

October, 2024

Vol. 52 - No. 06



SUFFOLK INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION

Bulletin

SHARE-A-THON

OCTOBER 6TH, 2024

AL-ANON PARTICIPATION



MEETINGS 9 - 4 PM

ST. JOHN NEPOMUCENE CHURCH

1140 LOCUST AVE.,

BOHEMIA, NY, 11716

**Success is not final, failure is not fatal:
it is the courage to continue that counts**

- Winston Churchill



Visit us at
suffolkny-aa.org

SIA Business Meeting

Held last Tuesday of every month

October 29th, starting 8:00 p.m.

New Rep Orientation 7:00 p.m.



IN PERSON

True North Church
1101 Lakeland Ave
Bohemia, NY 11716



VIRTUALLY

(see page 5 for zoom info)

SIA Bylaws Committee

Please join us in our quadrennial assignment, to:

- ✓ Review the SIA Bylaws
- ✓ Propose desired changes
- ✓ Publish proposed amendments
- ✓ Report on the anticipated effects
- ✓ Present amendments to the body for approval by substantial unanimity

Your participation and input in this crucial process are highly valued.

The committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month - **Oct. 8th, 6:30 p.m.** at the **SIA Office.**

Email Allison, Alt-Chairperson with any questions alt-chair@suffolkny-aa.org

View Bylaws via QR code or visiting:
<https://suffolkny-aa.org/bylaws>

Scan or click



for SIA By-laws



The **Treatment Facilities Committee** is ramping up the county's BTG program. We need your help to be:

Temporary Contacts - bring prospects coming out of a Treatment facility to their first six meetings & get them connected with a sponsor, home group & commitment.

BTG District Captains - remember the SIA hotline district Captains who used to go around recruiting A.A. members for 12 step calls via the hotline? Same thing - only recruiting Temporary Contacts for Bridging the Gap instead. Must have working knowledge of A.A. traditions or be willing to learn.

BTG Facilitators - communicate with staff of Facilities to assist prospects connecting with a Temporary Contact on the outside. Must have working knowledge of A.A. traditions or be willing to learn.

To learn more about service opportunities w/ Treatment Facilities Committee scan or click QR code, or visit:

<https://suffolkny-aa.org/treatment>



HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!



It's not difficult to work the Hotline

- ✓ calls are automatically forwarded to your phone
- ✓ no one will see YOUR phone number
- ✓ most callers are looking for help finding a meeting or to be connected with a 12 Step Volunteer

We will show you how to take calls and provide you with all the necessary tools.

To sign up as a group or for any other inquiries, email phones@suffolkny-aa.org

To sign up as an individual, scan or click the QR code to the right :



To learn more about the hotline, scan or click the QR code to the right or visit :

<https://suffolkny-aa.org/hotline>



STEWARDSHIP

Hello, Fellow A.A. Members. In my Merriam-Webster Dictionary (paperback, 11th edition) the word “steward” has three definitions. The first applies to managing a domestic estate, and the second is applicable primarily to the distribution of food. However, I’d like to focus on definition #3: “one actively concerned with the direction of the affairs of an organization.”

By that definition, I’m sure most of you realize that your Suffolk Intergroup officers (and General Service officers too, at any level) are stewards of their respective organizations – and that means you and your Group need to hold those of us who serve you accountable. But because I currently serve as your SIA Treasurer, that’s what I want to talk about today.

As I tell people when I’m sharing about Tradition Seven, anyone who serves Alcoholics Anonymous as a Treasurer is the primary steward of your group’s basket dollars. As you might imagine, my first duty in this capacity of course is to not “borrow / reallocate” any of it for my own purposes. As you’ve seen from my monthly Treasurer’s reports this year, at the end of any given month we have a total of around \$105,000 between our Prudent Reserve (savings) and operating accounts. I’ll talk more about that in a minute.

Aside from handling your contributions with integrity, another important aspect of financial stewardship is to use my skillset to help guide things like monitoring spending, watching for trends, and trying to shape a meaningful, useful budget. Since I’ve been doing bookkeeping, accounting, and treasury functions since the late 1970s, I’m pretty comfortable with this aspect of the position. Yes, there is a point, and yes, I’ll be getting to it... now. 😊

Because we’re sitting on so much money (and by just sitting on it, we’re not really helping the next suffering alcoholic, are we?), for the past nine months I’ve been looking for ways to 1) lower the Prudent Reserve, 2) get more money budgeted for the committees that do our 12th Step work directly, and 3) reassure the Groups of Suffolk County that we are truly acting as effective stewards of your group’s basket contributions. And I think we’ve found the path.

