



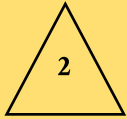
October, 2022

**Volume 50
Number 5**

THE SUFFOLK INTERGROUP BULLETIN

**Visit our SIA Website at:
<https://www.suffolk ny-aa.org>**

*Autumn shows us how
beautiful it is to let go*



Suffolk Intergroup Bulletin

October Business Meetings

**The SIA Business Meeting has gone
HYBRID both in person and online**

**Our new location is St. Joseph the Worker RC
Church 510 Narragansett Ave. East Pathogue, NY
11772**

Join via ZOOM

ID 941 2170 5886 Passcode Service

LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

Tues. 10/25/22 8:00 PM

SIA Business Meeting 8:00 PM

New Rep Orientation: 7:00 PM IN PERSON ONLY

Schools and Public Information

EVERY THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

10/18/22 at 6:00 PM at the SIA office

113-8 Bay Ave. Patchogue

Treatment Facilities

Meets virtually every other Sunday at 12:00 PM

Currently scheduled meetings

10/9/22 & 10/23/22 at 12:00 PM

SIA virtual meeting space

Check events calendar to confirm

Suffolk General Service

THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

Fri. 10/21/22 8:00 PM

Join via ZOOM

Mtg ID 932 6450 5176

Passcode 713704

Visit the SGS Website for more information:

<https://aasuffolkgs-ny.org/>

From the Bulletin

**The bulletin is hoping to get stories and
write ups about members experiences
with AA topics and how they apply them
in their lives.**

**The editor can assist participants in
writing their stories and, if preferred,
interview participants for a written
story.**

**By sharing your experiences you will be
reaching out to AAs throughout Suffolk
County and doing great service!**

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

**Send your stories to
bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org**

From the Grapevine

**I'm Kevin, your SIA Grapevine
chairperson. Please help me stay sober by
allowing me to attend your meetings to
help pass along the greatest AA
magazines and books ever written.**

**I will come to your group and set up a
display, which you and your group
members can browse.**

I can be reached through my email at

Grapevine@suffolkny-aa.org

Thank you for allowing me to serve

Around the AA Campus

New meetings

Organic Mustard Seed 10 Flanders Road, Riverhead by the traffic circle meets Monday to Friday at 7:30 AM

The Solution meets at Poospatuck Community Church 116 Poospatuck Lane, Mastic Tuesday at 7:00 PM

Group Update

The Only Requirement will be online until further notice awaiting a return to the Mastic-Moriches-Shirley Library after renovations are completed

Things We Cannot Change

Peggy S, a much-loved presence in Brentwood has left us.

Tommy A Hauppauge Touchstones/ Smithtown Afternoon, we just found out, passed away in May'

Lynn Long time member of the Kings Park Group.

All three brought so much to our fellowship and will be deeply missed



The Solution



Organic Mustard Seed



Spotlight on the SIA Literature Chair

My responsibilities as the Literature Chair include:

Ordering literature for the SIA office, so that the volunteers at the office can sell it to the groups and alcoholics.

I stop into the office and check on the inventory and when we are running low or are completely out of an item I reorder it.

I go to events and setup my table and sell books and literature to the attendees

Bobby Literature Chair

The Email Addresses of Intergroup Chairs

Chair - Lee B - chairperson@suffolkny-aa.org

Alt Chair - Jim S - alt-chair@suffolkny-aa.org

Treasurer - David V - treasurer@suffolkny-aa.org

Corresponding Sec.- Debbie-

corsec@suffolkny-aa.org

Recording Sec. - Joanne -

recsec@suffolkny-aa.org

Archivist - Bob - archives@suffolkny-aa.org

Bulletin - Fran - bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org

Corrections - Keith - correct@suffolkny-aa.org

Grapevine - Kevin - grapevine@suffolkny-aa.org

Hot Line- Zoie - phones@suffolkny-aa.org

Institutions- Dawn -

institutions@suffolkny-aa.org

Literature- Bobby - books@suffolkny-aa.org

Meeting List - Howard-

meetings@suffolkny-aa.org

Public Info- Ed - pubinfo@suffolkny-aa.org

Office Manager - Kathie-

siaoffice@suffolkny-aa.org

Schools- Jackie- schools@suffolkny-aa.org

Share-A-Thon - Allison - share@suffolkny-aa.org

Special Events- Jeffrey A -

specialevents@suffolkny-aa.org

Third Legacy -Laurie- thirdleg@suffolkny-aa.org

Web Master - David P-

webmaster@suffolkny-aa.org

Spanish SIA Liason - Jose R.

