



The Suffolk Intergroup

# BULLETIN

Volume 42, Number 7

NOVEMBER 2015



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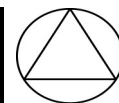
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## Notes on Proposed Changes to the SIA Bylaws

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>Description</u>
Inside cover	Preface to the Group Conscience Book: Addition. The Group Conscience Book is meant to contain policy decisions that don't rise to the level of Bylaws changes, but it's useless if nobody knows it exists.
p. 2, art. IV	<p>Section 2.B: Remove duplicate text. Originally "The Chairperson, Alternate Chairperson and Treasurer shall have a minimum of five (5) years of continuous and current sobriety. <u>The Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary shall have a minimum of two (5) years of continuous and current sobriety.</u> The Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary shall have a minimum of two (2) years of continuous and current sobriety."</p> <p>Section 4.A.5: Modified to reflect change in banking procedures. Formerly "Shall be an authorized co-signer of checks."</p>
p. 3, art. IV	<p>Section 4.B.3: Modified to reflect change in banking procedures. Formerly "Shall be an authorized co-signer of checks."</p> <p>Section 4.B.5: Modified to reflect changes in committee status and to agree with Article VI, Section 1, Paragraph G. Formerly "Shall function as chairman of the two ad hoc committees: the Bylaws Committee and the Special Needs Committee."</p> <p>Section 4.C.1: Modified to reflect changes in banking procedures. Formerly "Shall receive all funds and deposit them in a bank designated by the Groups."</p> <p>Section 4.C.2: Modified to reflect change in banking procedures. Formerly "Shall be an authorized co-signer of checks."</p> <p>Section 4.C.5: Modified to reflect changes in committee status and to agree with Article VI, Section 1, Paragraph G. Formerly "Shall be a member, but not the chairperson, of the Finance Committee."</p>
p. 4, art. V	<p>Section 3: Phrase "Committee Chair" changed to "Nominating Committee Chair" for clarity.</p> <p>Section 5: Modified for clarity. Original phrasing specified that officers' terms ended when their successors were <u>elected</u>. This was changed to reflect that officers' terms end when their successors assume office <u>after their election</u>.</p>
p. 5, art. VI	Section 1.E, Title: Name of "Institutions Committee" changed to "Treatment Facilities" to reflect the fact that the committee no longer serves correctional facilities.
p. 9, art. VIII	Section 4: Underline removed from phrase "one and only one".
p. 9, art. IX	Title: Changed from "Special Meetings" to "Meetings"
p. 9, art. IX	Section 2.B: Changed to clarify the intent of the paragraph. Of the officers (5), the committee chairs (14), the office manager and the SGS liaison (2), for a total of 21 people, a majority (11 people) must be present.
p. 10, art. X	Section 2: Remove "the Webmaster" as that position is now a committee chair.
p.11	Printing information: Update to present.
Appendix C	<p>Suffolk Intergroup Association Website Guidelines: #1. Remove duplicated words "be used".</p> <p>Suffolk Intergroup Association Website Guidelines: #11. Change "and SENY" to "SENY and other Area 49 intergroups" to reflect current standards.</p>





## Group History of the Month

### Brookhaven Happy Hour Beginners Meeting

This meeting was started by Ray, Joseph and Julio. The meeting was the original idea of Ray as he is a school teacher and was looking to start a Step Meeting as part of the Brookhaven Happy Hour group. This did not materialize as he was out-voted but graciously accepted the Beginners type of meeting. It was started in July of 2006. For the first couple of months, only Ray and a woman by the name of Sue showed up and they kept showing up and then the meeting started to grow to about four to six people by October 2006. When I visited there in April 2007 the meeting was having 10 to 15 people attending.

It is a one-and-a-half hour meeting same as the other two meetings of this group. Also note the original group was formed approximately 27 years ago and meets on Tuesday and Friday at 4:00pm. This meeting was added to it in the year 2006. At this time, with 10 to 15 people attending the meeting, it does not run to hour-and-a half and is closed after everyone has spoken.

The meeting starts with the Preamble, they read the Promises then they have a moment of silence and read the Serenity prayer. After that, the speaker is introduced. After the speaker, it goes to a show of hands for 30 days and 90 days and then opens up for one year and more, then close's with the Lord's Prayer.



### COLD SPRING HARBOR GROUP

The Cold Spring Harbor Group sits one quarter mile west of Suffolk County, in Nassau. The two founders never cared about the location. In 1957, Curt S. and Bob H. from the Huntington Group thought that the closed meeting of that group was too large. They searched for a new place for a smaller meeting and found a house on West Hills Road in Huntington where they met in a small room. This grew quickly in a few months and they were forced to pack up and move to Cold Spring Harbor. They chose St. John's behind the Fish Hatchery because it had a beautiful old building and a golden pond which they thought a lovely setting. They met up-

*(Continued on page 7)*





## Singleness of Purpose

*I found an excerpt on "Singleness of Purpose" from a NJ Intergroup meeting and wanted to pass on why this cornerstone of our program is more relevant than ever, today. Dolores K., Answering Service*

"Tradition One: Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity." A.A. is a "we", not an "I", program. When "we" place the good of A.A. ahead of our own personal agendas and desires, A.A. can be better unified. We're unified and bonded by our common problem of alcoholism with a common solution as outlined in our basic text "The Big Book". So what happens when our unity is compromised or broken? How does this kind of thing happen?

