

**Volume 47
Number 7**

THE SUFFOLK INTERGROUP November, 2019
Bulletin

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

**We are Thankful For
Alcoholics
Anonymous
Have a Very Happy
Thanksgiving**

Greetings from the Suffolk County Institutions Committee.

If you currently chair a meeting in an institution, if you are interested in chairing a meeting at an institution OR if you are interested in speaking at an institution meeting, we are here to support you! Please attend our meeting on the third Tuesday of every month, (next meeting is 11/19/19) at 7:00 p.m. at the SIA office.

Kathleen, Institutions Chair
Suffolk Intergroup Association of AA



The Email Addresses of your Intergroup Chairs

Chair - Tom , chairman@suffolkny-aa.org

Alt Chair - Jean Marie,

alt-chair@suffolkny-aa.org

Treasurer - Lee, treasurer@suffolkny-aa.org

Corr. Sec., Zoe, corsec@suffolkny-aa.org

Recording Sec. Lorraine, recsec@suffolkny-aa.org

Archives - Jack, archives@suffolkny-aa.org

Bulletin - Fran, bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org

Corrections - Robert, correct@suffolkny-aa.org

Grapevine- Ruthanne, grapevine@suffolkny-aa.org

Hot Line - Jeff, phones@suffolkny-aa.org

Institutions - Kathleen, institutions@suffolkny-aa.org

Literature - Tommy, books@suffolkny-aa.org

Meeting List -

VACANT - meetings@suffolkny-aa.org

Public Info - VACANT pubinfo@suffolkny-aa.org

Office Manager -

Michael, siaoffice@suffolkny-aa.org

Schools - Mike, schools@suffolkny-aa.org

Share-A-Thon Mary, share@suffolkny-aa.org

Special Events - Nick,

specevent@suffolkny-aa.org

Third Legacy - Dawn., thirdleg@suffolkny-aa.org

Webmaster, Steven websup@suffolkny-aa.org

Big Meeting - Tommy bigmeeting@suffolkny-aa.org

December Business Meetings

LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

Tues. 12/31/19

SIA Business Meeting: 8:00 PM

Archives Committee meeting: 7:00 PM

New Group Rep Orientation: 7:00 PM

True North Community Church
1101 Lakeland Ave. Bohemia

Public Information Committee:
THIRD WEDNESDAY OF MONTH

Wed. 12/18/19 7:00 PM

SIA Office, 113-8 Bay Ave. Patchogue

SIA Officers & Chairs:

TBD

Treatment Facilities Committee:
THIRD TUESDAY OF MONTH

Tues. 12/17 7:00 PM

SIA Office, 113-8 Bay Ave. Patchogue

Suffolk General Service:
THIRD FRIDAY OF MONTH

Fri. 12/20/19 8:00 PM

New GSR Orientation: 7:00 PM

True North Community Church
1101 Lakeland Ave. Bohemia

Around the AA Campus

October was an action-packed month with all sorts of happenings.

First off, the Share-A-Thon 2019 was a huge success with over 600 in attendance. Every hour offered 10 different workshops on a wide assortment of topics. Walking down the halls of St. Joseph's College, running into old sober friends and experiencing the love that made it all worthwhile. The day ended with two superb speakers.

Usually this column doesn't note anniversaries of individuals but there is something spectacular about Smithtown Serenity's Louella celebrating her 60th. And in October, Brentwood Ladies' Annie C. is scheduled to celebrate her 62nd as we went to press. Those are impressive numbers.

Group anniversaries: Smithtown St. Pats and in November, Kings Park Just for



St. Joseph's College

Two new interviews for the Archives. One from Big Commack and the other Lake Ronkonkoma.

Euphemism of the Month heard at a meeting:

"I used to play games with the truth."

If your group is planning marathon meetings for the holidays, kindly let Intergroup know. Likewise, if you will not be meeting, let us know. The holidays are difficult times for many people and it's a great idea to make sure meetings will be held as scheduled.

