

The Beacon

Worcester Area Intergroup

Volume 5, Issue 4

Tradition Four

Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.

From The traditions Checklist:

1. Do I insist that there are only a few *right* ways of doing things in AA?
2. Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of Loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?
3. Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?
4. Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?
5. Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths -- his lengths, not mine -- to stay sober?

6. Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?

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Save your Grapevines!!
Please set up a box at **YOUR** meetings. Worcester Area Intergroup will take you donations of old Grapevine issues to send out to Treatment and Correctional Facilities.

Is your meeting changing time or location? Closing? New Meeting starting? Let us know!! Send the information to the Intergroup Office and it will go into The Beacon, the next update of the Meeting List and updated on our web site!!

NEW MEETING – E. Brookfield

Women's Open Discussion Meeting – Harrington Abuse Center 7:30-9pm on Saturdays

NEW MEETING – Worcester

Closed Men's 12 Step Group – 695 Main St. 7:00-8:30pm on Wednesdays

NEW MEETING – Barre

Open 12 Step Group – St. Joseph's Church, 90 Common St. 7:30-9:00pm on Saturdays

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June 2002 to May 2003

April 10, 2003 – Elections and appointments

May 8, 2003 – New signature cards for bank account signed; Budgets proposed and voted on

The Intergroup Office reports that there is a huge need for 12-Step volunteers. There just aren't enough to cover the whole area and we need for the hand of AA to be there to welcome newcomers and talk to people who just aren't sure AA is for them. There is a form in this issue to fill out if you are interested. It could involve anything from visiting a wet drunk, to meeting someone at a meeting. Your level of involvement is completely up to you. Please help us help those who are still sick and suffering.

Deadline....

.....for information to go into the May issue of The Beacon is April 11th, 2003.

Information can be sent to:

Worcester Area Intergroup
100 Grove St., Suite 309
Worcester, MA 01605

or e-mailed to:

BRANDYLH1@yahoo.com
(please use the word "beacon" in the subject line)



Step 4: Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

Worcester Area Intergroup
100 Grove St., Suite 309
Worcester, MA 01605
(508) 752-9000
(508) 752-0755 (fax)

www.aaworcester.org

Office Hours:

Monday 10am-2pm
Tuesday 10am-8pm
Wednesday 10am-8pm
Thursday 10am-8pm
Friday 10am-2pm
Saturday 9am-2pm
Sunday CLOSED

TREATMENT COMMITTEE NOTES

If your Group is interested in taking a commitment at a Treatment facility please contact us: Spectrum Detox - Ellen McQ Westboro State Hospital Janet L. UMASS 8th Floor Elizabeth M.

We need your help in spreading the message.....

If you or your Group have any literature; books or Grapevines you would like to donate to the committee you may bring it to the Intergroup office with a note for Treatment Committee.

Please remember the clients at these facilities rely on us... if you can't make the commitment due to weather etc... PLEASE CALL US so we may let the facility know ahead of time. No shows hurt the reputation of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

Phone List of AA liaisons to contact if your group needs to cancel a commitment:

UMASS Elizabeth M.

Worcester Youth Guidance Joe D.

Westboro State Hospital Janet L.

Spectrum Detox Ellen McQ

Spectrum Residential Michael G

Thank you fro all your support.

ONLINE....

Worcester Area Intergroup

<http://www.aaworcester.org>

Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Office

<http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org>

Grapevine

<http://www.aagrapevine.org>



Service Meetings

INTERGROUP / DISTRICT 25

Steering Committee

St. Joan of Arc Church
570 Lincoln St.

Worcester

2nd Thursday

6:15pm

Intergroup Delegates

St. Joan of Arc Church
570 Lincoln St.

Worcester

2nd Thursday

7:30pm

Public Information

Intergroup Office
100 Grove St. # 309

Worcester

2nd Monday

7:30pm

Joint Treatment

Intergroup Office
100 Grove St. # 309

Worcester

3rd Saturday 10am

Joint Corrections

Intergroup Office
100 Grove St. # 309

Worcester

TBA

Social Committee

Intergroup Office
100 Grove St. # 309

Worcester

TBA

Beacon Committee

Intergroup Office
100 Grove St. # 309

Worcester

TBA

District 25 (GSR's)

St. Joan of Arc Church
570 Lincoln St.

Worcester

1st Tuesday

7:30pm

District 26 (GSR's)

Local 60 Union Hall
Mechanic St.

Leominster

1st Thursday

7-9pm

AREA 30

Eastern Mass. General Service Committee

St. John's
80 Mt. Auburn

Watertown

4th Wednesday

8:00pm

Grapevine Committee

Boston Central Service
368 Congress St. Lower Level Boston

4th Sunday

1:00pm-3:00pm

CPC Committee

Boston Central Service
368 Congress St. Lower Level

Boston

2nd Thursday

7:00pm

Joint Treatment Facilities

St. Luke's
950 East St.

