



# BULLETIN

Visit your Suffolk County AA Website at: <http://www.suffolkny-aa.org>



Almost 20 years ago, our Suffolk A.A. community was buzzing with talk of developing a website: Would it put anonymity at risk? Would it be a form of promotion? Was the web a passing fad? At that time, the Public Information committee took control of the project, eventually deciding that we needed to have a web presence. It was decided that we had three audiences that we had to provide information to:

#1 was the person that was looking for help or information on AA and how to obtain that help if needed.

#2 was the current members of AA who needed information in the form of meeting information, notices, upcoming events, committee meetings etc. and

#3 was the Groups in Suffolk County, who needed such information as made it possible for them to manage their affairs and the affairs of SIA.

Since that time, tens-of-thousands of newcomers and A.A.s have used the website to get Hotline information, find meetings, and learn of A.A. news and events. Since we were one of the earliest intergroups in the country to use the web to dispense local information on AA, we had to develop a set of guidelines on what we should and should not do on the website. Those guidelines were approved by the membership and eventually incorporated into our Bylaws. Much of what A.A.W.S.'s Website Guidelines contain was taken from the experiences of Suffolk County. Those Guidelines are still in use today, many years later.

However, much has changed in both the public perception of the internet and the technology with which it operates, and the internet has become ever more a part of our everyday lives. SIA is now investigating what a next generation website for Suffolk should look like. The website committee is developing a series of prototypes that you can try, evaluate, and comment on. It is the intent of the committee to make the new website easy to use and intuitive. Visual cues and simple menus, one-click access to the most important information, interaction, and tools for recovery will make for the same welcoming and supportive environment that each of Suffolk's over 300 groups provide.

(Continued on page 5)

***"PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS" ON PAGE 2.***



### **I'll never be able to repay the debt that I owe AA.....**

How many times have we heard someone say that at a meeting? Dozens, perhaps hundreds of times? How many times have we seen those very same people at a business meeting sit on their hands and seem to disappear in their seats when someone is asking for a volunteer to do this or help with that... So much for repaying the debt they owe to AA. What was your answer to that famous question you were asked when you appeared on AA's doorstep: "What are you willing to do to stay sober?" Are you one of those that shrinks away to nothing when someone asks for a volunteer for whatever? Have you ever heard the saying "If you want what we have, do what we do." Ever notice the old-timer picking up the chairs after a meeting, or making coffee, and said to yourself "I wish I had what he has"? Ever wonder how he managed to stay sober for all that time?

The answer is very simple – service to others. And just because you have been sober for a few years doesn't leave you off the hook, either. Look around the room someday and see how many old-timers there are compared to newcomers. Ever wonder why there is such a big difference in the numbers? Plain and simple – If you stop doing service you stop repaying your debt and you begin the process of having your sobriety repossessed

Here is your opportunity to postpone your departure from sobriety for at least two full years. Suffolk Intergroup is having its bi-annual election of new officers. We are looking for five people to fill the office of Chairman, Alternate Chairman, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. None of these positions require that you be a college graduate, rocket scientist, or have a genius IQ. All it takes is a willingness to serve your fellow alcoholic and some of your time. If you are the lucky person to get the job you will probably say to yourself on a regular basis "Why did I ever volunteer to do this", but I guarantee that when your term is finished you will say to yourself "That was the best thing that I have done since coming to AA". IN ADDITION, you stayed sober for another two years. Sounds like a good deal to me.

Interested? Drop me a note at [nominations@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:nominations@suffolkny-aa.org) For a complete job description and requirements please visit our website at: [http://suffolkny-aa.org/bylaws/bylaws.phpSIA\\_Bylaws\\_2015.pdf](http://suffolkny-aa.org/bylaws/bylaws.phpSIA_Bylaws_2015.pdf) look on page 5.

Fred H – Nominating Committee

### **THIS BULLETIN NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

**We need YOUR participation!**

**Please help and send in**

- your articles!
- your experiences!
- your announcements!
- your comments!
- your artwork, poems, photos, etc.!