AAs give back on a daily basis but November has been the month traditionally where we really give back.

In keeping with celebrating Thanksgiving, suggestions are to make an extra donation to the basket or to World Services. Maybe go out of your way to take a newcomer to a meeting. Bring a box of cookies or bake a cake and bring to a meeting. Buy a can of aerosol or liquid hand soap for the SIA office (we always seem to be running out). There are lots of ways to give thanks. We have been given such a special gift.

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

The Suffolk Intergroup Bulletin



22 de Mayo 1419 New York Avenue Huntington Station, N.Y. 11746

In April 1988, a now forgotten A.A. contacted Nassau and Suffolk Intergroups to find out how he would go about starting a new group in the Huntington Station area. He was visited by Rodolfo R. and Ediberto A., who both agreed this would be the ideal place to get a Spanish-speaking meeting started. They were joined by Jose H. and initially they held their meeting at a local Taco Bell. Then they went to St. Hugh's Church to inquire about space availability. There wasn't any but a church worker from the community helped them find a location near the train station. Other groups were invited to help name this new group and some of the suggestions were Rayo de Luz (Ray of Light) and Mano Amiga (Helping Hand). 22 de Mayo, the day they started was the final choice.

In 1990, they moved to a place on New York Avenue and again in 1995 to their present location at 1419 New York Avenue. 22 de Mayo meets above a bar/restaurant and across the street from a funeral parlor. A stark reminder to look out the window and see the undertaker's establishment. This is where the disease of alcoholism can end.

The group has its own room and it has wonderful memorabilia from other Spanish groups in the metropolitan region as well as from other states. Spanish A.A. loves a sober party. Whereas the English groups send out postcards and flyers announcing group anniversaries, the Spanish have large posters printed. At these annual parties, people come from all over to partake of the festivities. It is common for visitors from Westchester and the other boroughs to head over.

There is a sense of pride here. This is home to 22 regular members who meet eight times a week (daily from 8:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. as well as 10:00 A.M. to noon on Sunday). 31 years and still going strong. That's cause for celebration.

Special thanks to Adan

S.I.A. Archives Committee

September 2019

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

Bylaws Changes September 2019

Page 11, Item Q Reads

7. The Bylaws Committee shall consist of no less than 3 voting members and the Alternate Chairperson of Intergroup. A minimum of 51 percent of the voting members shall be Group Representatives holding no other current position in Intergroup. As many additional Group Representatives who wish to serve on the Committee may do so. The remaining 8 members may be volunteers from among the Officers and Committee Chairs, or appointed by the Intergroup Chair with the approval of the General Body.

Will Change to Read:

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- The number 8 in the 4th line will be removed

Page 6 to 7 Reads:

D. The Corresponding Secretary:

1. Shall publish and distribute notices
2. Shall maintain and distribute the Association's mailing list.
3. Shall compile a list of names, addresses and telephone numbers of secretaries and other officers of each AA Group in Suffolk County.

4. Shall conduct such correspondence as does not properly belong to other officers or committees.

5. Shall attend the monthly Officers and Chairpersons meeting.

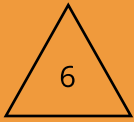
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4. Shall conduct such correspondence as does not properly belong to other officers or committees.
5. Shall attend the monthly of Officers and Chairpersons meeting.
6. Shall form a committee and oversee the monthly mailing the week following our monthly business meeting.

E. The Recording secretary:

1. Shall keep the minutes of each SIA meeting and present them at the next meeting.
2. Shall record each decision made by vote or by acclamation of the Group Representatives in the "Group Conscience" book.
3. Shall maintain a roll of Member Groups and their SIAR's (Suffolk Intergroup Association Representatives).
4. Shall be custodian of the records.
5. Shall attend the monthly Officers and Chairpersons meeting.
6. Shall prepare copies of minutes for mailings and monthly meetings.



The Suffolk Intergroup

Acceptance and Serenity

The thought provoking article that appeared in the August 2019 Bulletin, "The Need for Free-Thought Groups in AA" by Brian C. helped me to open some doors.