Dedham

3rd Friday

8:00pm

Archives Committee

St. John's
80 Mt. Auburn

Watertown

3rd Thursday

7:30pm

Literature Committee

Carter Methodist Church
800 Highland Ave.

Needham

1st Monday

7:30pm

Corrections Committee

Boston Central Service
368 Congress St. Lower Level Boston

4th Thursday

7:00pm

UPCOMING:

April 6, 2003 – Area 30 Pre-Conference Assembly hosted by District 21. Call Kevin for more info

April 10-13, 2003 – EACYPA 1 – Hyatt Regency Cambridge. Contact Joe M. for more info

April 11-13, 2003 – 37th Annual NH State Convention – Sheraton Nashua Hotel. Call Lin L. for more info

April 11-13, 2003 – 40th Annual VT Area 70 Convention. Clarion Hotel, Burlington. Call Rita for more information

May 16-18, 2003 – 43rd Annual DE Convention – Rehoboth Beach. Write to: Convention 03, P.O.Box 57, Woodside, DE 19980

May 17, 2003 – Grapevine/Archive Special Event – Holy Name Parish Hall. Call Al for more info

June 8, 2003 – Area 30 Post Conference Assembly hosted by District 6. Call Ann for more info

June 12-14, 2003 – 33rd Annual MD State Convention – email marylandstateconvention@hotmail.com for more information

June 20-22, 2003 – NERF – Northeast Regional Forum – Grand Island, NY. Contact www.aa.org for more details

July 11-13, 2003 – 36th Annual NY State Convention – Crowne Plaza Hotel, White Plains. Call Barbara R. for more info

July 18-20, 2003 – 26th Annual Maine Area Round-Up – Sugarloaf Mountain. Call Julia for more info

September 28, 2003 – Area 30 Workshop Assembly hosted by Districts 1&2. Call Maggie for more info

October 17-19, 2003 - NERC – Northeast Regional Convention – Mount Laurel, NJ – Call Kathie S. for more info

October 31-November 2, 2003 – North East Regional Woman to Woman Conference Farmington, CT Call Davi for more info **November 7-9, 2003** – 40th Anniversary of MA State Convention – Fitchburg, MA – Call Marilyn M. for more info

February 27-29, 2003 – NERAASA 2004 – Nashua, NH – Call Nashua Area Service Office for more info

31.5 Million

During my first year as a member of the fellowship, I remember when I got to two weeks of continuous sobriety and how proud I was to have made it there. I had never gone two weeks without a drink before. I did a week here, and a week there, but I could not recall two continuous weeks of sobriety. Two weeks of not drinking, and I hadn't fallen completely apart.

"I must be cured", I thought. Well, far from it, actually. I then hit my next milestone, thirty days, and I received a red poker chip, that I still have to this day. Thirty Days! Wow, I am all better. Soon, I was at 60 days, and then 90 days seemed to come rushing at me. None of these days were easy, but I seemed to be doing okay, so long as I hung out with the active "old-timers". They were an odd collection of people, but they were sober, and I was very confused. So who was I to question their suggestions?

When I joined AA, you went on commitments even if you had less than 90 days, but no way were you allowed to speak. I barely got a chance to share at any type of meeting before I got to 90 days. I recall putting my hand up at a few discussion meetings, and having it gently pushed back down. "We'll let you know when you have something to say", my first sponsor would whisper to me. Then he would say "It's important to learn how to listen".

This used to tick me off, but I didn't know how AA worked, and I assumed he was teaching me the way to a better life. I noticed he didn't do this with all his pigeons. He seemed to treat me a little differently. Maybe they were sicker than me, I used to think to myself. That must be why I'm getting all this attention. One night, on the way to a commitment, this same man turned to me and said "Today marks 90 days, it's time for you to share". I freaked! I mumbled "I'm not feeling well, I'll just listen tonight, is that okay?", I protested.

"Sure", my sponsor said "We'll save you for another time when you're feeling more up to it".

Man was I relieved! He was treating me like the others now, in a more kindler and gentler manner. As the meeting opened up, my sponsor (who was chairing the meeting), got up and said "And now we have someone who just reached 90 days.", and then he called my name, and suddenly I found myself walking up to the podium, as-if propelled by some force of nature other than my own.

The Jackass! I told him I didn't want to speak, and he promised not to call me, and now what do I do? This

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Steering Committee & Committee Chairpersons

Chairperson – Brandy H.

Alternate Chair – Bob D.

Secretary – Tom B.

Treasurer – Kimball M.

Alternate Treasurer – Glen S.

Trustees – Enzo H., Darlene V., Billy S., Ellen Mc.

Office Manager - John H.

