica M.



Bob A., Bayport Middle Road



Jessica M.



Russ M., Sag Harbor Friday Fellowship



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Russ M., Sag Harbor Friday Fellowship



Russ M., Sag Harbor Friday Fellowship



Jessica M.



Caryn R, Blue Point Traditions