

March, 2025

Vol. 52 - No. 11



SUFFOLK INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION

Bulletin

**“ Springtime
is the land awakening.
The March winds
are the morning yawn. ”**

- Lewis Grizzard



Visit us at
suffolkny-aa.org

SIA Business Meeting

Held last Tuesday of every month

March 25th, 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 2nd Tuesday of the month - **March 11th, 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 prospects before they leave an institution over the phone, and arrange for a Temporary Contact to call, & take the prospect to their first meeting on the outside. Follow up with the prospect to make sure the Temporary Contact completed the 12 step call a few times and the prospect got a sponsor.

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>



Unity: What it Is, and What it Ain't

Greetings, fellow A.A. Members. The principle of Unity is one of Bill W's most cherished – and crucial – visions for our Fellowship. Tradition One states, "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on A.A. unity." Near the bottom of page 130 in Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, it says "... how best to live and work together as groups became the prime question." On the next page, referring to Eddie Rickenbacker's plane crash in the Pacific, it says "Each needed to consider the others, and in abiding faith they knew they must find their real strength."

In my experiences further down the A.A. Service Structure of the last 9 years, I have reflected often on the concept of Unity. Here are a few of my very-subjective observations:

- If there are 25 alcoholics in a room, there are at least 50 opinions to be had;
- "Unity" does NOT equal "Uniformity." We need to be able to agree to disagree – agreeably;
- "Debate" is in the spirit of gathering and acting on the most and best information available, whereas "arguing" is about winning, and showing off one's wisdom;
- Unity is walking in the same direction, but not necessarily doing so in lockstep;
- The use of Substantial Unanimity (2/3 of the votes cast in order to pass a motion) is massively important in minimizing resentments of the "they won, I lost" variety;
- Putting others down simply because they don't agree with our opinion is in violation of the spirit of Warranty 5 in Concept XII (plus, it's just plain mean / ignorant); and finally
- When the pandemic hit five years ago, it created an almost universal fear and anger – both in and outside A.A. – on a level I've never seen in my 70+ years on this earth. Perhaps it's time to get past that, and to remember we have a Primary Purpose and a ninety-year legacy of recovery to present to the next suffering alcoholic.

With thanks and appreciation to Francis G., our immediate past NERT (Northeast Regional Trustee) for his research, let me pass on a final thought, a quote often attributed to Bill W., but actually from GSO General Manager Bob P. who gave the Conference closing talk in 1986:

"I echo those who feel that if this Fellowship ever falters or fails, it will not be because of any outside cause... If we ever falter and fail, it will be simply because of us. It will be because we can't control our own egos or get along well enough with each other. It will be because we have too much fear and rigidity and not enough trust and common sense."

I guess that just about says it all.

March Calendar

Mar 4 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Corrections Committee Meeting
(virtual)

Mar 11 @ 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Bylaws Committee Meeting
(SIA Office)

Mar 11 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Archives Committee Meeting
(virtual)

Mar 13 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Web Committee Meeting
(virtual)

Mar 14 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Bridging The Gap Committee Meeting (virtual + SIA Office)

Mar 17 @ 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Schools Committee Meeting
(virtual)

Mar 20 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Special Events Committee Mtg
(virtual)

Mar 21 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Suffolk General Service Meeting
(virtual + Emanuel Lutheran Church, Patchogue NY)

Mar 21 - 23
SENY Convention
(Westchester Marriott, 570 White Plains Rd, Tarrytown)

Mar 25 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Treatment Committee Meeting
(virtual + True North)

New Intergroup Rep Orientation
(virtual + True North)

Mar 25 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
SIA Business Meeting
(virtual + True North)

In Service, Tom B.

Around the A.A. Campus

Group Updates More News

Ladies Just For Today

Ladies Just For Today is no longer meeting. This online meeting met Thursdays at 7:00 PM

Great River in East Islip

East Islip's Great River Group will not be meeting on Tuesday evenings any more. New lineup is Monday Beginners (7:00 PM) and Thursday Big Book (6:30 PM) and Step (7:30 PM). This is happening at St. Mary's 20 Harrison Avenue.

