

All Phone numbers have been changed to the Intergroup Office Number.

THE BEACON

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Deadline....

.....for information to go into the May issue of The Beacon is April 13th, 2001. 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)

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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STEERING COMMITTEE

Chairperson – Brandy H.
Vice Chair – Enzo H.
Secretary – Christine T.
Treasurer – Rose Ann C.
Assistant Treasurer – Ron C.
Trustees - Peg B., Kimball M., Kate G., Joanne O.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1, 2001 – Area 30 Pre-Conference Assembly will be held at St. Edwards Church in Brockton, MA. Hosted by District 6, registration begins at 9am and Assemble continues until 4pm. *All GSR's, DCM's, Area Officers & Alternates and Committee Chairs & Alternates are responsible to attend. All interested AA's are encouraged to attend.*

April 19-26, 2001 – 44th All Ireland AA Convention will be held in County Carlow, Ireland. For more information call Fran at (508) 752-9000 (Washington, DC) or email Irelandfirst@aol.com

April 20-22, 2001 – First annual International AA Men's Conference "Arch to Freedom" will be held in St. Louis, MO. For more information call Bill W. at (508) 752-9000

April 21-22, 2001 – Cape Cod Intergroup presents their 2nd annual Spring Into Sobriety AA Roundup on Cape Cod. For more information and registration call Cape Cod Intergroup at (508) 752-9000.

April 27-29, 2001 – Vermont AA Convention 2001 will be held at the Clarion Hotel in Burlington, VT. For more info

call Rita at (508) 752-9000

April 27-29, 2001 – Weekend in SA with AA will be held in San Antonio, Texas. For more info log on to www.aainsa.org or fax (508) 752-9000

May 25-27, 2001 – 12th Annual Sobriety in Action Convention will be held in St. Petersburg, Florida. For more information email soberaction@aol.com or write to Convention Committee, P.O.Box 2571 Pinellas Park, FL 33780-2571

June 2, 2001 – 60th Annual Dinner Dance and Meeting will be sponsored by Central Service Committee in the Grand Ballroom at Lantana in Randolph. Tickets are \$30 per person and are available at

Central Service in Boston (508) 752-9000

June 8-10, 2001 – Western Mass Young People's Conference Committee presents "2001 A Young People's Odyssey & Founders Day Weekend Campout." It will be held at the Horace A. Moses Boy Scout Reservation in Woronoco, MA. For more info please write to WMYPC, PO BOX 1037, Holyoke, MA 01041.

July 20-22, 2001 – Maine Area Round-up will be held at Sugarloaf Mountain. Registration fee is \$20.00 and various accommodation packages are available. For more information call Tom at (508) 752-9000 or email tranello@maine.rr.com

November 1-4, 2001 – 40th Annual Hawaii AA Convention will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii. For more information call (508) 752-9000



Step 4:

Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Deaf AA members requiring interpreters for AA meetings can call Paul Hostovsky at (508) 752-9000 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 (508) 752-9000 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!!

HELP WANTED: WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

H.A.L.T.line is looking for volunteers to answer the phone from their homes when the office is closed. Currently, there is only **ONE** hour in the week left to fill. If you can give, even an hour a week, please call the Intergroup Office.

Treatment Facilities is happy to welcome a new Chairperson and needs groups to fill the new commitments that are coming up. If you can help, please call at the Intergroup Office.

Corrections Facilities is looking for people to get involved. Please contact the Intergroup Office for more details. (508) 752-9000.

Several of our Intergroup and District Committees are in need of help. 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.

Meeting Date Change

The Steering Committee and Delegates Meeting have be re-scheduled for **April 19th** at their regular times.

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 (508) 752-9000.



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. See back page for subscription form or pick up forms at the Intergroup Office.

PLEA FOR HELP

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.



ONLINE....

Worcester Area Intergroup
<http://www.ultranet.com/~steps>

Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Office
<http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org>

Grapevine
<http://www.aagrapevine.org>

KORTE'S CORNER

“Resentment is the number one offender. It destroys more alcoholics than anything else...we found that it is fatal.” Alcoholics Anonymous pgs. 64, 66.

