

BULLETIN

THE PROMISES



I thank my Higher Power and AA for my sobriety. It was a long time coming. It's probably the greatest blessing in my life. Without it, I might be dead.

I saw how distraught, how ruined, a fellow AA, who was drunk at a meeting, and had previously had some sobriety, looked. It was hard for me to be compassionate, but it was hard not to be. I was of mixed emotions, probably more mad than sad. But, today in prayer and meditation, I remembered how hard it was, how long it took, to stop drinking. I remembered that it was divine intervention. I struggled for so long. I wanted to stop but couldn't. When I remembered these things I thought, but for the grace of God go I.

I remembered or realized that going back to drinking is like going back to hell. It's going back to a certain slavery which is sheer torture and definite pain. I'm glad I was a witness to what I saw, not because I wish my friend hardship, but because the anguish I felt watching her, listening to her, reminded me of how it was for me.

A drink, however pleasant it started out, almost always led to a bereavement of some kind, in spirit, mind or body. I'm freed from that today. I need not be afraid if I don't take that first drink. I was afraid when I saw my friend in that state. The fear told me that can happen to me. My experience, strength and hope told me it doesn't have to happen.

I can remain in sobriety if I remain in AA, coming to meetings, working the steps, keeping my mind and heart open to the promptings of my Higher Power, and by loving. Loving the still sick and suffering, not being afraid of them, but embracing them in my thoughts and prayers, and doing 12 step work to the best of my ability.

God Bless the still sick and suffering inside and outside of AA.

Joanne D, Old Time AA

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Intergroup Information/ July
Meetings
Page 5

The Promises

Page 1

Monthly Group History
Page 3

AA's 80th Birthday Party
Page 2

Announcements
Page 6, 8

Why Must We Pay?

Page 7

Archives Oddities
Page 7

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Mary K.
Lake Grove



Happy Anniversary

The 2015 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held July 2 - 5, 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia with the theme "80 Years - Happy, Joyous and Free." A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.'s 80th year with Big Meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning in the Georgia Dome. Other meetings, scheduled or informal, will take place throughout the weekend in the Georgia World Congress Center and local hotels.

Information about registering for the 2015 International Convention and the Convention information in the registration brochure can be viewed on the aa.org website. Registration brochures have been mailed to A.A. groups and A.A. service offices around the world.

In 1984, Sarah P., of the G.S.O. staff gave a presentation to the 1984 Gen. Service Conference on the History of International Conventions. The main body of that history follows:

Prior to the first International Convention, the Cleveland Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous hosted a Big Meeting in June 1945 to celebrate AA's tenth anniversary. The speakers, of course, were Bill W. and Dr. Bob. Twenty-five hundred people were in attendance, from 36 states and two Canadian provinces, and one from Mexico. So it wasn't surprising that the Cleveland Central Office wanted to sponsor the first International Conference in 1950, in observance of A.A.'s 15th anniversary.

To finance the Conference, the plan was that the Cleveland/Akron groups would underwrite half of the Convention and the Alcoholic Foundation (now the General Service Board) the other half. The program for the weekend would be a closed meeting at which the proposed Traditions and other pertinent subjects would be fully discussed, followed by an open mass meeting in the Public Auditorium, addressed by Bill and Dr. Bob.

Between 6,000 and 8,000 people attended that weekend. Every state in the U.S. and every province in Canada was represented, as well as such far-off spots as South Africa, the Marshall Islands, and Saudi Arabia. That weekend, the Twelve Traditions were adopted.

When I looked back through our files on this Convention, I found a portion of a delegate's report that I would like to share with you on the Big Meeting at that Conference. It read: The first speaker was the co-founder of A.A., Dr. Bob, (affectionately called "Smitty" by Bill Wilson). Few people at the meeting knew that Dr. Bob is dy-

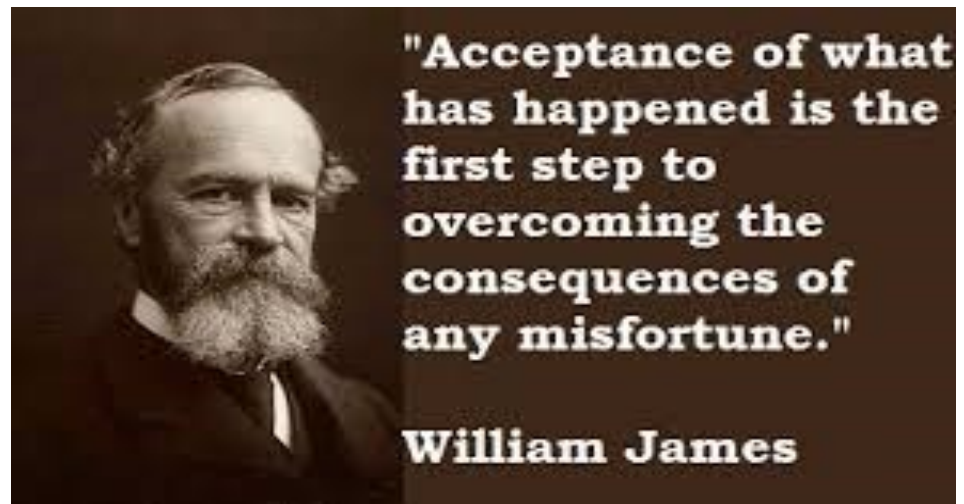
ing of cancer and for the past seven months has rarely left his home.