As individuals, we are each responsible for placing the common welfare of A.A. first. The good of A.A. must always be our first priority even if it means "I" can't get what "I" want. What can we do to place the welfare of A.A. ahead of our own?

- ◆ We need to identify ourselves simply as alcoholics...leaving our "other" problems/addictions at the door. This even means not identifying ourselves as drug addicts even if we have that addiction. We are not N.A. We're A.A. The only identification that belongs here is that of being an alcoholic.
- ◆ Our sharing should be based on offering our experience, strength and hope to the still-suffering alcoholic. In How it Works, we're told to disclose what we used to be like, what happened (in terms of getting sober with the steps 1-9) and what we are like now (living in steps 10-12). We're to offer hope that there is a way out of the alcoholic nightmare.

An A.A. meeting should not be used as a dumping ground for all our personal problems and "issues". These things belong with our sponsors, our network and with appropriate professionals. We're here to offer hope and a solution to the still-suffering alcoholic. When we dive into sharing whatever we want, we're no longer bonded by a common problem. We are divided by our differences. So where does this leave the alcoholic who is dying a miserable alcoholic death? And, who is responsible when that alkie doesn't come back to A.A.? A lot of us say they just didn't want it enough. But what's our part? When we don't take responsibility to keep A.A. – A.A., everyone suffers. Alcoholics die. And, Alcoholics Anonymous gets a little more watered down.

"Tradition Two: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship that is supposed to be directed through a loving God...not by individuals who want to run the show their own way. The more we allow God to direct our actions through a group conscience, the more we're moved out of "self" and our own wants and desires. When God is given the opportunity to direct our actions, our singleness of purpose has a greater chance of being carried out through loving, God-inspired actions. With our own plans and designs set aside, God can better move our fellowship in the direction of helping the still-suffering alcoholic...God moves us to carry out our singleness of purpose.

"Tradition Three: The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking." Notice it doesn't state that we must identify ourselves as alcoholics; it simply states we must have a desire to stop drinking. Also, notice it doesn't state that the requirement for A.A. membership is to not drink. It states, "to stop drinking". I've attended meetings where someone introduces him/herself as having a desire not to drink. Well anyone, an alcoholic or NOT, can have a desire not to drink. This does not mean they've met our requirement for membership. I've known addicts who introduce themselves with "a desire not to drink" as a way to qualify to attend a closed meeting. If an addict has been actively drinking and has a desire to stop, they are more than welcome at a closed meeting and indeed meet our requirement for membership. But if they haven't been actively drinking, then as such, they can't have a desire to stop the drinking that they're not doing. These individuals do not meet our requirement for membership and are only welcome at our open meetings, to sit and listen.

When an individual does not live in the spirit of tradition 3, it becomes about the individual placing his/her own wants & desires ahead of the common welfare of A.A. When a non-alcoholic uses an introduction like, I have a desire not to drink or simply identify as an alcoholic because they think it's all the same, this is a problem and it's wrong. They don't share in our common problem. These individuals cannot honestly offer a solution to the still-suffering alcoholic. ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ADDICTION ARE NOT THE SAME. When this happens, our unity is seriously weakened. We no longer share in the same common problem.

A non-alcoholic who uses A.A. to stay "clean", not "sober", cannot carry the message to an alcoholic. They do not share a common problem with the alkie nor do they share in a common experience. Our singleness of purpose is completely lost. And, because of such selfish acts, our precious fellowship withers away a little more. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety...not to have non-alcoholics, who just attend A.A. because they like our fellowship better than the one they respectively belong in, help alcoholics achieve sobriety. They can't and it doesn't work. Simply put...this is not A.A.



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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

## **HotLine November Commitments**

Nov. 1-7 Area 230 Jon G.

Barnum Ave, PJ Big Book

Nov. 8-14 Area 30 John K

E Northport, Valley 8:00, 164 Group

Nov. 15-21 Area 110 Paul

Hauppauge Touchstones

Nov. 22-28 Area 40 Bob L

Bethany

Nov. 29- Dec. 5 Area 210 Willie B TBD

## **Thanks to October's Volunteers**

Area 240 Dave Sunrise Sobriety

Area 250 Rich- Southampton groups

Area 270 Pat- Amagansett AM and Men's Room

Area 220 Bob P- Mt Sinai Group

## **Intergroup Officers**

Chairperson Fred H. [Chairman@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:Chairman@suffolkny-aa.org)

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Webmaster Troy..... [Websup@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:Websup@suffolkny-aa.org)

## **December Meetings**

**Archives Committee:** Check with SIA Office

**Institutions Committee:** 11/18/2015 7:00 PM SIA Office

**Public Information Committee:** 11/17/2015 7:00 PM SIA Office

**SIA Monthly Business Meeting:** 11/3/2015

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:** 11/24/2015 7:00 PM SIA Office

**Suffolk General Service:** 11/19/2015 8:00 PM

True North Community Church,  
Lakeland Ave., Bohemia

**Special Events:** 11/3/2015 7:00 PM

True North Community Church,  
Lakeland Ave., Bohemia

**Third Legacy Committee:** Check with SIA Office



# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Archives Committee is always looking for volunteers to help save our Alcoholics Anonymous history.  
Contact the SIA Office at 654-1150.