Peace and Serenity in West Sayville

Peace and Serenity in West Sayville has called it a day. They used to meet Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:00 PM at the Reformed Bible Church on Rollstone Avenue

What makes your group special?

There is an old AA saying that if you don't think your group is the best AA group, it's time to find a new one. But how do you show that your group is so special? One group, Bridge to Sobriety (Babylon) has its very own kite (see photo). Maybe this will inspire others to create something unique to celebrate their own group or share with us what you do have.



There is a wonderful article on pages 10 and 11 in the February Grapevine about the Plain Language Big Book. It "is not intended to replace the Big Book, but rather to help alcoholics gain access to AA's lifesaving message..."

Much more in the article helps explain how the book came to be. Well worth reading.

Where do you buy AA Literature?

Recently a Suffolk online group posted a list of places where people could buy Alcoholics Anonymous literature. Not one of the sites listed was our very own Suffolk Intergroup — which was surprising. For those who don't know, the Intergroup office at 33 Comac Loop Suite 1A-1, Ronkonkoma usually has a complete selection of AA literature available for purchase — AT COST!

Remember to call ahead at (631) 654-1150 to confirm that the office is open and head over. Both Charlie, the Intergroup Literature Chairperson and Mike, the Intergroup Grapevine Chairperson do a fabulous job of keeping the shelves well-stocked. Not too long ago, a group from the East End stopped in and bought a \$1,000 worth!

Group History

Shoreham Big Book and Step

Robert S Reid Recreation Center
 NY 25A & Defense Hill Rd
 Shoreham, N.Y. 11786

When this group first began it was known as Shoreham Big Book. This was one more of the many groups Danny O'D had started. This one was with the assistance of Eleanor E. It registered with AA World Services on March 1, 1989 and met on Wednesday at 10:00 AM.



According to Margie S, an early member: "When I first went, it wasn't even listed in the meeting list. It was very small. People sat around the table. One person was reading a newspaper. No speakers were ever arranged. It was more like 'Who would like to share?'"

Margie had suggested a business meeting to straighten out some of the rough spots. When someone brought up reading the AA Promises, there was a big uproar about that. Eventually, things got more organized but still the group is known to be very laid back.

By the November 1997 meeting list, a Friday 2:45 PM Step meeting was added to their lineup and with that came a name change to Shoreham Big Book and Step. Eight years later in July 2005, the Friday time was altered to 12:30 PM. That time would finally change to 10:00 AM, the same time as the Wednesday one.

Around September 2017, a third day was added. Now they had a Daily Reflections meeting on Monday at 10:00 AM and once again a name change. Shoreham Daily Reflections, Big Book and Step would continue until 2023 when Monday was dropped and it was back to the old Shoreham Big Book and Step name.

As of this writing, the group has been meeting for thirty-four years. For those interested in learning more about our basic texts, Wednesdays and Fridays at the Recreation Center in Shoreham at 10:00 AM is the place to be.

S.I.A. Archives Committee

Original history written by Vinny L November 22, 2017
 Updated October 16, 2023

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)
3rd Thursday 7:00 pm
- BTG** (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

The Archives Committee

... is looking for volunteers to help save our Alcoholics Anonymous history.

Join Us on Zoom
March 11th, 7:00 PM
 or
Contact the SIA Office at
(631) 654-1150

SIA Virtual Meeting Space



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



To Keep It, We Have to Give It Away

I just celebrated 10 years of continuous sobriety in January.

From the moment I first stumbled in, up to this present moment, my sobriety has depended entirely on the sacrifices of those who came before me—on each of you who have given your time, energy, and love to ensure that, at every step, I received exactly what I needed to grow, flourish, and recover. Some have sacrificed more than others—as my sponsor will no doubt affirm.