Your Budget Committee has approved the 2025 SIA Budget enclosed in this month’s bulletin, and has allowed me to propose it to you and your Groups for consideration. Some of it will definitely look different, but I believe it’s a path forward for better use of your contributions.

It’s important that your group rep attend the September membership meeting, and it’s VITAL that they (and all interested A.A. members) attend the October meeting to ask questions, and for the voting members to decide on it. I will be available to anyone who has questions in the meantime – just email me at treasurer@suffolkny-aa.org, and we can start a dialog.

Perhaps most important of all: as you will see in the first two columns, projected Group Contributions at the current rate look like they will fall off about 17% from 2023 this year. Please keep contributing! We need your stewardship, too, and it’s ultimately the same as ours: Tradition 5. As I’ve heard in the rooms, “don’t stop before the miracle happens.”

In Service,

Tom B., A.A. Member (and SIA Treasurer)

October Calendar

Oct 1 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Corrections Committee Meeting
(virtual)

Oct 1 @ 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Special Events Committee Mtg
(virtual)

Oct 8 @ 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Bylaws Committee Meeting
(SIA Office)

Oct 8 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Archives Committee Meeting
(virtual)

Oct 10 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Web Committee Meeting
(virtual)

Oct 11 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Treatment Committee Meeting
(virtual + SIA Office)

Oct 18 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Suffolk General Service Meeting
(virtual + Emanuel Lutheran
Church Patchogue NY)

Oct 21 @ 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Schools Committee Meeting
(virtual)

Oct 22 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Officers & Chairs Meeting
(virtual + SIA Office)

Oct 29 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Treatment Committee Meeting
(virtual + True North)

New Intergroup Rep Orientation
(virtual + True North)

Oct 29 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
SIA Business Meeting
(virtual + True North)

SAVE THE DATE

SUFFOLK COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE UNITY BREAKFAST

February 16th, 2025
Sunday @ 9am

Huntington Hilton in Melville
598 Broadhollow Rd

Around the A.A. Campus

Group Updates

Bellport Group

The Bellport Group has changed its Sunday meeting start time to 7:00 PM. They meet at the Mary Immaculate Church 14 Browns Lane.

Time and Time Again

Time and Time Again in East Quogue has streamlined its schedule. The Monday 1:00 PM will no longer be meeting but the Saturday 3:00 PM is still going strong. Stop in at the United Methodist Church 569 Montauk Highway

Melville High Noon

Melville's High Noon has moved to King of Kings Church 2611 New York Avenue also in Melville. The schedule will be Monday to Friday at noon. Each day's format is different. Come check them out. See photo below.

East End YP » Progress Not Perfection

East End Young People has a new name. They will now be called Progress Not Perfection. Nothing else has changed, it is still a great meeting. They meet every Thursday at 7:00 PM at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary 2350 Montauk Highway Bridgehampton.



Melville High Noon @ King of Kings

Word of Mouth » Way of Life

Word of Mouth has merged with Way of Life and will take the Way of Life name. The new schedule is as follows: Sunday Big Book (Joe and Charlie) at 7:00 PM, Monday (Beginners) at 8:30 PM and Friday (Step) at 7:30 PM. All of this takes place at St. John Nepomucene 1150 Locust Avenue Bohemia

The Things We Cannot Change

Suffolk Alcoholics Anonymous took a heavy hit this last month as we lost two beloved members. Jack McG from the St. James Group passed away. It will be hard to imagine the meetings without his friendly face there. He was quick to do service work and offer help.

Meanwhile Whitman's Vito G, also left us. He helped hundreds in his over thirty years of sobriety. Many might remember the "shed" Vito built in his backyard during the pandemic, so people would have a sheltered place to meet. Complete with heating, its story can be found in the May 2021 issue of AA's Grapevine magazine.

We were blessed to have had these two guys in our lives and that celestial meeting in the sky has gained two great people. They will be greatly missed.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

On **Monday, October 21st**, there will be no regular (Step/Tradition) meeting of the **Bayport Middle Road Group at 8:00pm.**

Instead, there will be a **Group Inventory** at that time, which will be open to Bayport Middle Road **group members only.**

The Beginner's Meeting at 6:30pm will be held as usual that evening. Thank you.

