



The Beacon

Worcester Area Intergroup

Email: AAbeacon@netscape.net

Volume 5, Issue 7

Tradition Seven

Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

From The Traditions Checklist:

1. Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a bar-room?
2. Should the Grapevine sell advertising space to book publishers and drug companies, so it could make a big profit and become a bigger magazine, in full color, at a cheaper price?
3. If GSO runs short of funds some year, wouldn't it be okay to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?
4. Is it more important to get a big AA collection from a few people, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?
5. Is a group treasurer's report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?
6. How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect, rather than the feeling of being always under obligation for charity received?

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This Month in A.A. History

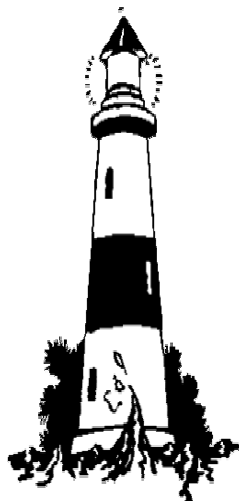
- 50 years of AA celebrated in Canada - July 2, 1993
- 20 Millionth Big Book given to Al-Anon in Minneapolis, MN - July 2, 2000
- Bill W gave his last talk to AA - July 3-5, 1970
- 45,000 attend 50th Anniversary of AA in Montreal - July 5-7, 1985
- Willian Duncan Silkworth born in Brooklyn, NY - July 22, 1877
- 1st AA Convention celebrates 15th anniversary of AA in Cleveland - July 28-30, 1950
- 20th Anniversary Convention in St. Louis, Mo. The three legacies of *Recovery, Unity, and Service* turned over to the movement by its old-timers.

Help Wanted!

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The Intergroup Office reports that there is a need for 12-Step volunteers. See the back page to fill out the volunteer form. Remember, we're all in this together, and to keep it we must give it away!



Sobriety One-Liners

- "...the Faith behind me is greater than the Fear in front of me..."
- "...put down the toys, and pick up the tools..."
- "...take care of your side of the fence..."
- "...my worse day sober is better than my best day drunk..."
- "...the past is my present, if I let it be..."
- "...I was a walking middle finger when I drank..."

Step Seven

Humbly asked Him to remove our Shortcomings.

Upcoming Events

2003

- Jul. * 11-13 - 36th Annual NY State Convention – Crowne Plaza Hotel, White Plains. Call Barbara R. for more info [REDACTED]
- Jul. * 18-20 - 26th Annual Maine Area Round-Up – Sugarloaf Mountain. Call Julia for more info [REDACTED]
- Sep. * 28 - Area 30 Workshop Assembly hosted by Districts 1&2. Call Maggie for more info [REDACTED]
- Oct. * 17-19 - NERC – Northeast Regional Convention – Mount Laurel, NJ – Call Kathie S. for more info [REDACTED]
- Oct. * 31- (Nov) 2 – North East Regional Woman to Woman Conference Farmington, CT Call Davi for more info [REDACTED]
- Nov. * 7-9 - 40th Anniversary of MA State Convention – Fitchburg, MA – Call Marilyn M. for more info [REDACTED]

2004

- Feb. * 27-29 - NERAASA 2004 – Nashua, NH – Call Nashua Area Service Office for more info [REDACTED]

Worcester Area Intergroup

100 Grove Street
 Suite 309
 Worcester, MA 01605
 Tel: (508) 752-9000
 Fax: (508) 752-0755
 www.aaworcester.org

Deadline!

For Information to go into the
 AUGUST issue of
 "The Beacon"
 Submissions must be
 Received by July 11, 2003.

Mail your information to the
 Intergroup office, or
 Email "The Beacon" staff at
 AABeacon@netscape.net

The Bookie Board

Auburn Group

(Wednesdays 7:30-9 pm)

Tony B. (508) 752-9000

Aurora Group

(6:45pm-8 pm)

Deborah L. (508) 752-9000

Brookfield Sunday Morning

(Sun. 10 am)

Leon F. (508) 752-9000

Crozier

(Mondays 8-9:30 pm)

Brenda L. (508) 752-9000

Douglas Maintenance and Repair

(Thurs. 7-8 pm)

Pat O. (508) 752-9000

Dudley Day At A Time

(Thursdays 8:30-10 pm)

Kerry T. (508) 752-9000

Early Risers

(Sun. 10-11 am)