Number one offender? Wait a minute...that must mean resentment destroys more alcoholics than alcohol. That's some pretty crazy stuff.

Perhaps the most important key to learning how to implement the “design for living” in the big book Alcoholics Anonymous for me came in the fourth step.

The most illuminating example of the effects of resentment on my life for me was a girl I once dated for ten months whom I'll call “Maggie” for the simple reason that I've never dated anyone named Maggie. Maggie was beautiful. In fact, she was the most beautiful woman I had ever dated up to that point in my life. She was sophisticated. She had traveled the world. She had class.

I considered myself a total loser and was in constant terror that you were going to find out that this was true, so I had to do everything in my power not only to keep you from knowing it, but to keep it from being true.

Maggie was the kind of woman that always terrified me—a female. I had always operated under such a domineering fear of rejection and failure that I could never even dream of approaching a woman like Maggie, so naturally the only reason I dated her was because she threw herself at me. I became aware of the fact that I was counting on her to save me, and I was much ashamed of how pathetic a human being I had become. I desperately needed her to change my life, to make me good enough.

Unlike all of the other girls I had gone out with, Maggie had the key to retaining value in my eyes—she acted as though she hated me, so I assumed she must be on the ball. Maggie was different, she was better than I was and we both knew it. The problem with the other women, was that I was infected with a very deep running case of alcoholic self-hate, and while they started out building my ego in the beginning of each relationship, they quickly lost value in this sense, ironically, by their very association with me. I loathed myself so much, that I subconsciously figured

they couldn't be that great if they were going out with me. This kind of thinking can only be described as a downward spiral.

This theory put into action would prove to be a self-fulfilling prophecy of misery for me my entire adult life. Maggie, however, earned big points by A) Calling me her ex-boyfriend's name in bed B) Sleeping with other men during our frequent two day breakups C) Telling me I wasn't “ambitious” (good) enough for her. D) Shutting me off from sex for months at a time.

These were a few of the resentments I had against Maggie, all justified if you asked me. I wanted to stop at the sick man's prayer (top of pg. 67) and leave the blame for my misery in the hands of those that had wronged me. Tragically, the big book is pretty clear about the fact that justified or unjustified, “resentments had the power to kill”. It goes on to say that from resentment stem all forms of spiritual disease (including alcoholism), so the joke was on me: **In my resentments, I am the sick man.**

Had I known that going in, I probably would never have agreed to write the damned things down. A big problem is that I feel ALL my resentments are justified, and Maggie's were no exception. I resented that everyone that didn't agree with me, was better looking or taller than me, had more money than me, brought nine items to the eight item express lane, drove a BMW, voted for anyone, or didn't vote...I think you get the picture. If you don't agree with me, you're obviously one sick puppy. God gave me the names of 291 “sick” people. The only thing these poor folks had in common was me!

“To conclude that others were wrong was as far as most of us ever got” (pg. 66) After completing the “cause and affects” portion of my resentments, my sponsor insisted I go on to the “turnarounds”, the heartless bastard. Some people call them “my parts”, “harms done”, “at faults”, etc. Whatever you choose to call them, they would prove to be the most important part of my entire fourth step. My sponsor just couldn't stand to let me be right. Instead, he decided to help me save my life by showing me the truth about myself and my resentments, exactly as his sponsor had done for him.

Let's look at my part in the resentments against Maggie.

Where was I selfish? I placed expectations on her to make me okay, to make me happy. I also wanted her to give me what I wanted sexually.

I was entitled, I was a “nice guy”. I wanted her to be someone she wasn't.

