

The Beacon

Worcester Area Intergroup

Volume 5, Issue 1

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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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. at (508) 752-9000.

Treatment Facilities needs groups to fill the new commitments that are coming up. Please see the article in this issue for more information.

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.

Deadline....

.....for information to go into the February issue of The Beacon is January 10th, 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)



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

Step 1:

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

Joint Treatment Facility committee

****Request for information****

If your group currently has a commitment with any of the following treatment facilities ** please have your bookie contact the NEW treatment facility chair. we are trying to update our records for: Group contact Names & phone numbers & to find out when your commitment ends. I look forward to working with your group to help spread the message of recovery from Alcoholism. JTF-Chair Ellen McQ 508-752-9000 Treatment Facilities: ADCARE, Community Health Link, Spectrum Detox or residential, UMass 8th floor, Westboro state Hospital & Worcester Youth Guidance.

Joint treatment Facility committee

*****Request for information*****

If your Group is interested in taking a standing commitment with any of these treatment Facilities please have your bookie call the committee Liaisons. Ad Care - Maureen A 508-752-9000 Community Health Link - Ellen McQ 508-752-9000 U Mass Hospital - Elizabeth M. 508-752-9000 Worcester youth Guidance - Ellen McQ 508-752-9000 Westboro State Hospital - Janet L. 508-752-9000 Spectrum residential - Michael G. 508-752-9000

we are looking for help in spreading the message of recovery from Alcoholism. If you would like to attend our meetings we meet the 3rd Saturday of every month at Worcester Area Intergroup 10:00 am.

Bookie Board

Auburn Group (*Wednesdays 7:30-9pm*)

Tony B. (508) 752-9000

Aurora Group (*6:45pm-8pm*)

Deborah L. (508) 752-9000 leave message

Brookfield Sunday Morning (*Sun. 10am*)

Leon F. (508) 752-9000

Crozier (*Mondays 8-9:30pm*)

Brenda L. (508) 752-9000

Douglas Maintenance and Repair (*Thurs. 7-8pm*)

Paul P. (508) 752-9000

Dudley Day At A Time (*Thursdays 8:30-10pm*)

Kerry T. (508) 752-9000

Four Corners (Worcester): (*Wed. 8:00pm*)

John Y. (508) 752-9000

Groton Easy Duz It (*Tuesday 7:30pm*)

Joe F. (508) 752-9000

Leominster Original (*Mon 7:45-9:00pm*)

Ann P. (508) 752-9000

Millbury Traditions (*Saturdays 7:30pm-8:30pm*)

Carol (508) 752-9000

Spencer Fellowship (*Mon. 7:30pm*)

Peter (508) 752-9000

Stow Sunday: (*Sun. 11:00 am*)

Tom S. (508) 752-9000

Top of The Hill (*Wed. 8pm*)

Jeanne M. (508) 752-9000

Upton Capertown: (*Sat. 1:30pm*)

John H. (508) 752-9000

Webster Triton (*Sundays 7:30-9:00pm*)

Gail D. (508) 752-9000

Whitinsville GOYA (*Thurs. 8:00-9:30pm*)

Erin O. (508) 752-9000

Worcester Young People (*Tues. 7:30pm*)

Mike S. (508) 752-9000

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.

Upcoming

January 12, 2003 – Area 30 Eastern Mass Kick-Off Assembly. Ascension Memorial Church, 31 County Street, Ipswich, MA 9am-4pm. Contact Lorraine @ (508) 752-9000.

April 10-13, 2003 – EACYPAA 1 – Hyatt Regency Cambridge. Contact Joe M. for more info (508) 752-9000.

ONLINE....

Worcester Area Inter- tergroup

<http://www.aaworcestert.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
7:00pm

Public Information

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

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

The Gossiping Fellowship

Many times in meetings I hear complaints from one member about another member, and questioning another's program, based on how many meetings they may (or may not) go to in the course of a week. I find this behavior normal for many of us in AA, but I do not think it is based in any kind of spirituality, and growth cannot come from such an opinionated point of view.

Have I gossiped in my sober life? Absolutely! I must be honest and admit that I too have joined in with this behavior over the years. And, by the way, I am very good at it! I could be a talk show host that dealt with nothing but gossip and finger pointing. I can find your character defects much quicker than I can find my own. Besides, when I am spending my time reviewing your life, I can easily avoid dealing with my own. I know I am not the only person in AA with a superiority complex!