The Whoopee Party — Group History

St Joseph's School
59 Church Street
Kings Park, NY 11754



For many years, finding an early Sunday afternoon AA meeting in Kings Park was as easy as pie. There was one nearby at 1:00 PM at Charlie Murphy's, a rest home for alcoholics. If that didn't suit your fancy, there was another one an hour later when Just for Today at St. Joseph's met. Then there were none.

Murphy's had a fire in 2016 and shut down for good and the pandemic knocked the wind out of Just for Today. Although its Wednesday evening meeting continued, there wasn't much group support to keep its Sunday afternoon afloat. They abandoned that hour slot. But would it still be available if someone else wished to do a meeting? That possibility was mentioned to Joni, who doggedly pursued the idea. There were issues with insurance that needed to be ironed out. Like everything else these days, the cost of that has skyrocketed. Joni shopped around. Emails were sent back and forth to iron out the various details. Perseverance did pay off.

Now that she got the meeting place, Joni had to come up with a name and a format. She has always benefitted so much from reading the Big Book and applying its message to her life. So, it was a natural for this to be the focus of the meeting.

The strategy is for "deep diving" into the Steps. One week a Step will be read from the Big Book. This will be followed by sharing. The next week the same Step will be read and shared about from the Twelve and Twelve. Finally, a week later, there will be a speaker on that same Step. Those attending will be immersed in our program.

Coming up with a name took some doing. She wanted a name that would sum up a fun-loving yet serious approach to the meeting. This would not be a stodgy affair. Those who know Joni, know that stodgy would never fly. Her first choice for a name We are Not a Glum Lot was already taken, so she plucked this little gem from AA literature: "That includes bars, nightclubs, dances, receptions, weddings, even plain ordinary whoopee parties." *Alcoholics Anonymous*, page 101.

Henceforth, the meeting would be known as The Whoopee Party.

The first meeting was held on Sunday, July 3, 2022 and was a huge success. Sixteen people showed up. Since there were not enough Big Books, copies of the "Doctor's Opinion" chapter were passed around. Coffee came from Dunkin Donuts. Signs from the recently shutdown Stony Brook Unity Group decorated the room. Another Unity Group present was a singing bowl which when struck signaled the start of the meeting.

A week later, twenty-one people came to participate. The hard work paid off. No longer would there be a void in the Kings Park Alcoholics Anonymous schedule. The Whoopee Party is here - and believe us - it is far from ordinary!

SIA Committee Meeting Schedule

Archives (virtual)
2nd Tuesday 7:00 pm

Bylaws (SIA Office)
2nd Tuesday 6:30 pm

Corrections (virtual)
1st Tuesday 7:00 pm

Schools (virtual)
3rd Monday 5:30 pm

Special Events (virtual)
1st Tuesday 8:30 pm

Treatment (virtual + SIA Office)
2nd Friday 6:00 pm

Treatment (virtual + True North)
last Tuesday 7:00 pm

Web (virtual)
2nd Thursday 6:00 pm

SIA Business Meeting
(virtual + True North)
last Tuesday 8:00 pm

SIA Officers & Chairs



view contact information for all SIA officers and committee chairpersons by scanning or clicking the QR code or visiting:

<https://suffolkny-aa.org/contact-us>

SIA Virtual Meeting Space



Zoom ID 941 2170 5886
Passcode service
Tel Dial-In (929) 205-6099

THIS WE OWE TO A.A.'S FUTURE

A.A.s Declaration of Unity was accepted into our fellowship at the 1970 International Convention. Our founders felt it was absolutely necessary that, as a society we should avoid controversies over politics and religion. Let's remember how important this is when carrying the message in our meetings. Is what I'm about to express meant to help the sick and suffering alcoholic in the room, or is it self-satisfaction? As it clearly states:

“To place our common welfare first, to keep our fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depends on our lives; And the lives of those to come.”

Someone once told me, “Would You Rather Be Right, or Happy?”

I also want to share what I'm observing in our local meetings:

Too often, I hear a lot of praise and lengthy discussion on outside facilities, outpatient therapy, sober living, and sometimes people's jobs. But what I'm not hearing enough of is the solution to recovery from alcoholism. The program of action, constant contact with our fellow members, and what kept us sober for the day. Am I missing something? Or perhaps I dare to ask, is the new person missing out on something vital!