He spoke only ten minutes, but delivered an intensely interesting, humane talk. After he finished and Bill Wilson began to speak, he quietly left. He showed his great desire to see perpetuated in A.A. what he had worked so hard to accomplish.

Bill Wilson closed the meeting, speaking for an hour. He reviewed A.A. from its beginning to the present time and expressed belief that this Conference cemented all A.A. groups into one vast enterprise, and that the important thing is not the single group, but their combination.

It was impossible for anyone to attend this Convention without coming away with the awareness of how insignificant all of us should be in this work, but yet how important it is that we as individual members never, by word or thought, should do anything to detract from the work.

Our one thought must be: How can I repay a little of so much that has been given to me? (Continued on page 4)





Basic Sobriety

Remsenburg Community Church

Remsenburg

Information provided by co-founder at The Suffolk Intergroup Association Share-A-Thon 2006

"I am one of the founding members of the Remsenburg Group. It was actually started by guys named Rich and Jim and we were in East Moriches at first. We met every Saturday morning at 7:00am for a Beginner's Meeting and we came to that group no matter what the weather was. There would be three of us or four of us, sometimes five of us. We kept asking how we could get more people to come because people from Westhampton and Center Moriches were not coming to East Moriches."

"I got sober in New York City. I came with some of the things that were done in New York City but not on the East End. One of the things in New York City that was strictly forbidden at meetings was crosstalk and when I moved out here from the city, it almost made me not go to meetings. It was where the speaker would share to every last person who shared in the room. Because I was taught in New York City when you speak, when you're done, let God speak. We were literally the first group on the East End as far as I know that tell the incoming speakers that this group does not allow feedback."

"In the summer we had more people that came but even over the winter we actually had a healthy group that came although most speakers we asked to speak cried terribly because it was 7:00am on Saturday and many of them swore they would never come back to the meeting. They wouldn't come back unless they spoke. But that is really not the truth. A lot of them showed up Saturday after Saturday especially for a new comer. It's a really good way to begin their weekend because they have a meeting under their belt by 8:00am on Saturday."

"After that meeting we started a step meeting and again it was a baby meeting. There would be three or four of us there but we just kept coming. There would be two of us and we'd have the meeting. Again that meeting started with a different way of having a step meeting. One week we'd do a Step from the 12 & 12 and the next week we'd do a step from the Big Book. It was amazing because people always had enough to say. It didn't matter if there were only four of us or five of us. It didn't matter if we had different things to say based upon what we were reading. Eventually, I am not sure what happened at a business meeting but they decided to just make it a step meeting like a regular 12 & 12. That's a really good idea to let a meeting



take on a form of its own. It's totally OK. They started a 10:00 AM Wednesday meeting and now they have a Big Book meeting on Tuesdays. From our three people, it now meets 4 days a week."

"We had a huge controversy once when someone under 90 days wanted to chair the meeting. That was one of the bylaws - you had to have a year to chair a meeting. There was someone who decided they were able to chair the meeting with under a year and the group kind of allowed it and my sponsor with 35 years said, "Its real simple, Amy. You just have to let your group go because that's what happens sometimes at meetings." Then I think we went back to a year."

Group History of the Month



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

Contact the SIA Office at 654-1150.



Happy Anniversary

(Continued from page 2)

After the 1950 International Conference, the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous and its standing committee(s) assumed the entire responsibility of organizing and planning for A.A. International Conventions.

Our 20th Anniversary International Convention was held in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1955. At this historic Convention, Bill W. declared that A.A. had come of age. It's when the leadership of A.A. was turned over to the General Service Conference, the structure to which local groups, area committees, and Conference delegates expressed the collective conscience of Alcoholics Anonymous. The paid registration was 3,800, although it was said that probably about 5,000 were actually there. The Convention incurred a net loss of \$16,000—an enormous amount of money in those days.