John O. (508) 752-9000

Four Corners (Worcester)

(Wed. 8:00 pm)

Terry A. (508) 752-9000

Groton Easy Duz It

(Tuesday 7:30 pm)

Joe F. (508) 752-9000

Leominster Original

(Mon 7:45-9:00 pm)

Dean R. (508) 752-9000

Millbury Traditions

(Saturdays 7:30-8:30 pm)

Donna H. (508) 752-9000

Shrewsbury Gratitude

(Sun. 7 pm)

Peter I. (508) 752-9000

Spencer Fellowship

(Mon. 7:30 pm)

Anna R. (508) 752-9000

Stay Active

(Thurs. 6:45 pm)

Rose (508) 752-9000

Stow Sunday

(Sun. 11:00 am)

Tom S. (508) 752-9000

Southbridge Originals

(Sun. 7:00-8:00 pm)

Bill B. (508) 752-9000

The Fellowship Of Webster

Sue D.

(508) 752-9000

Top of The Hill

(Wed. 8 pm)

Bonnie (508) 752-9000

Upton Capertown

(Sat. 1:30 pm)

John H. (508) 752-9000

Webster - Joy of Living

(Mon. 8:00 pm)

Bob W. (508) 752-9000

Webster Triton

(Sundays 7:30-9:00 pm)

Arty (508) 752-9000

Worcester Young People

(Tue. 7:30 - 9:00 pm)

Melissa J. (508) 752-9000

Group Not Listed?

Send your information to:

Worcester Area Intergroup

100 Grove Street

Suite 309

Worcester, MA 01605

(AABeacon@netscape.net)

Service Meetings

Intergroup/District 25/District 26

<p>Steering Committee St. Joan of Arc Church 570 Lincoln St. Worcester 2nd Thursday 6:15pm</p>	<p>Intergroup Delegates St. Joan of Arc Church 570 Lincoln St. Worcester 2nd Thursday 7:00pm</p>	<p>Public Information Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 309 Worcester 2nd Monday 7:30pm</p>
<p>Joint Treatment Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 309 Worcester 3rd Saturday 10am NOTE - Committee will NOT meet in July</p>	<p>Joint Corrections Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 309 Worcester TBA</p>	<p>Social Committee Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 309 Worcester TBA</p>
<p>District 25 - CPC Committee Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 309 Worcester 2nd Wed. 6:30 - 8:00 pm</p>	<p>District 25 (GSR's) St. Joan of Arc Church 570 Lincoln St. Worcester 1st Tuesday 7:30pm</p>	<p>District 26 (GSR's) Local 60 Union Hall Mechanic St. Leominster 1st Thursday 7-9pm</p>

Area 30

<p>Eastern Mass. General Service Committee St. John's 80 Mt. Auburn Watertown 4th Wednesday 8:00pm</p>	<p>Grapevine Committee Boston Central Service 368 Congress St. Lower Level Boston 4th Sunday 1:00pm-3:00pm</p>	<p>CPC Committee Boston Central Service 368 Congress St. Lower Level Boston 2nd Thursday 7:00pm</p>	<p>Joint Treatment Facilities St. Luke's 950 East St. Dedham 3rd Friday 8:00pm</p>
<p>Archives Committee St. John's 80 Mt. Auburn Watertown 3rd Thursday 7:30pm</p>	<p>Literature Committee Carter Methodist Church 800 Highland Ave. Needham 1st Monday 7:30pm</p>	<p>Corrections Committee Boston Central Service 368 Congress St. Lower Level Boston 4th Thursday</p>	<p>Joint Public Information Boston Central Service 368 Congress St. Lower Level Boston 1st Thursday 7:00 pm</p>

Help Wanted

Public Information - We need a Chairperson for "Public Information". Please contact the Intergroup office at (508) 752- 9000 for further information.

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 Enzo H. at (508) 752-9000. (Note. This is the Intergroup Office number ~ Enzo's contact number to follow).

Treatment Facilities needs Help! Please Call the Intergroup Office for more details.

Corrections Facilities is looking for people to get involved.