The long form of Tradition 6 reminds us to divide the material from the spiritual.

What's been saving lives since the early days of A.A.:

- 1) Work with a sponsor and experience the freedom from obsession of alcohol through the 12 Steps of Recovery with reliance on a Higher Power
- 2) Join a Home Group to build Community through Unity
- 3) Have a Commitment in A.A. to be of Service to the community and newcomers.

This also brings up our A.A. Responsibility State-

ment which was introduced at the 1965 A.A. International Convention in Toronto Canada (this is the We Version!)

“We are responsible when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, we want the hand of A.A. always to be there, and for that, we are responsible.”

We are all responsible for:

- ✓ Reaching out to the newcomer and welcoming them, offering phone numbers and inviting them to the ‘meeting after the meeting.’
- ✓ Participating in our home group and volunteering for service positions that need filling.
- ✓ Sponsoring other A.A. members and sharing the importance of our twelfth step work and unity.
- ✓ ‘Walking the talk’ and ‘living’ our primary purpose.
- ✓ Supporting our Intergroups and Central Offices – often the first contact a potential member, a suffering alcoholic, has with A.A.
- ✓ Generously contributing to the Seventh Tradition and ensuring our home group contributes to all portions of the pie chart (Intergroup, County, Area and GSO).

Those of us in general service are responsible for sharing our experiences with enthusiasm to help spark interest in those who have not yet discovered the magical feeling of unity that comes from working with others for a common purpose.

If readers want to learn more about how service and the fellowship continues to change lives, I invite you to come join us for a day of food and fellowship at the **Service Sponsorship Breakfast** and the **Big Meeting**, hosted by Suffolk General Service. Both events will be held on Saturday, October 26th, at 525 Jan Way in Calverton, NY.

John V., Suffolk General Service Big Meeting 2024 Chair

**SUFFOLK INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION
2025 BUDGET - PROPOSED (for review by Groups)**

*** CORRECTED ***
*** Sept 25, 2024 ***

2023 Actuals - 2024 Actuals - 2025 Budget -
Final (Annualized) Proposed

2023 Actuals - 2024 Actuals - 2025 Budget -
Final (Annualized) Proposed

Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Income			
Group Contributions	\$ 101,973	\$ 84,926	\$ 90,000
Individual Contributions	\$ 1,463	\$ 12,774	\$ 12,000
Literature Sales	\$ 34,948	\$ 31,826	\$ 30,000
Grapevine Sales	\$ 1,775	\$ 2,442	\$ 2,500
Stripe & PayPal Fees	\$ -	\$ (287)	\$ (500)
Total Income	\$ 140,159	\$ 131,681	\$ 134,000
Less: Cost of Goods Sold - Literature	\$ 28,614	\$ 31,826	\$ 30,000
Less: Cost of Goods Sold - Grapevine	\$ -	\$ 2,442	\$ 2,500
Gross Profit	\$ 111,545	\$ 97,413	\$ 101,500
Office Expenses			
Copier Lease	\$ 1,672	\$ 1,928	\$ 2,000
Insurance Expense	\$ 2,897	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
Maintenance Expense	\$ 2,132	\$ 2,136	\$ 2,500
Miscellaneous	\$ 267	\$ -	\$ 598
Optimum/Cablevision	\$ 1,714	\$ 2,240	\$ 2,500
Postage Expense	\$ 1,445	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Rent Expense - Office	\$ 15,086	\$ 26,160	\$ 29,952
Rent Expense - Reps Meeting	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,650	\$ 1,800
Rent & Refresh - Spkr Exchange	\$ -	\$ 503	\$ 500
Supplies Expense	\$ 4,525	\$ 4,275	\$ 4,500
Utilities Expense (ends 2023)	\$ 4,426	\$ -	\$ -
Web Master Expense	\$ 3,865	\$ 2,505	\$ 3,000
Total Office Expenses	\$ 39,829	\$ 46,397	\$ 52,350
Water Damage (2023)	\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ -
Relocation Exps (2024)	\$ -	\$ 3,427	\$ -
Total Expense (new basis: Pru Res & Cash Bal)	\$ 106,146	\$ 105,813	\$ 117,500
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 5,399	\$ (8,400)	\$ (16,000)
Interest Income	\$ 64	\$ 70	\$ 100
Excess of Income Over Expenses (Net Income)	\$ 5,463	\$ (8,330)	\$ (15,900)
Increase in 2025 available funds: recast Prudent Reserve (6 mos, Oper Exps c			\$ 10,600
Increase in 2025 available funds: recast avg Checking Acct Balance (3 mos, C			\$ 5,300
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENSE AFTER ADJS TO AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$ -		