Treatment Facilities – Ellen Mc.

Correctional Facilities – Roosevelt S. (Alternate)

H.A.L.T.line – Paul P.

Social Committee – Natasha H.

Public Information – John H.

Beacon Editor – Brandy H.

Liaison to District 25 – Janet L.

Liaison to Area 30 – Roosevelt S.

Alcathon Committee – Billy S.

If you need to speak to any of these people, you can leave a message at the Intergroup Office, 752-9000, and the staff will be happy to ask them to return your call.



Addresses needed!!

We still have several groups in this area that we do not have contact information for. The contact person would receive The Beacon to bring to their groups. To find out if we have your group contact, please call Brandy at .

Group Anniversaries

If your Group would like to announce their Anniversary in The Beacon, please call the Intergroup Office during their normal business hours.

Need more copies of

The Beacon?

Visit Worcester Area Intergroup or come to the Intergroup Delegates Meeting and pick up more. You can have the convenience of having The Beacon delivered to you!! Just \$5 will give you a one year subscription mailed to your home. Don't wait to rely on your group to have extras in stock!! See back page for subscription form or pick up forms at the Intergroup Office.

was going through my head as I approached the podium, clutching my 90 day coin. I spoke briefly and sat down. I have no idea what I said, or how I sounded. The key is that I got up, and shared something. As the meeting progressed, I noticed that I no longer was ticked off, and I felt a calmness come over me. My nervousness seemed to vanish by the end of the meeting, and I was starting to think I was actually glad I spoke. After the meeting, I found my sponsor, shook his hand and said "Thanks". He smirked, gave me a hug, and said "Keep coming!".

What does the title "31.5 Million" refer to? It refers to the number of seconds in a calendar year.

I was always told "It's One Day at a time", but in those early days, I would sit at work and watch the second hand on the clock go round until a minute had passed. So, in my first year of sobriety, I managed to stay sober for 365 days, or 8760 hours, or 525, 600 minutes, or 31,536,000 seconds!

But, who's counting!

I wanted to write someone about the wonderful experience I had on a recent visit to Southbridge Mass. I was in town for a training seminar for only four days. Thanks to a great guy, Fred B. in Southbridge I got to a meeting every night. Fred came to my hotel and picked me up. We hit two meetings in Southbridge one in Quinebaug and one in Sturbridge. It is so good to have the hand of AA available when we travel. Thanks to Fred and all the folks in the meetings, the hand of AA was there for me and I had a wonderful experience. Charley C. Va Beach Virginia.

H.A.L.T.line is looking for volunteers to answer the phone from their homes when the office is closed. We currently have several hours open that need to be filled!! If you can help, even an hour a week please call Paul P.

Treatment Facilities needs groups to fill the new commitments that are coming up. Please Call the Intergroup Office for more details.

Corrections Facilities is looking for people to get involved.

Public Information is looking for more people to get active with their committee

Several of our Intergroup and District Committees are in need of help. Worcester Area Intergroup is trying to eliminate the need to have 'committees of one'. If you have one day a month you could devote to helping out on a Committee, please ask your Intergroup Delegate, GSR or call the Intergroup Office for more information.

Special Needs

Deaf AA members requiring interpreters for AA meetings can call Paul Hostovsky at (TTY #) 1-617-695-7653, (hearing) 1-617-695-7553 or e-mail at Paul.Hostovsky@state.ma.us

There is also a number to call for an update of meeting in the Boston Area that are interpreted, the number is 1-617-695-7515 and this list of meetings is updated every Friday.

Large print Meeting Lists are now available for those with vision problems. Call the Intergroup Office to find out how to get a copy for yourself or someone you know!!

The Beacon Subscription Form

Get The Beacon delivered right to your home!!

Please print neatly!

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Please bring this form, along with \$5.00 for a one year subscription to the Intergroup Office, or mail to:

Worcester Area Intergroup

100 Grove Street Suite 309

Worcester, MA 01605

ATTN: Beacon

Checks may be made payable to: Worcester Area Intergroup

12 Step Volunteer Application

Name (First name and last initial): _____

Telephone Number: _____

Towns you will accept calls from: _____

Hours that you are available: _____

I wish to help: Males Only Females Only Both

Ages I am willing to work with: Teens 20 to 30 30 to 40 40 to 50 50 to 60 Over 60

Other (Please specify) _____

I am willing to: (please circle all that apply)

Talk to a person on the phone Go to a persons home to talk *

Give rides to AA Meetings Give rides to Detox *

Meet someone at a meeting Other (please specify) _____

*It is suggested that a person NOT go on a twelfth step call alone to help an alcoholic who is still suffering. Also you should NOT drive a wet drunk to a treatment facility (detox) without having another A.A. member with you. If you circled either of these items, please be sure that you have another member of A.A. that is willing to go along with you.