Following her example, and the example of so many in this fellowship, I too have learned to sacrifice. The practice of the 12 Steps has given me a small measure of humility, enough to begin giving back what was so freely given to me. I have sacrificed time with my children. Time with my husband. Leisure time. Money. My sanity. At times, those sacrifices felt like too great a price to pay.

But look at what I have received in return.

Because I am sober, I get to be a loving mother and feel the warm affection of my children. I get to be a homeowner whose neighbors smile and wave. This fellowship sent me to school and helped me build a professional life, where I now earn a paycheck based on my consistent ethical behavior. I get to be productive, friendly, reliable, and responsible. I have a growing relationship with a higher power. I routinely experience joy.

Many of you know I recently had to swallow what our book calls a “big lump.” This fellowship did for me what I could not do for myself and carried me through the profound loss of my husband. Thanks

to AA and this beautiful program, I can say I am at peace with how I walked through his illness and passing. I will never be able to repay this fellowship for that experience.

Through my paltry offerings of time and effort, I get to have and be all of this—and so much more.

So it begs the question: Was it ever really a sacrifice?

If you are reading this, I know you already know the truth of our program—that we cannot fail to reap far more than we sow in our service to AA unity.

Many keep their service within their home group, doing the absolutely vital work that made my mind blowing recovery possible. Thank you for doing it. Some are engaged in the essential work of Intergroup. Thank you for that as well. But some of you, who are able and available to serve beyond the group level, may not realize just how much you are needed. In Suffolk General Service alone, many positions remain unfilled. We need you!

I hope some will reach out and allow me to encourage you.

WE get sober together. WE. And for that, I am responsible. Anytime. Anywhere. I want the hand of AA always to be there.

I am responsible to you. Thank you for trusting me. It is an honor.

I can be reached by email at dcmc@aasuffolkgsny.org.

Heather, Suffolk DCMC, Panel 75

SIA Officers & Chairpersons		2024 – 2026
Chairperson	Jim S.	chairperson@suffolkny-aa.org
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Spanish Liaison	Jose R.	SpanishRep@suffolkny-aa.org
Al-Anon Liaison	Matt C.	AAliaison@al-anon-suffolk-ny.org
Alateen Liaison	Ed O.	AlateenChair@al-anon-suffolk-ny.org
YPAA Liaison	Caroline N.	Info.eacypaaxx@gmail.com

AA History – March

1936 - AA had 10 members staying sober. At end of 1936 AA had 15 members.

1938 - Bill begins writing the book Alcoholics Anonymous. Works Publishing Inc established to support writing and printing of the book.

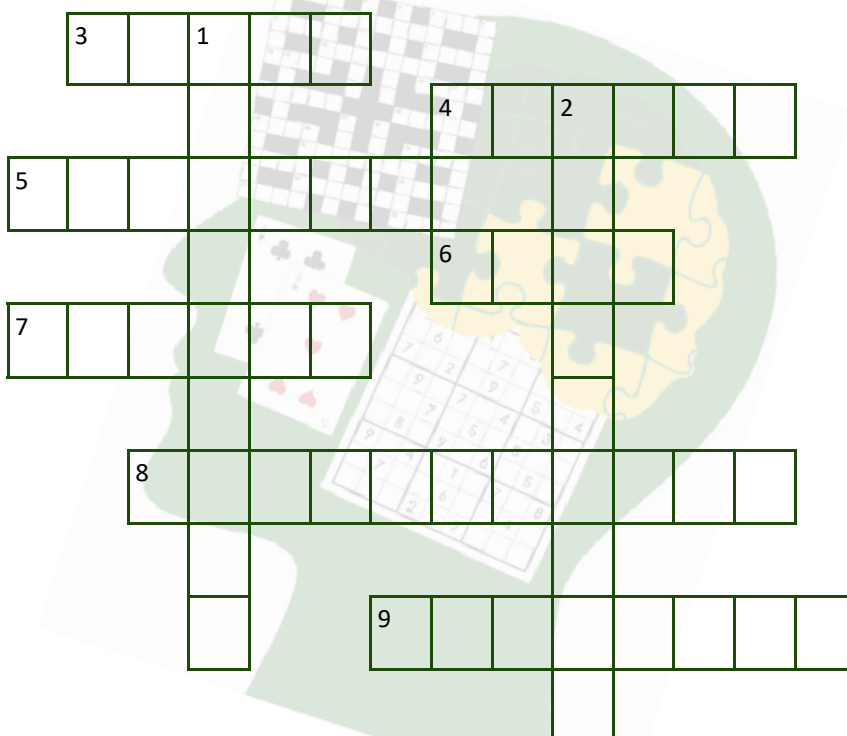
1939 - Readers Digest fails to write article on AA.