Committees Expenses			
Answering Service - Hotline	\$ 660	\$ 651	\$ 700
Telephone	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Supplies	\$ 660	\$ 2,474	\$ 2,000
Total Answering Service - Hotline	\$ 2,718	\$ 2,474	\$ 2,000
Archives Expense	\$ 1,110	\$ -	\$ 1,200
Big Meeting (odd-number years)	\$ 7,157	\$ 5,906	\$ 7,000
Bulletin Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400
By-Laws	\$ 3,414	\$ 2,686	\$ 2,000
Conventions Expense	\$ 2,908	\$ 1,546	\$ 1,500
Corrections / JAILS Expense	\$ 1,608	\$ 400	\$ 500
Grapevine Exp (Chair, Shipping, etc)	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500
Literature Exp (Chair, Shipping, etc)	\$ 7,693	\$ 8,000	\$ 9,000
Meeting List	\$ -	\$ 409	\$ 500
Officer Expenses	\$ 12,074	\$ 8,000	\$ 9,000
Public Information Expense	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500
Schools	\$ -	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
Share - A-Thon	\$ 7,815	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
Special Events			
50th Anniv	\$ 1,789	\$ -	\$ -
Christmas Event	\$ 392	\$ 300	\$ -
Fishing Trip	\$ (14)	\$ -	\$ -
New Year Event	\$ 1,149	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,400
Picnic	\$ (79)	\$ -	\$ -
Stepping Stones	\$ 100	\$ 300	\$ -
Thanksgiving Event	\$ 124	\$ -	\$ -
Total Special Events	\$ 3,461	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,000
Special Needs	\$ -	\$ 259	\$ 100
Third Legacy Expense	\$ 32	\$ -	\$ 250
Treatment / Institutions Exp **	\$ 3,665	\$ 11,658	\$ 20,000
Total Committees Expense	\$ 54,316	\$ 55,989	\$ 65,150

**** Prudent Reserve Calculation:**

Current Basis: COGS plus Operating Exps	138,700
6 months - max per SIA By-Laws	x 50%
	69,350
New Basis: Operating Exps ONLY	\$ 117,500
6 months - max per SIA By-Laws	x 50%
	\$ 58,750

Increase in available funds against 2025 Budget	\$ 10,600
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Upcoming Events in the Area

\$40 Per Person Overnight*

\$15 Day Pass*



Preregister Now!

Licypaa Resurrection Campout

COHOSTED BY
STATEWIDE YPAA

OCTOBER 4TH-6TH 2024

WILDWOOD STATE PARK

790 Hulse Landing Rd, Wading River, NY

Best costume contest and best tent contest!

Meetings, food, activities, and more!



Scholarships available!

Food donations are greatly appreciated!

ROBERT'S RULES WORKSHOP

Are Business meetings driving you crazy?!
Learn how to achieve unity through service.



SATURDAY
OCTOBER 5, 2024
11 AM - 2 PM

o o o o



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
33 BAY SHORE ROAD
DEER PARK, NY 11729

LIGHT LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS TO BE SERVED



Sponsored by SENY Service Sponsorship
Committee and Suffolk County General Service

www.aasuffolks-ny.org

Any Questions? Contact: Heather K. treasurer@asuffolks-ny.org

The SIA Schools Committee

will be speaking at K-12 schools and
Colleges/Universities about the
dangers of alcohol abuse and how
Alcoholics Anonymous can help if
they or someone they know has a
problem.

We are looking for volunteers! If you
want to participate in these events
please contact Matt G. at:

schools@suffolkny-aa.org



SCAN QR CODE FOR
ALL THE INFO

THE BIG MEETING

You're invited
Fellowship. Food. Gratitude.

Join us for the biggest Fellowship and Service Event

Saturday

October 26th, 11am-3pm

525 Jan Way

Calverton, NY, 11933