**Send to Brian at:**

**[bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org)**

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

- |         |                                       |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| Pg.1... | – New Demo Website                    |
| Pg.2... | – INTERGROUP ELECTION:<br>WE NEED YOU |
| Pg.3... | – GROUP UPDATE TIME                   |
| Pg.4... | – GROUP HISTORY:<br>HAUPPAUGE CALVARY |
| Pg.5... | – HOPE<br>– Around the AA Campus      |
| Pg.6... | – MEETINGS AND CONTACTS               |
| Pg.7... | – ANNOUNCEMENTS                       |
| Pg.8... | – Share-a-thon                        |



## SIA Meeting List Group Update Forms

I have had the honor to be serving Suffolk Intergroup as the meeting list chair since April of 2016 when I took over from Zoe L. It has been a rewarding commitment. The commitment entails managing the information as it appears on the online and printed versions of our meeting list, as supplied by the AA groups of Suffolk County. There are currently 342 groups in Suffolk County listed as being active. This number may be somewhat inflated as there are a few groups that have not sent in a group update form since 2014. There is an even bigger list of groups that have not provided an update form since 2015.

Please be advised that due to the way the database is programmed all of the meetings on this list below may soon to be dropped from the online list of meetings. The online list is an essential tool for many in our fellowship and even more importantly, many seeking out their first meeting. There is more leeway regarding group updates as it pertains to appearance on the list when it comes to the printed version over the online version; this leeway only leaves room for incorrect information to linger. Please consider that people put added faith in the veracity of printed information.

Part of the group update form is a section for group contact information i.e. a mailing address for the group to receive pertinent information such as this bulletin every month and a new group update form every year. Group update forms are also available online at: [www.suffolkny-aa.org/forms/forms\\_for\\_groups.php](http://www.suffolkny-aa.org/forms/forms_for_groups.php) There is a link to both a PDF version to print, fill out, hand in, or mail into intergroup, and a MSWord version to download, fill out, and email back to [meetings@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:meetings@suffolkny-aa.org) The MSWord file being emailed in is the preferred route as it is the quickest and easiest method by our (my) account.

Any information is welcomed regarding the status of the meetings on the list below but please get these group update forms in! There are great efforts being made to update the appearance and interactive features of the online meeting list. It would be a shame to roll out this new tool with any incorrect meeting information so please be thorough in filling out these forms. If you are unsure when your group was last updated you can find that information under the address description of your meeting online.

If you have questions or need assistance getting a form filled out please contact me by email: [meetings@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:meetings@suffolkny-aa.org) Also, for your convenience, on request I will email you a list of the meetings facing deletion, listing them alphabetized by town. This is for awareness only and not to call out any particular group, some of which I personally know are still meeting.

Brodie C. , Meeting List Chair

Notice: SUBMISSION DUE DATE *for November's Bulletin* is October 20TH!  
Send your submissions to Brian at: [bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org)

## Group History

### HAUPPAUGE CALVARY GROUP

Calvary Lutheran Church  
860 Town Line Road  
Hauppauge, NY



When I, Mike, got there, Hauppauge Calvary didn't have a P.O. Box. There was just a meeting, not a group. We were haphazard, no committees or business meetings. Our rent was \$13.00 a month and one (first month) month I had enough money to pay the rent already, so I decided not to pass the basket. I was relatively new and

was unaware that money had to go out (to General Services, Suffolk Intergroup). I thought more money meant better cookies! I started making the coffee when I was one year sober and did it for eleven years.

My sponsor told me there was a nice little group over there on Tuesday morning. I started my first years at the Pit (Bay Shore Daytime Love and Service). I celebrated my first two anniversaries there and told my sponsor I had to get out of there. He said, "We change classrooms but we never graduate." He suggested I go to Hauppauge Calvary and give it a shot. Took me two weeks to find the place, got lost on Blydenburgh Road crossing Vets Highway. Finally, I found it. The first time I went, there were about five people and this woman was moving to Florida. She was running the meeting at the time. I didn't even have keys to my own house and she gave me the keys to the place. I ended up making coffee for eleven years, in 1986 I took it over.

Mike was not sure who started the meeting but believed it was in the late 1970's. He remembered Vince T. and Chris C. as two regulars.

Interview with Mike, former member at the Unity Breakfast, Polish Hall, Riverhead March 6, 2006

On a hot summer day (July 28, 2007) at the golf course at ~~Sunken Meadow Park~~, Chris C., 79 years old with 34 years of sobriety, took the time to give information about this meeting.

The meeting was started by two cronies - Annette and Carol. Carol, who was a mainstay of the now defunct Hauppauge Group, moved to New Jersey over five years ago. Chris took over the Chairperson's position for two and a half years, which also included making coffee. He would repeatedly ask for help with the meeting but his pleas fell on deaf ears. The final straw occurred one day when there were 21 people at the meeting. When the basket went around there was only \$14.00 in it and I know some people put in \$2.00. It was at that point that Chris decided to leave the meeting. "I treated it like a job and gave them two-weeks notice."

This meeting first appeared on the Suffolk meeting list circa 1974/1975.