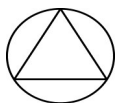
But this financial loss did not discourage the Northern California group of representatives. In September 1955, they asked that the 1956 Conference approve a proposal that anniversary Conventions of Alcoholics Anonymous be held every two years, that the location be shifted geographically to permit a maximum number of members to attend, and that the 1957 Convention be held "somewhere in California." On a voice vote, the proposal was defeated overwhelmingly. Later in the same Conference session, following a stirring comment by one of the California delegates, the Conference voted unanimously to recommend to the General Service Board that the next Convention be held in California. So the 1960 International Convention was held in Long Beach. The California AA's sponsored the show and dance which were a great success, and the proceeds were turned over to the General Service Board, resulting in a net income for that Convention.

In 1965, we moved to Toronto. Approximately 10,500 were in attendance for the Fellowship's 30th anniversary. And it was at the big Saturday night meeting that AA's from around the world declared individually and in unison: "When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible." This Convention was also self-supporting financially.

At our 35th Anniversary Convention in 1970 at Miami Beach, Florida, 10,700 were present, almost 300 more than in Toronto. This Convention was a success Fellowship-wise and financially. And it was there on the stage Sunday morning at the Spiritual Meeting that our co-founder Bill W. made his last public appearance.

The size of our International Conventions was continuing to grow. In 1974, the trustees' International Convention Committee recommended that a convention consultant be hired to assist us in dealing with convention bureaus, convention centers, decorators, bus companies, etc. Time has proved that this kind of expertise pays for itself by keeping expenses down.

What happened in the early 1970's with the proliferation of alcoholism agencies and treatment centers is history, but could not be foreseen when planning for our 40th Anniversary Convention in Denver. We had anticipated an attendance of 14,000, but when July 4, 1975, came, 19,300 had registered. Three times during the weekend, fire alarms went off due to the smoking and overcrowding, and the entire Denver Fire Department showed up, fully equipped with axes, hoses, and screaming sirens. And the surplus of funds from this weekend was \$83,000—an embarrassing amount of money when you're aiming to more or less break even. Our 45th Anniversary International Convention was held in New Orleans, with A.A. members from over 30 countries. This time, for a number of reasons (the major factor being inflation), we experienced a net loss of \$203,000. The Convention itself was a fabulous success, with a record registration of 22,500. In 1981, there was a Conference action recommending that all future events of this type be self-supporting.



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

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

Intergroup Officers

Chairperson Fred H. Chairman@suffolkny-aa.org
Alt Chair Vikki B. Alt-chair@suffolkny-aa.org
Treasurer Linda C. Treasurer@suffolkny-aa.org
Corr. Sec Marie V. Corsec@suffolkny-aa.org
Recording Sec Daniel W. Recsec@suffolkny-aa.org

Committee Chairs

Answering Service Dolores Phones@suffolkny-aa.org
Archives (open) Archives@suffolkny-aa.org
Bulletin Brian C. Bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org
Corrections Kevin Correct@suffolkny-aa.org
Grapevine Lee Grapevine@suffolkny-aa.org
Literature Mike W..... Books@suffolkny-aa.org
Meeting List George D. ... Meetings@suffolkny-aa.org
Office Manager Karen D. Siaoffice@suffolkny-aa.org
Public Information Eileen Z. .. Pubinfo@suffolkny-aa.org
Schools Eileen Z. Schools@suffolkny-aa.org
Special Events Dawn C..... SpecEvent@suffolkny-aa.org
Third Legacy Kevin C. ... Thirdleg@suffolkny-aa.org
Treatment Facilities Tom M. Treatment@suffolkny-aa.org
Webmaster Troy..... Websup@suffolkny-aa.org

HotLine June Commitments

6/7 Area 70 Mike M-
12 Steps of Hope Bay Shore
6/14 Area 50 Ron A- N.
Babylon Phelps Lane
6/21 Area 100 Dave- TBA
6/28 Area 80 Woof- TBA

Thanks to May's Volunteers

5/3 Area 230 Jon G/ Madeline-
Port Jefferson Group
5/10 Area 40 Bob L/ Marion I -
High Noon Melville
5/17 Area 30 John K- Big Commack
5/24 Area 110 Paul S/ Jan A.-
Smithtown Group
5/31 Area 210 Willie B -
Riverhead area

July Meetings

Archives Committee:	Check with SIA Office
Institutions Committee:	7/15/2015 7:00 PM SIA Office
Public Information Committee:	7/21/2015 7:00 PM SIA Office
SIA Monthly Business Meeting:	7/7/2015 Cornell Cooperative Extension Griffing Ave., Riverhead
	7:00 PM New Group Rep Orientation
	7:00 PM Share-a-Thon
	8:00 PM Intergroup Meeting
SIA Officers & Chairs:	7/28/2015 7:00 PM SIA Office
Suffolk General Service:	7/17/2015 8:00 PM True North Community Church, Lakeland Ave., Bohemia
Special Events:	7/7/2015 7:00 PM Cornell Cooperative Extension Griffing Ave., Riverhead
Third Legacy Committee:	7/30/2014 7:30 PM SIA Office



ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AA

EIGHTY YEARS,

ONE DAY AT A TIME

FOUNDERS DAY

JUNE 10TH



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.