SpanishRep@suffolkny-aa.org

Maureen P.Al-Anon Liason

AAliaison@al-anon-suffolk-ny.org

The Archives Committee meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM on Zoom

ID 996 096 9365 Password 799633



Suffolk Intergroup Bulletin

Suggested AA Topics

From page 2

Acceptance
Attitude of Gratitude
Belief in a High Power
Complacency
Fear
Forgiveness
Freedom through Sobriety
Hope
Humility
Identification Inadequacy
Inventory
Letting go of Anger
Living One Day at a Time
Making Amends
11th Step Meditation

Personal Spiritual Experience and
Awakening
Practice these Principles in all Our
Affairs
Projection - living in the Wreckage
of the Future
Rigorous Honesty
Serenity
Service
Surrender
Three Legacies- Recovery,Unity and
Service
Ways of carrying the AA Message
What is Sobriety

A Message from the SIA Webmaster

We have reorganized some of the menus and pages of our web site
(suffolkny-aa.org):

Meetings is still the entryway to our online meeting finder and other
listing sources.

Members & Groups has pages for business and service at the individual
and group level.

News & Events contains links to our calendar, announcements, events
and our bulletins.

About Us has our contact information, meeting locations, important
links and more..

Would you like to get SIA updates via text or email? Sign up for SIA
Announcements on our main page.

SIA Web Committee meets virtually every 2nd Thursday (**ZOOM**
meeting ID 941 2170 5886, passcode service). Join us to share ideas or ask
questions - 'tech' knowledge not necessary!

Contact me at webmaster@suffolky-aa.org... thank you for allowing
me to serve!

Big Commack
Commack Methodist Church
486 Townline Road
Commack, NY

The first members of the Commack Group wanted a meeting close to where they lived. In March 1966, they started the Commack Group. These first members were: Jim, who spoke at Bill Wilson's anniversary in 1967, Joe, another Jim, and Dick. Jim, from Northport, ran the group with an iron hand, Joe says. They met in the old Methodist Church on Townline Road. This landmark building is the oldest structure in Commack. Clint, who knew Bill W. and is in the book Pass It On, was the first speaker at the group closed meeting. The early members were mostly Irish Catholic lawyers. Some people called it the lawyers' group (it wasn't).

In 1969, they moved next door to the Commack Methodist Church basement. They met on Monday for the Open meeting and Wednesday for the Step Meeting at 9 PM. Closed step meetings would go until 11pm! The early men in the group would have loved just men in the group, but a woman, Midge, joined. They seemed to like her to stay in the kitchen out of the way. Soon more women came to the group. The men sat with men and women sat with women. The sexes were segregated in the early days, Jim recalls.

By 1970, there were 30 or so members. Jim, 20 years old, came to the group. They treated him well, but figured he'd never make it because he was too young. He did. The group changed its starting time to 8:30 and then 8:00 PM. Some members in the 70's and 80's were: John, Jim, Bill, Hugh, Bill, Frank, Steve, John, Marge, Connie, Pat, and Pat. In 1980, when the Commack Share and Care Group formed, the Commack Group got a pet name. It was called

Big Commack to distinguish it from the other Commack Group. Also in 1980, John started the first Big Book meeting in Suffolk County. It was based on the Joe and Charlie Big Book study tapes. This meeting, as well as a Beginners Meeting, ran before the other meetings. The Commack Group was always a rigid Step-oriented group. It was the most disciplined hard lined group of people anywhere, Jim recalls. Tough love was the order of the day in the group. It was above tough and some people didn't like it. "Tough love made me better", Jim says.



In the 80's and 90's, vans would transport patients from Pilgrim State Hospital to the early meetings. Smoking was banned in 1985 because the smoke rose up into the church. On nights the group couldn't use the meeting rooms, they would meet in the school next door. In the early years, group anniversaries were held on Monday night, which was very intimate. Eventually, they were moved to Saturday night and the group anniversaries became more elaborate with food and dancing. In the late 90's, group membership was dwindling. Two out of four meetings were removed. Some people thought the group would fold, but it still functions. Jim, who was considered to be its founder, spoke at the 30th anniversary of the Commack Group. A year later he passed away.

By Jim, Joe, and Walt

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



Attraction vs Promotion

Several years ago, as I retired as Chair of the Public Information Committee, the Bulletin provided me the opportunity to answer a commonly asked question: "What makes Public Information 'attraction' rather than 'promotion'? Recently, this question has arisen again in regard to the Suffolk General Service plan to place Public Service Announcement signs on Suffolk County buses. Personally, I support this plan,

I have heard some people say that they think the plan violates Tradition Four by affecting AA as a whole. I would disagree. AAWS has never, to my knowledge, attempted to publish AA information at the local level, that effort falls to local service organizations. This has been the case as far back as I am aware. The remaining objection is that the plan violates Tradition Eleven. The response to that objection requires a brief discussion of the relationship between PSA's and AA.

