

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

THE BEACON

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Deadline....

.....for information to go into the February issue of The Beacon is January 12th, 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 ONE

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on AA unity.

From the Traditions Checklist

1. Am I in my group a healing, mending, integrating person, or am I divisive? What about gossip and taking other members' inventories?
2. Am I a peacemaker? Or do I, with pious preludes such as " just for the sake of discussion," plunge into argument?
3. Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I abrasive?
4. Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting AA in one place with AA in another?
5. Do I put down some AA activities as if I were superior for not participating in



this or that aspect of AA?

6. Am I informed about AA as a whole? Do I support, in every way I can, AA as a whole, or just the parts I understand and approve of?
7. Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?
8. Do I spout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behavior that bristles with

hostility?

9. Do I go to enough AA meetings or read enough AA literature to really keep in touch?
10. Do I share with AA all of me, the bad and the good, accepting as well as giving the help of fellowship?

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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 19, 2001 - Worcester Area Intergroup Social Committee will present a Dinner Dance to celebrate the **Anniversary of Worcester Area Intergroup**. It will be held at the Frohsinn Club, 25 N. Quinsigamond Ave, Shrewsbury (This is a non-smoking facility....smoking allowed outdoors only) Buffet Dinner begins at 7:00pm with dancing from 8:30 to midnight. Tickets are \$15.00 and **must be purchased by January 12th**. Dance only tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased at the door. All tickets are available at the Intergroup Office.

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.



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.

March 23-25, 2001 - the Rhode Island Convention will be held at the Hotel Viking in Newport, RI. Contact Dave P. [REDACTED] DPCEC@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,

Step 1:

We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.

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 eight 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.

District 25 is currently seeking people interested in helping with our Grapevine and Archives Committees.

If you are interested, please let your group's GSR know, or contact The Beacon for more details.

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



CONGRATS!!

Worcester Area Intergroup would like to welcome Jay P. as our new Chairperson for the Treatment Facilities Committee.

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 One: We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.

When I think of step one, I think of Jim, my auto-peddling pal from the wonderful reading “More About Alcoholism...” which centers on the insanity of the first drink for an alcoholic. I’m not sure why they conjured up the jaywalker when they had a real-life example of the futility and insanity of the first drink in the form of this disgruntled car salesman.

Admittedly, I chuckled the first time I pictured the image of the poor and foolish jaywalker, stumbling in front of cars and trucks stupidly, until I realized it was me they were talking about. Repeating the same foolishness over and over, growing more miserable by the day and repeating the same activities daily to escape the very pain caused by those activities. At this point, Jim became my favorite person in the book Alcoholics Anonymous, probably because his thinking was as ludicrous as the jaywalker’s, only he was real. Looking at Jim’s track record made me feel less foolish about my own absurd history.

The first thing I was taught was that my body had *acquired* an *allergy* to alcohol, and that whenever any alcohol whatsoever entered my system, I would get a craving for more alcohol. Simply put, an allergy is an abnormal reaction. “Normal” people don’t have that reaction to alcohol. Further, my mind tells my body that alcohol is the solution to the constant restless, irritable and discontented condition I find myself in.

At one point, alcohol quieted the craziness in my head, but as we know, all good things come to an end. No matter how long it had been since alcohol or any of my substitute behaviors and painkillers worked, my alcoholic mind believed the illusion that alcohol will work again to kill the pain. I can’t think my way out of this illness, for the problem itself centers in my mind. “We are unable, at certain times, to bring into consciousness with sufficient force the memory of the suffering and humiliation of even a week or a month ago. We are without defense against the first drink.” (pg. 24) The book goes on to give the

alcoholic but choices 1) Go on to the bitter end, blotting out the intolerance of his situation the best he can 2) Accept spiritual help.

My favorite illustration of this type of thinking is Jim, my beloved car salesman. (Take a look at his story of a relapse), it starts on pg. 35.

Here is a guy, who has a thorough knowledge of himself as an alcoholic. He has lost a business he inherited through drinking. He knows he always winds up in the asylum when he drinks. He’s going to lose his family if he drinks again. Yet he gets tanked up again, why?