Where was I dishonest? I kept insisting Maggie was someone that she never once claimed to be. In fact, she once told me, “I don't know who you think I am, but I'm not her.” I answered her in my head, “Oh yes you are!” She couldn't see that she simply *had* to be. I told myself I *needed* her to be that savior—another lie. A big theme in the dishonesty was this neat little formula: If THIS then happy. If only, if only, if only she gave me sex, treated me better, respected me, loved me, etc...then I'd be happy. Further dishonesty was my denial of who she was. Maggie was a victim of two rapes and a history of molestation as a child. What color was the sky on my planet that I expected her to behave “normally” in a sexual manner just because I was “a nice guy”? I was a nice guy that wanted something from her—always. Dishonest? My “normal” sex came only after at least eight beers, lest the fear would be too much.

The resentments were just loaded with delusion as well. I thought the world would respect and admire me for dating this woman, when I completely humiliated myself again and again and blamed her. My friends were crushed by the torture I was volunteering for on a daily basis. You know what, you can't break up with some nine times in ten months if you don't go back out with them eight times.

What was I afraid of: Never being happy, failure in life (doesn't everyone need one of these women/men to be okay?), not being respected. I thought I needed this woman to be happy, right until the bitter end, talk about delusion. “This is my last shot,” I thought, “if I can't get her to behave differently and adore me, I'll die a miserable, lonely horrid death.”

This poor kid was loaded with at least as much pain, dysfunction and self-loathing as I was, and I was putting expectations on her to fix *my life*, then resenting the hell out of her for not being able to do the impossible.

It's nice to know the truth today. It's nice to know that it was my fingerprints on the bomb I was always blaming someone else for planting in my life. It's even better to know there's another way to live, and there actually is a way to be happy. After chronicling the disaster that was my life in my fourth step, I can see that God has a better way for me to live; a design for living that works, and makes me infinitely happier than I ever dreamt I could be, and keeps me resentment free.

Tragically, the big book is pretty clear about the fact that justified or unjustified, “resentments had the power to kill”.

BOOKIE BOARD

If you are the bookie for your home group and wish to have your number posted here, please call or write to the Intergroup Office. This is a great way to learn who the Bookies are for other groups and to get your number out to others!!

Upton Capertown:(Sat. 1:30pm)
Cindy S. (508) 752-9000

How It Works (Worcester): (Sat. 6:45pm)
Dayna (508) 752-9000

How It Works (Northboro): (Wed 8:00pm)
David C. (508) 752-9000

Hopedale Ray Of Hope: (Sun 10:30am)
Carol Y. or Ricky B. (508) 752-9000
4 Corners (Worcester): (Wed. 8:00pm)
John Y. (508) 752-9000