The full text of the Bylaws with proposed changes, the separate list of changes alone and Alternate Chairperson Vikki B's explanation of the bylaws amendment process are available on-line on the SIA website <http://suffolkny-aa.org>. Please read this information and share your thoughts with your SIA Rep so your Group Conscience will be heard at the vote on the amendments at the December Intergroup meeting.

## **FREE OFFER!**

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



The Bulletin staff would like to hear 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.

You can contact the Bulletin via mail sent to the SIA office or by email sent to [bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org)

All submissions, written or artwork, are gratefully accepted. - the Editor

## **Subscriptions to Nassau Newsletter On-Line**

Nassau Intergroup's Newsletter is now available via on-line subscription. While some of the content is only of local interest, several items may be of general interest to AA members considering AA's Three Legacies: Recovery, Unity and Service. They hope you may enjoy it, and share it with others.

Nassau Intergroup has introduced an e-subscription option for those who would like to receive their newsletter each month. All that's needed is an email address. If interested, please go to the subscription form on their website, [www.nassaunya-aa.org](http://www.nassaunya-aa.org). There you will also have access to back issues of the newsletter.



## Our Older A.A. Meetings: An Endangered Species?

This article may pose far more questions than answers but a disturbing pattern has emerged over the last few years. Some of our older groups are now extinct. These were once active, vibrant meetings many people attended regularly. Over time the people stopped coming. The big question is why.

To name just a few of our recent casualties:

Islip Serenity at Seven gone after 10 years!

Kings Park Courage to Change gone after 19 years!

Bay Shore Midnight gone after 20 years!

Selden Early Commuters gone after 21 years!

Bay Shore New Way gone after 21 years!

Islip Happy Hour gone after 26 years!

Bay Shore Staying Sober gone after 26 years!

Northport New Lease on Life gone after 27 years

Commack Share and Care gone after 29 years!

Bohemia Workshop gone after 46 years!

And finally: Wyandanch gone after 62 years!

Other veteran groups' attendance has plummeted: Babylon Mid-Island, Amityville Friendly, Dix Hills Sunday Sobriety, Brentwood Live Again, Kings Park Just for Today, Kings Park, Lake Grove... the list goes on.

Are fewer people coming to Alcoholics Anonymous overall? If so, do we have far too many meetings and as a result the dinosaur groups are dying out? There has definitely been an increase in the number of listings in the Suffolk meeting list. Or did these groups lose their bearings and drift away from the guiding principles of our Fellowship? When so many older groups have died off, these are possibilities worth exploring to head off additional losses.

Wyandanch is a particularly interesting case study. Many old timers had gotten their start there. As they moved away--- or passed away--- younger people seemed unable to fill their shoes. Ten years ago it held a group anniversary and the auditorium packed. Five years later when one of the Archives Committee went to speak

there, less than twenty people were in the room. The 12 Step and 12 Tradition shades were lopsided and looked as if they were just set up haphazardly. And five years later that same group had shut down!

As is the case when a group starts dwindling, service jobs are cut out. No one goes to the speaker exchange. Unless you have a gung ho member, speakers are picked as they walk in the door. If new people aren't walking in the door the same people share their stories again and again. Commitments like SIA and GSR are left unfilled. A malaise sets in. Malaise is not the kind of attitude conducive for newcomers. It's bad for the business of sobriety.

As a fellowship, we are only as strong as our weakest link. This is not to say that meetings won't fold anyway. However we all have some kind of responsibility to help out a neighboring group that is faltering. And all groups have a responsibility to be available for the new AA. It wouldn't hurt to check out a meeting you haven't visited in a while. For those groups that have been around a while, might be high time to do a group inventory. If your numbers have dropped drastically good time to find out why. There is no question that we all grieve when groups die.

Bob R., Archives Committee

### **COLD SPRING HARBOR**

*(Continued from page 3)*

stairs and started a Friday night meeting. Eventually, they added a second meeting. In time they moved downstairs where they are today. Betty H. and members of other groups would show up. The Friday night meeting is known for having a speaker and the splitting up into about six small groups for small, intimate discussions. It holds an annual Christmas party instead of a Group anniversary and this festivity always makes the holidays a treat.

Compiled by a member June 2004

(The current meeting list indicates the following meetings for this group: Tuesday - B & S at 7:15, Wednesday - O, BB, & GV at 7:00, and Friday - W & DR 6:30 and CD at 8:00.)





All Photographs by Russ M., who does the vast majority of photography for the Bulletin and the Archives.