Group Changes

New Meetings

GARDNER

"Each Day a New Beginning"

Open Woman's Discussion

Sat. 9:00—10:00 am

Haywood Hospital Medical Art's Building

(in the MOB Conf. Room)

GROTON

"Ladies Night"

Open Woman's Discussion

Mon. 7:00 - 8:00 pm

First Parish (Rt. 40 & Rt. 119)

(in the Parish House)

ORANGE

"Beginner's Step Meeting"

Closed Beginner Step Meeting

Sun. 5:30 - 7:00 pm

1st Universalist Church

31 North Main Street

CLINTON

"Ladies Night Out"

Open Discussion Womans

(Smoking Allowed!)

Thu. 6:30 - 8:00 pm

182 High Street

Save your Grapevines!!

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

Name Changes

Old Name

"Daybreak Percolators"

New Name

"Sober Sisters"

Tue. 6:30 - 8:00 pm

1st Universalist Church

31 North Main Street

Disbanded Groups

FITCHBURG

Cleghorn Original

Thu. 8:30 - 9:30 pm

2003 - 2004 InterGroup Timeline

October 9, 2003

Slots for Thanksgiving Alcathon drawn

November 13, 2003

Slots for the Christmas and New Years Alcathons drawn

January 8, 2004

Guidelines reviewed to determine if revisions are needed. Intergroup Office Inventory

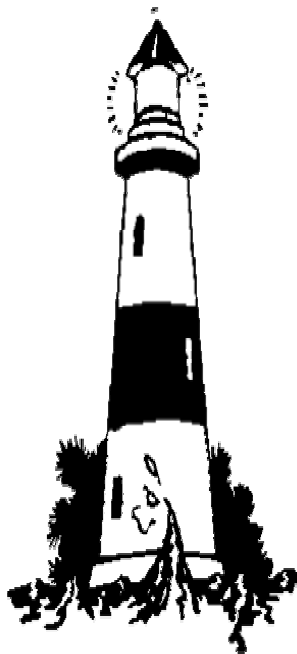
February 12, 2004

Nominations Committee appointed

Steering Committee & Committee Chairpersons

Chairperson	<i>Bob D.</i>
Alternate Chair	<i>Mike B.</i>
Secretary	<i>Jamie F.</i>
Treasurer	<i>Jean L.</i>
Alternate Treasurer	<i>Harry H.</i>
Trustees	<i>Brandy H., Janet L., Bob Mc., Tom W.</i>
Office Manager	<i>John H.</i>
Treatment Facilities	<i>Ellen Mc.</i>
Correctional Facilities	<i>Roosevelt S.</i>
H.A.L.T. Line	<i>Enzo H.</i>
Social Committee	VACANT
Public Information	VACANT
Beacon Editor	<i>Charlie W.</i>
Liason to District 25	<i>Janet L.</i>
Liason to Area 30	<i>Roosevelt S.</i>
Alcathon Committee	<i>Billy S.</i>

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.



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

Need more copies of The Beacon?

Visit Worcester Area Intergroup or come to the Intergroup Delegates Meeting and pick up more, or have it delivered to your home!

Just \$5 will give you a one year subscription!
 (see Page 8 for Subscription form)

Special Needs

Deaf AA members requiring interpreters for AA meetings can call Paul Hostovsky at (TTY #) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] 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!!

A.A. Trivia

- 1) Where are the original six steps found in the Big Book?
- 2) What are the hideous Four Horsemen?

(1) Page 263 (4th Edition)
 (2) Terror, Bewilderment, Frustration,
 Fear.

“A Summer Solstice”

I called in sick that Friday. It wasn't a lie. The end was near, and I wanted to go out with a bang.

The mill's annual two-week shutdown—always the first two weeks of July—was but a week away. My reservation had been made. Or, I should say, my mother had made it for me. No one would notice my absence during “shutdown.” I would physically be separated from alcohol and return a new man. However, I was approaching bottom in full freefall and decided I couldn't last another week. “Hi...Mom...could we make it for this Saturday instead?” I was too enslaved by fear to call the rehab myself. I was twenty-five years old, sick, and suffering. I lived alone on the top floor of a three-decker in Methuen, where I knew no one. “Yes, they have a bed available.”

There was almost a sense of celebration that Friday. It was bright and sunny, the summer solstice of 1980 fast approaching. Light flooded the kitchen through the skylight above, showcasing the mess in my sink, where various forms of life had been known to spontaneously generate.

I'm sure I never stepped outside that day for the sake of enjoying the good weather. I suppose I must have left at some point. My supply would have needed replenishment. And I probably rustled up some grub during those windows of opportunity when I was capable of eating. Eating was possible only during the three-to-five drink range, measured from the point of last waking.