# Hope

Mystical sobriety shines a new light  
Possibility soars on the wings of our sights  
The universe expands to create new heights  
The love is the venue on the menu of life.

And in life what we strive for is soundness of mind  
To choose what we want and use what we find  
To let go of the past but to know it is mine.  
To let a door shut and another one shine.

And walk through with dignity and grace at our side  
Our goals precise and our eyes to the sky  
Clear our desires, fulfill the most high  
We lean on another and recreate time.

As the tears of joy stream down my cheek  
One day at a time, my mind with my feet  
Together we trudge to the same beat  
To a life of service and true destiny.

-Matthew R.

## Around the AA Campus

Bay Shore Happy, Joyous and Free no longer meets. These were midnight meetings at the infamous Pit. If you go to a listed meeting and no one is there, kindly contact the SIA Office. Discontinued meetings should be deleted from the meeting list as soon as possible.

## NEW WEBSITE

(Continued from page 1)

The number one request by the members over the past 20 years has been a better way to sort our meeting list. The number two request has come from within intergroup to provide an easier way for committee chairs to update their own committee information on the website without the need to depend on our webmaster. These are the most fundamental improvements we hope to achieve.

Extra care is being taken to consider providing a Newcomers' Area, where those in crisis, those seeking to learn more about our program of recovery and those hoping to get and remain sober can get one-click access to Hotline information, glance over Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and more. Modern websites are "mobile aware" and the committee believes our new website should be as well: adjusting as needed for use with phones and other mobile devices. We intend that advanced filtering and mapping will allow users to quickly find meetings in new ways. Want a Women's Big Book Discussion? A Young People's Step Meeting? A Meeting near where you are right now? Do you need directions and want to know



the quickest route there? The committee is discussing providing these options.

We've started with a Newcomers' Area, and expect to create other focus areas for institutions, archives, young people, professionals, and more.

A demo website has been set up, and you can take a "test drive"! In fact, by exercising it and giving feedback, you will be helping to make it better and more useful for everyone. Check it out at <http://Suffolkny-aa.site>. Before you leave the website, press 'FEEDBACK' on the top menu bar. Tell us what's good, what's not so good, what should be dropped or what should be added!



## **November's Business Meetings**

### **> Public Information Committee:**

*3rd TUESDAY OF MONTH*

**Tues. 11/21/17 7:00 PM**

*SIA Office, 113-8 Bay Ave.  
Patchogue*

### **> SIA Business Meeting:**

*1st TUESDAY OF MONTH*

**Tues. 11/7/17 8:00pm**

*True North Community Church,  
1101 Lakeland Ave.*

*Bohemia*

**>7:00 PM** *Archives Committee meeting*

**>7:00 PM** *New Group Rep Orientation*

**>7:00 PM** *Share-a-Thon*

### **> SIA Officers & Chairs:**

*LAST TUESDAY OF MONTH*

**Tues. 11/28/17 7:00 PM**

*SIA Office, 113-8 Bay Ave.  
Patchogue*

### **> Suffolk General Service:**

*3rd FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH*

**Fri. 11/17/17 8:00 PM**

**>7:00 PM** *General Service new Rep meeting*

*True North Community Church  
Lakeland Ave.*

*Bohemia*

### **> Treatment Facilities Committee:**

*3rd TUESDAY OF MONTH*

**Tues. 11/21/17 7:00 PM**

*SIA Office, 113-8 Bay Ave.  
Patchogue*

## **Contact your Intergroup chairs!**

Chair- Kevin ..... [chairman@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:chairman@suffolkny-aa.org)

Alt Chair- Tom ..... [alt-chair@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:alt-chair@suffolkny-aa.org)

Treasurer- Wayne .... [treasurer@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:treasurer@suffolkny-aa.org)

Corr. Sec.- Dawn .... [corsec@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:corsec@suffolkny-aa.org)

Recording Sec.- Tara .... [recsec@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:recsec@suffolkny-aa.org)

Answering Service- Ron ..... [phones@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:phones@suffolkny-aa.org)

Archives- Bob ..... [archives@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:archives@suffolkny-aa.org)

Big Meeting - Jean Marie ... [siaoffice@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:siaoffice@suffolkny-aa.org)

Bulletin- Brian ..... [bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org)

Corrections- Lee ..... [correct@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:correct@suffolkny-aa.org)

Grapevine- Lee ..... [grapevine@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:grapevine@suffolkny-aa.org)

Literature- Laurie ..... [books@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:books@suffolkny-aa.org)

Meeting List- Brodey ... [meetings@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:meetings@suffolkny-aa.org)

Public Information- Jack ..... [pubinfo@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:pubinfo@suffolkny-aa.org)

SIA Office Manager- Cheryl. .... [siaoffice@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:siaoffice@suffolkny-aa.org)

Schools-Jack ..... [schools@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:schools@suffolkny-aa.org)

Share A Thon- Rob ..... [share@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:share@suffolkny-aa.org)

Special Events- Patrick ..... [specevent@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:specevent@suffolkny-aa.org)

**Third Legacy OPEN!** ... [thirdleg@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:thirdleg@suffolkny-aa.org)

Treatment Facilities Jackie. ... [treatment@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:treatment@suffolkny-aa.org)

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

See what it's about!