Way Of Sobriety (Worcester) (Sun 10:00 am)
Debbie P. (508) 752-9000

Stow Sunday: (Sun. 11:00 am)
Tom S. (508) 752-9000

Holden Thursday Night (Thurs. 8:30pm)
Gill B. (508) 752-9000

Starting Anew (Holliston) (Wed. 8:00pm)
Elaine K. (508) 752-9000

Sutton Center Step (Mon. 6:45pm) (Outgoing Only)
Deb W. (508) 752-9000

GOYA (Whitinsville) (Thurs. 8:00pm)
Mike H. (508) 752-9000

Worcester Young People (Tues. 7:30pm)
Tom B. (508) 752-9000

Hudson Straight Shooters (Thurs. 8:00pm)
Brian B. (508) 752-9000

Hudson Sunday Best (Sunday 7:30pm)
David B. (508) 752-9000

Millis Fellowship (Thurs. 8:00pm)
Bill G. (508) 752-9000

Douglas Maintenance and Repair (Thurs. 7-8pm)
Melissa A. (508) 752-9000

Top Of The Hill (Wed. 8:00pm)
Jeanne M. (508) 752-9000

Webster Joy of Living (Mon. 8:00pm)
Harry (508) 752-9000

Hudson Townline (Sat. 8:00pm)
Bob G. (508) 752-9000

Greendale Group (Worcester Fri. 8:30pm)
Paul H. (508) 752-9000

Putnam Young People's (Putnam, CT Fri. 8:00pm)
Keith K. (508) 752-9000

Northboro Sat. Morning (Sat. 10am)
Adam S. (508) 752-9000

Westboro Sunday Morning (Sunday 11-noon)
Jim L. (508) 752-9000

Seven AM Group (Saturday 7am)
Vi M. (508) 752-9000

Groton Easy Duz It (Tuesday 7:30pm)
Joe F. (508) 752-9000

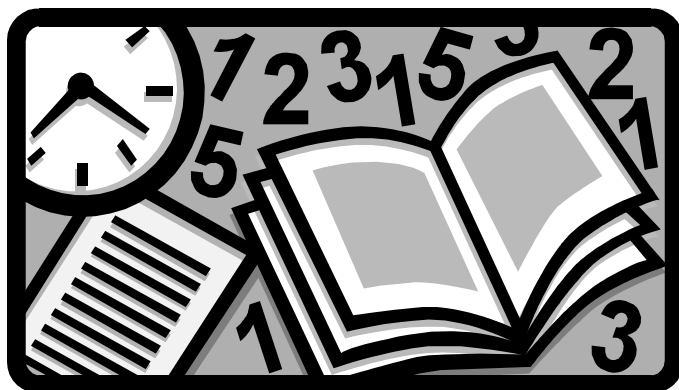
Early Risers (Worcester Sun 10am)
Dayle (508) 752-9000

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

<http://www.ultranet.com/~steps>

Office Hours:

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



MEETING TIMELINE

June 2000 to May 2001

Here's a brief look at what the Intergroup Delegates will be doing this year. We'll keep this as updated as possible, but there may be slight changes and new items brought after publication.

April 19, 2001 – Elections, Incoming Chairperson makes Appointments

May 10, 2001 – New signature cards for bank account signed, Vote on budget for upcoming year.

Dance & Breakfast

The Social Committee has announce the 2 final events for the 2000-2001 year.

There will be a dance held at the Frosihnn Club in Shrewsbury on April 21st (Saturday) from 8pm until midnight. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the Intergroup Office or at the door.

The Annual Buffet breakfast & Installation of Officers will be held on Sunday, June 3rd from 10am to 1pm at the Tuttle Post in Auburn. Tickets are \$7 and are available at the Intergroup Office.

Bookie Meeting

There will be a Bookie Exchange Meeting on Wednesday, June 6th, 2001 at the Intergroup Office, 100 Grove St., Suite 309, Worcester. The exchange will begin at 6:30pm and will be available until 7:45pm. Coffee and Munchies will be served. Come and fill up those blank spots!!!



Group Anniversaries

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

ELECTIONS!!!!

Elections will be held on April 19th at the Delegates Meeting. The following offices will be voted on:

*Vice Chairperson
Secretary
Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer*

3 Trustees

Nominations have been made by the Nominations Committee and further nominations will be accepted in writing until 5pm on April 19th.

H.A.L.T.Line Meeting

There will be a H.A.L.T.Line meeting at the Intergroup Office on Wednesday, April 11, 2001 at 7pm

SERVICE MEETINGS

INTERGROUP

Steering Committee

St. Matthews Church
695 Southbridge St.
Worcester
2nd Thursday
6:15pm

Intergroup Delegates

St. Matthews Church
695 Southbridge St.
Worcester
2nd Thursday
7:00pm

Public Information

Intergroup Office
100 Grove St. # 309
Worcester
2nd Monday
7:00pm

Joint Treatment

Intergroup Office
100 Grove St. # 309
Worcester
TBA

Corrections

Intergroup Office
100 Grove St. # 309
Worcester
TBA

Social Committee

Intergroup Office
100 Grove St. # 309
Worcester
2nd Wednesday
7:00pm

Beacon Committee

Intergroup Office
100 Grove St. # 309
Worcester
Monday after Intergroup
Meeting
7:00pm

DISTRICT

District 25 (GSR's)

St. Joan of Arc Church
570 Lincoln St.
Worcester
1st Tuesday
7:30pm

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



I am responsible....

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

Public Information

Boston Central Service
368 Congress St. Lower Level
Boston
1st Thursday
7:00pm

Responsibility Declaration

I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible

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.