If God-Believers feel that God is Love, then their AA is a room filled with God. It is impossible to remove this love from AA. The rooms of AA are the rooms where love is most active. For believers the rooms become Him and His work. We are testimony to that, and are also allowed to experience the love without using the word God.

Bill wrote the Big Book in English, in book form, not parchment scroll form. The printing press had been invented and, of course, was utilized by AA to reach the public. Bill and Dr. Bob were both born in America, and used it's predominant language English. The predominant religion in America in their time was Christianity, so the utilization of the Serenity Prayer, as well as the Lord's Prayer was not only acceptable, but probable, as was the free use of the word "God". If a segment of members were to have a problem with that word, as the AA readings showed some did, an accommodation was introduced by using the phrase "a God of your understanding". This was early sensitivity towards Universality. On another day the early AAs witnessed their first woman attending, and adopted gender acceptance. In another time and place a dual addicted person had to be considered (12&12 p.142). Eventually skin color may have become an issue and, as our General Services literature (Spring 2019) suggests, it still seems to be. Similar to recovery itself, AA is a process and not a final product.

This evolution of acceptance is evident as AA grew, because of its high priority: saving human life from this terrible addiction. All the superficial differences become so very insignificant when the devastation of entire families is sadly witnessed throughout the world.

Today, the printing press has a partner in our electronic age, the Internet, a valuable tool because the message is so very much more important than the messenger. Likewise the ability to read the message in another language is not an insult to the English speaking founders of AA, but rather proof that their message of Hope is now Universal.

Understandably, the two founders of AA clothed their solution to recovery with the garments of their time: English, Christianity, and book form, in a predominantly white society. They wrote the way you and I may also have written. Had the founders lived in the Soviet Union, Adrian and Luka would have constructed a higher power of their own and not a God because these countries were officially atheistic. Had they been Turkish, Arda and Maaravi could have incorporated their ending prayer to be:

"No one besides Allah, can rescue a soul from hardship" Quran 53:58 or...

"No God but Allah, and he is with you wherever you are." Quran 57:4

Personally, I would find this prayer ending to be unpleasant, despite the people surrounding me with love at that meeting. Yet, never would I have asked my group "Is this really necessary?" Fortunately for me, Bill and Bob were not Turkish or Soviet citizens so I had an easier go of it than some of my friends did. Have we ever thought about how uncomfortable it must be for the Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Atheist, or Agnostic newcomer to listen to our recital of the Christian Lord's Prayer at the end of our meetings? That prayer is simply not their prayer. Let's not build "...a fine-mesh fence right around AA" (12 & 12 p.140). AA has always struggled with, and then overcame, the superficial barriers for true acceptance. Great discoveries like Penicillin and water purification need not stay in their historical and cultural origins. Rather, they must be modified and adapted so as to better serve the entire human family. It is a Unity that we seek. Modifications within AA that have been made over the years did get closer to Bill's 1943 letter of making AA "the most democratic society in the world".

Thanks, Free Thinkers, for helping me with my democracy. Rick





COME ONE COME ALL!
LET'S CELEBRATE
DISTRICT 301 SOBER
DANCE!

7PM-8PM: OPEN SPEAKER MEETING

8PM-11PM: DANCE (DJ, REFRESHMENTS, 50/50
RAFFLE)

\$5 SUGGESTED DONATION AT THE DOOR

UNITY DANCE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

STEINWAY REFORMED CHURCH

41-01 DITMARS BLVD





Service Is Essential

Want to know more?

Join us at

The Big Meeting

Saturday December 14, 2019

From 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

at

Genesis Church

28 Industrial Boulevard Unit A

Medford, NY 11763

There will be: Food, Fellowship and information on Service Opportunities.

This is about one hand reaching for another,

Sponsor to Sponsee

Alcoholic to Alcoholic



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

Alcoholics Anonymous Page 89

**Service,
Our Third
Legacy**