A THIRD LEGACY Chair is needed!

**PLEASE HELP!**

email:

[chairman@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:chairman@suffolkny-aa.org)



## \*\*\*\*ANNOUNCEMENTS\*\*\*\*

### The Archives

#### Oral History Project

Imagine how wonderful it would be to once again hear the voices of those AAs who are no longer with us. Or to be given the opportunity to be taken back in time to thirty or more years ago and find out what Alcoholics Anonymous was like then. To a time before computers, GPS, cell phones; to a time when there was two-thirds less meetings and all of those meetings were smoke-filled. While we can't resurrection the dearly departed, we can make a team effort to save what we can today for the future. Much of our collective history is lost already.

The Archives Committee is asking all groups to please help us and by doing so you are helping all those who will come after us. There is a list of about twenty questions (or you can add a few of your own). Get an iPhone or similar phone that has recording capabilities. Download Dropbox into that phone and you are set. Find a long-timer (there are at least 500 in Suffolk County), a nice quiet spot and revel in the fact that you are saving stories for future generations. Plus you are being given the golden opportunity to plug into gratitude.

Everyone who has done one of these so far has reported back what a rewarding experience it has been. No coincidence that those being interviewed have seconded that opinion. This is service work unlike what you've done before. If you have never done service work, this is the perfect time to start learning how to give back.

Contact the Archives Committee at Archives@suffolkny-aa.org or leave a message at the Suffolk Intergroup office (631) 654-1150. There is usually someone at the One and Only meeting in Smithtown every Saturday at 3:15 who can gently guide you through this process. We need all of you! Bob R, Archives Committee

### Around the AA Campus

Who says you can't go home again? Sober Just for Today has returned to its original meeting place in Stony Brook after a four year stint in East Setauket.

Smithtown Afternoon has a big bash planned for its 44th group anniversary on October 7. Hard to believe but when it first started, it only met one day a week on Monday. Now it's a packed house six days a week

New meeting at 1324 Motor Parkway Hauppauge meets every Thursday at 7:00 P.M. This is an open beginners meeting. Come give your support.

Known affectionately as the Monks Meeting. The Northport Wednesday 8 P.M. men's meeting could use your support. Let's keep this 52 year old meeting going!

## SPEAKERS NEEDED

**WHEN:** MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY  
7:00-8:00 PM

**WHERE:** SUFFOLK COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY  
YAPHANK, NY

A new wing at the Suffolk County Correctional facility in Yaphank recently opened housing male and female offenders serving a sentence for a substance-abuse related crime, who have been approved for the Sheriff's Addiction Treatment Program.

To speak or chair a meeting, it is suggested you have at least a year sobriety, are familiar with the Steps and have a clean record. Applications and a copy of your license or state-issued ID are required.

If you are interested in being a speaker or chairing a meeting for this program, please contact Mary M. c/o the SIA office or email Lee at correct@suffolkny-aa.org Although this commitment is for the Women's DWI treatment program, both men and women may apply.

SUFFOLK INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION  
PRESENTS ITS 42<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL  
**SHARE-A-THON**

**"A WAY OUT"**

Sunday, October 15, 2017

9am – 4pm

St. Joseph's College

Patchogue, NY



- Free admission
- Breakfast and Lunch will be provided\*
- No smoking will be **STRICTLY** enforced at the request of the College
- Volunteers needed: Please call the SIA Office at 631-654-1150 and leave your name and number or email [share@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:share@suffolkny-aa.org)

Schedule:

- Breakfast: 8:00-10:30
- Workshops: 9:00-3:00
- Lunch: 12:00-2:00
- Spiritual Speaker: 3:15-4:00
- New – Battle of the Home Groups!

\*We are currently seeking monetary contributions to help with lunch.  
Please email [share@suffolkny-aa.org](mailto:share@suffolkny-aa.org) with any questions.  
We Thank You in advance!



Celebrating 82 yrs. of AA!!