But is it healthy to be this way? No way! Whenever I fall into the trap of self-righteousness, I end up in negative behavior and attitude that is not productive for anyone in my life, including me. I sometimes find that I enter the trap through the door of acceptance. I have a need to be liked and accepted by others, and if someone is shooting their mouth off about someone else, and I want to be liked by that person, I find I can easily be led through the door, and join in with this negative behavior. It is a character defect that I work on each and every day.

Nowadays, I try and sway the conversation away from a 'Bitch session' to something more productive. I'll even ask "Do you think this is how we should be talking about this person?". In this small way, I am trying to prevent myself from walking into the trap where I need everyone to like and accept me. I am standing alone sometimes. And sometimes that can be lonely. But, I have to work on my recovery first, so I may work better with other alcoholics. There's no need showing a newcomer how to be a more bitter person in recovery. But it's okay to point out ways to not behave in regards to another person's program.

At one point during my sobriety I walked away from meetings and would tell people "I am pissed at the Fellowship". In reality, I have learned that I was angry with the "Gossiping Fellowship", and I was mad at myself for getting involved in such behavior. My solution was to remove myself from it all together. Which led to going to meetings on a less than regular basis, sitting in the back of the room, not participating, and not getting any better. In fact, I am sure I got a lot worse while I lived within my resentment. I have yet to hear of a positive turn of events while in a resentment. It's only after it begins to fade, that we perceive that something positive is coming out of something so negative.

I eventually came back to meetings on a fulltime basis, still sober, but more humbled by how easily I could walk away from the solution in order to be right! Of course, I was wrong, but I felt I was right. I was so right I was going to stay away to prove just how right I was. Man, what a dope!

A definition of 'fellowship' is "The companionship of individuals in a congenial atmosphere and on equal terms" and "A close association of friends or equals sharing similar interests" as found in Webster's Dictionary. The term 'gossip' is defined as "A person who habitually spreads intimate or private rumors or facts". To me the two should not be together at a positive AA meeting.

We all know how sick we are individually, and what each of us are capable of in terms of character assassination of other people, places and things. I like to think of what my abilities are in terms of gossip, and then think that others are worse than me! Yikes! So I better just not participate in it, because if someone is talking about anyone in a negative manner, in my presence, I must assume that I am a topic of conversation when I am not around. Knowing this, and accepting it, helps me to realize that such a person is practicing their character defects, and maybe I should try and help, and not condemn them. This gives me a chance to work on my character defects, and maybe help another alcoholic in the process.

Charlie W.

Douglas Maintenance & Repair

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 – Kate F.

Liaison to Area 30 – Brandy H.

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.



Group Anniversaries

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

Shrewsbury Gratitude will be celebrating their 27th Group Anniversary on Sunday evening, January 12th, 2003, at their regular meeting place, Lake View Congregational Church, 100 Coburn Avenue, in Worcester. We invite one and all to join us at 6p for refreshments, and AA speakers from 7p to 8:30p.

30th anniversary on Sunday, January 26th, 2003

Fitchburg Sunday Morning
Notre Dame High School 151
South St. (Exit 30 off Rt. 2)
Buffet: 9:00 AM to 10:15 AM
Speakers 10:15 AM
Food and Book donations are always welcome

June 2002 to May 2003

January 9, 2003 – Guidelines reviewed to determine if revisions are needed

February 13, 2003 – Nominations Committee appointed

March 13, 2003 – Nominations made for all officers and Committee chairpersons

April 10, 2003 – Elections and appointments

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



**IAAWC 2003
Seattle**

IAAWC
**39th International AA
Women's Conference**
Seattle, Washington
February 13-16, 2003

**The Language of the Heart
will be Spoken Here**

Meet AA women from all over the world, share sobriety, hear national speakers, and participate in workshops while having fun and enjoying the wonderful fellowship.

Experience our great Pacific Northwest hospitality!

To obtain a registration form for the 2003 conference, please visit our website address **www.iwc2003.org** or send a self-addressed stamped legal-size envelope to the address below.

Registration Questions?

Sandy D. : 508 752-9000

Gini T. ... IWC2003@hotmail.com

Lannette B. 508 752-9000

Mailing Address

39th IWC
PO Box 50493
Bellevue WA 98015

**DoubleTree Hotel
Seattle Airport**

18740 Pacific Highway S.
Seattle WA 98188

508 752-9000

Ask for IWC Kate!

Please join us in **Seattle** for a great weekend!

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.