I believe that anyone who has served in Public Information and wanted to do a good job while staying within our Traditions has had to arrive at an understanding of 'attraction' and 'promotion' to guide them in their work. What follows is my understanding, and my opinion.

I begin by thinking about three columns of newsprint. One column is an advertisement, clearly promotion; one column is an announcement of the day, time and location of an AA meeting, hopefully attraction; the last is an editorial, seemingly somewhere in between the other two. They all appear in the same newspaper, they are all black ink on white paper, they could well take up the same amount of page space and be printed in the same font...what makes them different? To me, it is in the treatment of facts and the intention to persuade.

Advertisement or promotion allows the greatest leeway in dealing with facts. We allow, and even expect, advertisements to deal in a bit of hype; to stretch the truth; to make exaggerated claims. Perhaps the ad contains facts that are not entirely relevant to the point the ad is trying to make, in order to gain a positive reaction by association or by contrast. Perhaps the ad contains quite a bit of opinion, perhaps unsubstantiated opinion. Perhaps the ad offers "bonuses" or "gifts" to persuade the reader to accept a point of view or take a certain action.

An editorial will also attempt to persuade the reader to a point of view or course of action, but while we expect advocacy in an editorial, we have a higher standard for the presentation of facts. We expect the editorial advocate to present the facts in the best light to make his case, but we would not expect that he would engage in lies of either commission or omission. We expect the facts used to support an editorial to be complete, non-distorted and relevant, but the intent to persuade is still present.

In attraction, in the A.A. ideal, we engage in neither advertisement nor advocacy. We try to present the facts as clearly as possible and allow our audience to draw what conclusion they may. The facts of our experience, in drinking and in recovery, speak for themselves. The unadorned truth about ourselves and our Fellowship is our best persuasion. The manner and the tone of the presentation will vary, but always we do our best to stick to the facts. We see this in our individual Twelfth Step work with the still suffering alcoholic: we do our best when we relate the facts of our own drinking and our own recovery and leave preaching and opining out. Some people will tell their story humorously, others very seriously, still others will vary their presentation depending on their audience, but we all strive for honesty and openness and we do not proselytize. The same principle directs Twelfth Step work at the level of Public Information.

It was the intent of the founders of our Fellowship that our members be anonymous, but our Fellowship itself can never be. How would the suffering alcoholic find us? We can't hide away in our church basements hoping some drunk will stumble down the stairs. The people who need us must know about us. And must know the truth about us. I, for one, trust our PI committees to produce signs that educate without proselytizing. In the early days of our Fellowship, when our numbers were counted in the tens rather than the millions, Bill asked Dr. Silkworth for a letter of introduction to help with some Public Information work he was doing with the Rockefeller Foundation. In the letter he wrote, Dr. Silkworth concluded, regarding our earliest members, "You may rely absolutely on anything they say about themselves." If we stick to that guideline, I don't think we can ever go far wrong.

Brian C.

MEDITATION

My life has changed, I received a gift
I've learned a secret that makes me tick.
To sit in silence, to breathe and sigh
It's all I need to feel alive
My feet on the ground and spirit above
A light right through me to feel the love.
To balance, to reap a life so bright
It's what I need day and night.
It's what I've craved all along
It's peace of mind that keeps me strong.
Forget the past, forget the worst
I am free at last, I am no longer cursed.
Peace, joy, love and light,
The colors of the rainbow keep me right.
Chrisy W.



REWARD

What a reward I received for living, speaking, and listening. I walk with faith, trust, and love, as long as am willing to surrender. A real juxtaposition can be seen from days past to the spiritual fluidity of today, the New Now. I write of words full of truth, it's all I know how. I was called to embark on this amazing journey, hoping to share the beauty in life that I was gifted with and to share these adventures and experiences where I was able to gain a new perspective and have clarity on what life is supposed to be. I was given the ability to live in True Freedom without fear and skepticism. I was given the ability to live in love, harmony, and pure ecstasy.

Chrisy W.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE SPIRIT

OCTOBER 28-30, 2022

PRE-REGISTRATION: \$25

**PRE-REGISTER
ONLINE AT
ESCYPAA8.ORG**



**HUNTINGTON HILTON
598 BROADHOLLOW RD
MELVILLE, NY 11747**

**Book your hotel room at
www.hiltonlongisland.com**

GROUP RATE CODE : ESCY or call 631-577-1537



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