Jim failed to enlarge his spiritual life (pg. 35) He had not persisted in the program until the psychic change had enabled him to think intuitively and effectively and maintained that ability through persistence in the program of action outlined in the book. Naturally, Jim had only his own thinking to protect him, and his own thinking was infested with alcoholism and therefore, delusional thinking.

Here are some tidbits of Jim’s thinking: Jim showed up to work annoyed that he had to work at a place he once owned. He starts off the day with a resentment, and doesn’t turn it around using his 10th step. Instead of being aware of the reality of the good fortune he has had to even have a job after being thrown into an asylum and drinking away a business, he whines that ought to own the joint. Next he selfseeks on his boss and gripes to him in reaction to his resentment. He drives into the country to see a prospect for a car. Okay...but Jim, you *do* work on a car lot, that’s probably a pretty good place to make a sale. He stops for lunch at a bar. Uh-oh, trouble’s brewing.

Jim then tells himself a series of loose truths that have nothing to do with his body’s physical inability to process alcohol. A) I have no intention of drinking. B) I’ve been here before while sober C) I’ll just get a sandwich D) I might find a customer here.

None of these statements refutes Jim’s inability to process alcohol. The last statement seems a bit of a reach for me. If Jim is driving into the country to see a prospect, why is he now hoping to run into a customer at some bar?

Jim orders a sandwich and a glass of milk. He waits around and orders another sandwich and more milk. Jim then tells us that “*suddenly*” the thought came to him that he could mix whiskey with his milk. Suddenly? Suddenly? Jim, for the love of Pete, you ate lunch *twice*, then ordered more milk?

The amazing thing is that Jim actually believed this story. Even more shocking was the realization that this exact pattern of thinking absolutely littered all three sections of my 4th step in the form of resentments, reactions to fear and sex conduct.

It finally made sense that using the very mind that tells me alcohol will help my irritable, restless and discontented condition to *prevent* me from drinking is a terrible game plan. There was good news, however.

“There is a Solution.” (pg. 25) Although “almost none of us liked it”.

Almost none? I thought. Can someone please introduce me to the cat that *liked* “the self-searching and the leveling of... pride that the process (of recovery) required for ...success?”

“Further on, clear-cut directions are given showing how we recovered.” (pg. 29) What’s this about directions? I have to do more than show up?

There was a man who’s doctor told him he had cancer and had better get to the hospital fast. The man ran into his doctor six months later, and his condition has worsened considerably. The cancer had spread and really given the guy a beating. The doctor asked the man why he hadn’t gone to the hospital like he told him to.

The man said, “What are you talking about? I’ve been here every day for six straight months. I’ve been in the lobby, dropped by the water cooler a number of times, hit on all the nurses. They play shuffleboard on Fridays in the rec-room and the coffee shop has the most wonderful little cookies...”

Showing up is great. I can’t get well in the first place if I don’t show up, but for a chronic/hopeless alcoholic like me, there’s work to be done.

At one point,
alcohol quieted the
craziness in my
head, but as we
know, all good
things come to an
end.

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)

Jay B. (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

Webster Triton (Sun. 7:30pm)

Kevin K. (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)

Joe D. (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

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.

January 11, 2001 – Guidelines reviewed to determine if revisions are needed. Second of two votes for Guideline change. Discussion on proposed savings account.

February 8, 2001 – Nominations Committee appointed

March 8, 2001 – Nominations made for all officers and Committee Chairpersons

April 12, 2001 - Elections

May 10, 2001 – New signature cards for

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

Group Anniversaries

Gratitude – will be having their 25th Anniversary celebration on Sunday, January 14, 2001. The meal will be served from 5:30-6:30pm and the meeting will be held at the regular time (7-8:30pm) . Lake View Congregational Church, 100 Coburn Ave, Worcester.

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.

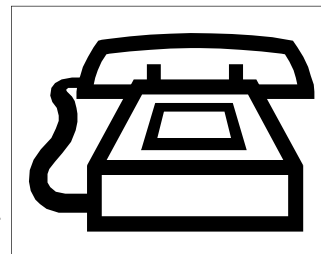
H. A. L. T. LINE CHAIRPERSON NEEDED

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

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.

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.