I was stuck in some sort of loop that day. In addition to maintaining a near-continuous state of inebriation, I kept listening to Springsteen's *Born to Run* album. Actually, just one side of it: *Born to Run*, *She's the One*, *Meeting across the River*, and (best of all) *Jungleland*.

I don't recall the guy below me complaining about the volume that day, as he often had. I referred to him as “the Ayatollah.” I was sure he had killed my cat to revenge the nuisance I'd become to him. He had complained to the landlord about me for various reasons, and in particular about the lyrical content of a Zappa album I was prone to play repeatedly. But not this day. Inexplicably, I was left alone to commemorate the last of my round-the-clock benders. I could not imagine life without alcohol, but, one way or another, life with alcohol had to come to an end.

Several weeks previously, I'd had a nine-day stretch of sobriety with the help of both a counselor and several AA meetings. Those had been my first meetings in over four years. The original seed of AA had been planted during my senior year at Clark University, and I never forgot it. At that time, I had attended several meetings at Worcester Intergroup, one of the requirements to retain my driver's license. Before and after a weekly noontime meeting I would meet with a counselor. I believe his first name was “Kemy.” The year was 1975. A hazy recollection tells me he may have been sober about seven years at the time. He made a big impression on me, and I have often wondered how I might reconnect with him.

Some sort of resentment ended this more recent encounter with AA. A week after slipping, Mt. St. Helens erupted. As I watched the incredible news clips of mass destruction on my black-and-white television, a thought crossed my mind that this *may* have been due to God's displeasure with my failure to stay sober.

I soon found my way to a doctor, recommended by the couple living on the first floor. They told me he'd prescribe Valium to alcoholics who wanted to stay “sober.” “Take the pill,” they would preach with confidence, a result of their own apparent success with this solution. It sounded like an alternative to AA worth investigating. After giving my pitch to the doctor, he casually leaned against a wall and said, “You know, the only thing that *really* works is AA.” Still, he obliged by writing the script, and I spent the next three days not just alcohol-free, but seemingly gravity-free. Bored with that, I went back to both alcohol and Valium, and proceeded to lie motionless on my couch—flat on my back—for hours at a stretch.

Somehow, a blind date was arranged during those final few weeks, orchestrated by the Valium couple, who proved to be blinder than the date herself. Shortly after my one and only dinner with this woman, I received a letter in the mail stating that she never wanted to see me again. She said I had an alcohol problem and that I should do something about it.

It was equally bright the following morning, a Saturday, the first day of summer, and the day I was to sign myself in. My mother arrived and sat across the dining room table from me as I nursed a gin and orange. She proceeded to tell of her life with her father, whom I'd had no recollection of. In and out of institutions, frequent moves; ultimately, he leapt from a second-story window, dying days later in a hospital. I had known nothing of this. I liken this conversation to the visit Ebby T. paid to Bill Wilson. “I was aghast,” and more anxious to go than ever.

Continued on Page 8 

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*)

"A Summer Solstice"

(Continued from Page 7)

We had to stop and buy pajamas. What alcoholic owns pajamas? I said I'd wait in the car. As my mother walked toward K-Mart, I spotted a liquor store. I raced over and bought a Foster's Lager, one of those big cans that resemble a quart of oil, and just large enough to get me there.

The Foster's was my last drink to date, though I spent another year bouncing along the bottom, alternating between AA and other escapes. God willing, I'll have twenty-two years clean and sober this month, one day at a time.

Enjoy your summer!

Bill W. (Barrington, RI)

"I Am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A.

always to be there. And for that:

I AM RESPONSIBLE."

12 Step Volunteer Application

Name: (First Name & Last initial only) : _____

Telephone Number : _____

Towns You will accept calls from : _____

Hours you are available : _____

I wish to help : Males Only Females Only Both

Ages I am willing to work with : Teens 20-30 30-40
 40-50 50-60 Over 60
 Other (Please specify): _____

I am willing to : Talk to a person on the phone Go to a person's home to talk *
 Give rides to A.A. Meetings Give rides to a Detox/Rehab *
 Meet someone at A.A. Meetings Other: _____

(* Note. It is strongly 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/Rehab) without another member of A.A. with you. If you checked either of these items above, please be sure to have someone ready to go with you in case you're called.)