1940 - Alcoholic Foundation & Works Publishing move from Newark to 30 Vesey St in lower Manhattan – first headquarters of our own.

1941 - Second printing of 1st edition of the Big Book.

1941 - Jack Alexander’s Saturday Evening Post article published and membership jumped from 2,000 to 8,000 by years end.

1944 - New York Intergroup was established.



DOWN

- 1 Tradition Three reminds us to be this.
- 2 Letting go and turning it over.

ACROSS

- 3 Principle behind Tradition One.
- 4 All that’s needed to join.
- 5 All who join are greeted with this.
- 6 We turn our will and our lives over to the ____ .
- 7 Upside down pyramid starts with these.
- 8 An attitude needed to take Step Three.
- 9 How we stay sober — one day at a time.

Upcoming Events in the Area

view latest announcements by clicking or scanning the QR code or visiting:

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



SOBER SHENANIGANS

Festive Sober Dance
Hosted by LICYPAA,
WORCYPAA & ESCYPAA



15 | March
6-11 pm Meeting 6:30
Live DJ - Meeting - Food

1692 Bellmore Avenue, North Bellmore, NY, 11710

Scan to pre register



Questions: licypaa.events@gmail.com

Area 49 Presents
57th SENY Convention



Scan me to register!

Westchester Marriott
670 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, NY 10591

March 21st-23rd, 2025
Al-Anon Participation

AL-ANON WITH AA PARTICIPATION

"A JOURNEY THROUGH THE STEPS"

Session 1
A quarterly workshop focusing on the first 3 steps

FREE EVENT

The basket will be passed honoring our 7th Tradition

Saturday March 29th
10 am-2pm

St. Gerard Majella
300 Terryville Rd,
Port Jefferson Station, 11776
(In the parish hall)

For more info please contact Matt
Al-Anon Liaison:
aalialison@al-anon-suffolk-ny.org

THE 5TH ANNUAL
**ISLAND OF ENTHUSIASM
AA CONFERENCE 2025**
••••• LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK •••••

FRIDAY, APRIL 4 • 6PM-9:30PM
SATURDAY, APRIL 5 • 9AM-9:30PM
Doors open one hour early for check in and fellowship.

Take a journey through The Alcoholics Anonymous program of recovery with:

- Mike D. - Sioux Falls, SD
- Jennifer H.K. - Plano, TX
- Kent C. - Sandusky, OH
- Bob D. - Las Vegas, NV
- Fr. Tom W. - Oakland, CA

Speaker Panel, Atlantic Group NYC
Nancy B. • Cynthia M. • Ron B.

\$60 REGISTRATION INCLUDES:
Continental breakfast Saturday morning at 8am, dinner Saturday night and coffee & snacks throughout.

••• Registration and hotel information at: Islandofenthusiasm.org •••
Please register early as space is limited.

The conference is presented by The Island of Enthusiasm AA Group and will be held at True North Community Church, 1101 Lakeland Ave, Bohemia, NY 11716

For all inquires please email: islandofenthusiasm@gmail.com