

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

THE BEACON

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Deadline....

.....for information to go into the March issue of The Beacon is February 9th, 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 TWO

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

From The Traditions Checklist:

1. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? New-comers? Old-timers?
2. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibility?
3. Do I look for credit in my



AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?

4. Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?

5. Although I have been sober a few years, am I still

willing to serve my turn at AA chores?

6. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

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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

January 21, 2001 – Districts 1&2 will host Area 30's Kick-Off Assembly. Registration begins at 9:00am and the Assembly will adjourn at 4:00pm. This event will be held at Cape Cod Regional Tech School, Route 6A/Sandwich Road, Bourne, MA. *All GSR's, DCM's, Area Officers, their Alternates and Committee Chairs are required to attend.* All interested AA's are encouraged to attend.

March 23-25, 2001 – the Rhode Island Convention will be held at the Hotel Viking in Newport, RI. Contact Dave P. (508) 752-9000 DPCETC@aol.com for registration information or visit their website at www.rhodeisland-aa.org/ricc

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 WMYPCC, PO BOX 1037, Holyoke, MA 01041.



Step 2:

Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

February 23-25, 2001 – NERAASA 2001 will be hosted by Area 11 Connecticut. This Tenth Annual Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly is open to all AA's and is of particular interest to GSR's, DCM's, Committee Chairs and others involved in the AA service structure. It will be held at the Hilton Hartford and is easy to find. For registration information, contact Donna (508) 752-9000.

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 are only five hours in the week left to fill. If you can give, even an hour a week, please call the Intergroup Office. *******NOTE***** We are currently looking for someone to chair this extremely important Committee!!**

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.

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

Step Two:

Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

I never had trouble accepting the insanity clause in step two. For years prior to getting sober I was aware there was a problem with my mind. I knew "normal" people didn't think the way I thought. I often flirted with insanity, unbeknownst to friends and family, and at a couple of points tried to seek help, but was always too frightened to tell anything more than a Reader's Digest version of the truth. I had no more idea what was wrong with me or what the real truth was than I had an understanding of Lithuanian tax brackets. I'd want the therapist to like me, or was afraid they'd foolishly think alcohol was the problem. So, I'd lie about my consumption so we could focus on the *real* problem, which was, of course that I was completely worthless and that life stunk.

The part of step two that scared me to death was the word "restore". I didn't want to be "restored" to any state of mind I had previously experienced. As long as I could remember, there was a screw loose in my thinking, tons of fear amid a mountain of insecurity, doubt and remarkable inconsistency. I often considered myself an idiot one minute, (and when my ego would react as a self-defense mechanism) a genius born out of time the next.

One day, I heard a woman say her sponsor had told her she needed to be *introduced* to sanity. Now THAT appealed to me.

I was violently anti-religious upon coming to AA.

Bill W.'s words on pg. 12 put my mind at ease on this topic which has been a stumbling block for so many. "Nothing more (than willingness) is required to make a beginning."

For me, a lifetime of intense self-inflicted pain and this concept proved a powerful combination.

The recovered AAs around me provided evidence that Something was at work, and many reassured me that no religion would be forced on me or was even necessary. My Higher Power would be of *my own conception*, no one else's.

My life was so miserable that there really was no choice to be made, (aside from life or death). I simply could live no longer under the shadow of my tyrannical regime. I was acutely aware that my design for living had failed utterly. At some point while working steps one and two, I recognized myself as the man on pg. 52 of the big book from the chapter to the agnostic. This wonderful description of the unmanageable life and its state of restlessness, irritability and discontent defines my condition as an alcoholic (drunk or sober) without a Solution.

I don't know where I picked up the erroneous idea, but I was initially under the impression that happiness was the natural side effect of a set period of sobriety, like a year, five years, or (ugh) ten years. My sponsor taught me that I could wait for sanity and happiness all I wanted, but for *real* alcoholics, alcoholics of the *hopeless variety* like him (and me), he had come to believe that certain steps needed to be taken. I was very ill, and work needed to be done. Time wasn't going to be sufficient to heal my mental and emotional wounds, nor the spiritual damage I didn't even know existed in me.

Many of my friends

have enjoyed a return to sanity as early as step three, some after steps five, or seven. Regrettably, this was not my experience. I slowly became aware that I would not be restored *or* introduced to sanity until sometime during the ninth step when I also began practicing step ten daily.

The book goes on to say on pg. 84 that "we react sanely and normally" in step 10. Ah-sanity at last. By this point, I had known a spiritual experience sufficient to cause recovery from alcoholism (mentioned in appendix II on pg. 569).

One of the most important discoveries I've been blessed with is that (for me) this program isn't about *believing* in a Higher Power. I know and have sponsored many sick and suffering alcoholics that have great conviction in their beliefs, yet can't stop drinking, drugging or whatevering. These experiences have drastically shaped my thinking. For me, the program of Alcoholics Anonymous has been about a relationship with a Higher Power that transforms lives.

Threshold Fred (More About Alcoholism...pg. 42) says it all for me, "spiritual principles would solve all my problems". He doesn't even say God will solve his problems!

I sometimes feel like Fred phrased it this way for my benefit. It would be just like me to kick back, put my feet up and say, "Okay, God...do your stuff." Fred's words remind me that this is a partnership, and I need to supply the leg work. The Higher Power will do the really hard work. And believe me, "restoring" me to sanity has been no small task.

Thanks for reading!

I was acutely aware that my design for living had failed utterly.

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 10:00am)
Debbie P. (508) 752-9000

Stow Sunday:
(Sun. 11:00am)
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
Marybeth N. (508) 752-9000

Worcester Young People
(Tues. 7:30pm)
Bonnie (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
Auburn Group
(Wed. 7:30pm)
Terry R. (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 Dele-
gates will be do-
ing this year.
We'll keep this as
updated as possi-
ble, but there*

*may be slight
changes and new
items brought af-
ter publication.*

February 8, 2001 –
Nominations Commit-
tee appointed. Discus-
sion on proposed sav-
ings account.
H.A.L.T.Line Chair-
person vacancy nomi-

nations.

March 8, 2001 –
Nominations made for
all officers and Com-
mittee Chairpersons

April 12, 2001 - Elec-
tions

May 10, 2001 – New
signature cards for
bank account signed

Bookie Meeting

There will be a Bookie Exchange Meeting on Wednesday, March 7th, 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.

Meeting Changes

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!!

The **Seven AM Group** at AdCare Hospital has added another meeting on Saturday mornings (at 7 am, of course!). This is an Open Speaker Meeting.

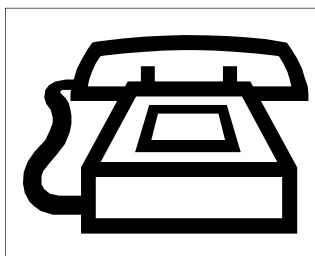
H. A. L. T. LINE CHAIRPERSON NEEDED

This position involves making sure there is telephone coverage for the hours that the Intergroup Office is closed. People use the call forwarding feature of our phone service to allow them to answer our

phones from their homes.

There are several people who are willing to advise and assist someone who would like the position.

Please call the Intergroup Office if you are interested. (508) 752-9000.



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.