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.

ARCHIVES CHAIR NEEDED

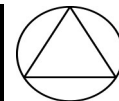
Standard Job Description:

An **archivist** (*AR-kiv-ist*) is an information professional who assesses, collects, organizes, preserves, maintains control over, and provides access to records and archives determined to have long-term value. The records maintained by an archivist can be any form of media (photographs, video or sound recordings, letters, documents, electronic records, etc.).

Intergroup Job Description:

A person of saintly demeanor, unearthly sanguinity and OCD issues who enjoys doing the above described job in the
company of the history obsessed

Please apply to
Intergroup Chair



FROM THE ARCHIVES:
ADS FROM OUR PAST

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Inquiries Invited

P. O. BOX 442

HUNTINGTON

Why Should We Pay To Go to A.A. Events?

From Box 459

Why, some members have asked, do A.A.s have to pay a fee to attend an A.A. conference, convention or other special event? As one Californian wrote to the General Service Office, "Some of us have difficulty when it comes to having the A.A. name attached to any gathering that requires payment to participate. What's more, some of the prices at many of these functions are not cheap." And, he adds, "what about the payment of travel expenses and lodgings for certain 'select' speakers?"

It's true that A.A. membership is free, and meetings and most A.A. events are self-supporting in the spirit of the Seventh Tradition. But what about A.A. get-togethers beyond the group-meeting level, ranging from special one- or two-hour meetings to banquets and weekend events—area, statewide, regional and international? These events require months of planning, preparation and money presented upfront to the hotel and other business facilities involved. Arrangements may also be made for A.A.s with special needs: providing wheelchair accessibility, sign-language interpreters for the deaf and, in some instances, programs in Braille for the blind.

Additional expenses include the printing of flyers, schedules, postage and supplies, not to mention renting meeting space, insurance coverage, and travel and accommodations for the invited speakers, many of whom live a thousand miles or more from the convention site. A.A. members are not paid to share their experience, but as invited guests of a convention or conference, their expenses are generally reimbursed. As the A.A. Guidelines on Conferences, Conventions and Roundups, available from G.S.O., state, "It should be clear, when the speakers are booked, what terms are being made for expenses. Unless it's otherwise specified, speakers have a right to assume that all their travel, meal, and hotel expenses will be paid for the entire trip."

How are the costs of a convention covered, and what can be done to ensure that the venture won't go deep in the red? Registration fees cover costs for special events, and those who wish to participate in the convention pay their own way in the spirit of the Seventh Tradition. According to the aforementioned Guidelines, "there's no substitute for common sense here; the committee must take a business-like approach to finances and keep expenditures somewhere within a conservative estimate of anticipated revenues...It's a good idea, though, to put the tickets on sale well in advance of the convention and to know where the breakeven point lies."

At the area level, two sound methods for underwriting special events seem to be in general use: (1) Underwriting of the event by area groups. Since the registration fees can be established at a level sufficient to cover the total costs, this should result in no actual out-of-pocket costs to the groups; and (2) Building a convention fund to which the area groups contribute year-round. This method obviates the need to charge a registration fee except for visitors from out-of-state.

The criterion for using the A.A. name generally specifies that the event be put on by A.A.s for A.A.s about A.A. Although a golf tournament or a dance is beyond the purview of A.A.'s primary purpose, such events are often scheduled as social adjuncts to the main meetings and workshops scheduled. When Al-Anon participates in an A.A. convention, the relationship and financial arrangements usually follow one of two patterns: When an A.A. convention committee invites Al-Anon to participate with its own program, A.A. may pay all expenses (for meeting rooms, coffee, etc.) and keep all income from registrations and such in a single fund earmarked to cover the convention bills, after which any excess income reverts back to A.A. Alternatively, Al-Anon may have a separate registration and cover its own expenses directly, besides assuming its share of common expenses. In this case, Al-Anon receives its own share of the registration income and also shares in any losses incurred.

Attention, Excessive Drinkers

Alcoholics Anonymous is a non-sectarian organization composed of alcoholics joined together to help each other solve their common problem -- alcoholism. If alcohol has become a problem in your life and you have a sincere desire to do something about it, AA may be able to help you.

There are no dues or fees involved. There is a group in your neighborhood. It is suggested that you consult your physician, priest or minister, or address a note to Box 224, Sayville, N. Y. All communications will be kept strictly confidential.



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

80th Anniversary



INTER-GROUP
ASSOCIATION OF A.A.
OF NEW YORK, INC.



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