

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

# The Beacon

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### Deadline....

.....for information to go into the April issue of The Beacon is March 15th, 2002.

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 Three

The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.

From The traditions Checklist:

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?

2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?

3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?

4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age,

or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?

5. Am I overimpressed by a ce-



lebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?

6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he has been to AA before? What his other problems are?

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## 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.

## 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!!*

**NEW!!** The Fellowship of Webster will meet from 7:30pm-9:00pm on Tuesdays at Serenity Hall, 275 Main Street in Webster. This is a non-smoking Open Speaker meeting.

**CLOSED!!** Sunday ODG Sober Pride meeting in Webster is no longer meeting.

**NEW!!** Southbridge Park St. Women's

Group meets on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30pm at Elm Street Congregational Church (Park St. entrance). This is a closed womens discussion meeting.

**NEW!!** The following 3 meetings all meet at Serenity Hall in Webster, 275 Main St.: Mondays 7-8am – Early Risers – Step meeting  
Wednesdays 7-8am – Early Risers – Big Book meeting  
Fridays 7-8am – Early Risers – As Bill Sees It meeting

**CHANGE!!!** Berlin Center Candle Light Step group will change their meeting time to Thursdays from 7:30pm to 9:00pm.

**CHANGE!!!** Crozier Group in Worcester has

moved. They now meet at Sacred Heart Church on Cambridge St. on Mondays from 8-9:30pm

**CHANGE!!!** May-Day group of Webster will be moving. As of March 6<sup>th</sup> they will be meeting at Serenity Hall – 275 Main St in Webster

**CHANGE!!!** Made A Decision group of Worcester will be changing times beginning on March 7<sup>th</sup>. They will now meet from 8:00pm-9:30pm

**CHANGE!!!** Happy Destiny group of Worcester is now meeting on Monday nights from 7-8:30pm

### June 2001 to May 2002

**March 14, 2002** – Nominations made for all officers and Committee chairpersons

**April 11, 2002** – Elections and appointments

**May 9, 2002** – New signature cards for bank account signed; Budgets proposed and voted on

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The next Social Committee event is a spring dance. Celebrate the 'Wearin' Of The Green' on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Frohsinn Club in Shrewsbury from 8pm to midnight. Tickets are \$5 at the door.... Wear green and pay only \$4!!!!

The Intergroup Breakfast will be held on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Tuttle Post in Auburn from 10am-1pm. Ticket prices will be announced soon.

### Step 3:

Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him.*

## Help Wanted

**H.A.L.T.line** is looking for volunteers to answer the phone from their homes when the office is closed. If you can give, 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. 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.

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.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 4-6, 2002** – Northeast Regional Convention will be held at the Sheraton South Portland Hotel in Portland Maine. More details to come.

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

[www.aaworcester.org](http://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

## Announcements

### 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. 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.

### Save your Grapevines!!

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

There will be a Bookie Exchange Meeting on Wednesday, March 6th, 2002 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!!!

### Bookie Meeting

When contemplating what to write for this month's article, I stumbled over several ideas before finally settling on the truth. You see, I want to *sound good*. I want to people to think that I've got this sobriety thing all figured out, like I'm the guy to come to for answers. When truthfully, the most vital piece of information I have acquired in recovery is that I never had any answers that worked, I still don't, and it's fairly likely that I never will. Disheartening? Not at all. It's nice to finally know that it's the *source* (my alcoholic mind) of those answers that is the problem.

It is, however, a bitter pill to swallow for a guy like me. The alcoholic is often described as an "egomaniac with no (or low) self-esteem", and that has aptly described me more often than I would care to admit. I'm fresh off a batch of ego-deflation never before realized in my sobriety, and despite years of recovery, it's my first instinct to pick up the old tools, the tools of self.

You know the old tools - those heartless so-and-so's call them *character defects* in AA's basic text, Alcoholics Anonymous. On page 62 of the "Big Book", they outline them as one hundred forms of fear, self-seeking, self-pity and self-delusion. These were my life skills before accepting the plan outlined in AA's 12-step program. The tools of self. The tools of a fear-based mentality that's certain it isn't afraid most of the time. The only tools I had ever known.

Primarily, they manifested themselves in my reactions to life, which were based in fear. Reactions my mind (see: *the problem*) told me were the best way to solve whichever dilemma presented itself. Reactions based in self-delusion, (oh I'd say about a hundred forms or so.) Practicing life with these tools for thirty years, I had grown accustomed to them. Sure they were the tools of self-destruction, but oh did they fit so well in my hand! My delusional mind constantly reinforced its own decisions, absolutely convinced it was protecting me, "this is the way, it is the only way!"

Relying on my alcoholic mind and my cyclically addicted thought processes; I *created* the unmanageable life the founders describe on page 52. I created it with my tools of self, the tools my alcoholic mind had mastered. When I'm in fear, doubt or agitation, I simply can not rely on my mind to keep me sober or make me happy. The default mode for my mind is alcoholic, fear-based thinking.

As a friend of mine says, "My solutions are problems yet to come." Plainly stated on pg. 54 in the chapter to the agnostic, "Reason, as most of us use it, is not *entirely reliable*." Yikes... talk about an understatement.

My alcoholic reasoning *is* the problem, today, yesterday, and forever. Why then do the old tools present themselves so effortlessly? Well, the familiar *feels* easy, it's change that is difficult. On some level, my ego is simply not convinced that God really knows what He is doing, or that He will give me what I really want, and it believes that it is truly in my *best interest* to handle a few things here and there myself. Of course, the primary self-delusion at work here is that what I *want* is good for me and key to my own happiness, which history has shown is *not* the truth. This nifty little duo of selfishness and dishonesty can be amazingly convincing when working together.

I would love to tell you all that I'm on fire, just burning it up here in North Carolina, but the truth is that I'm scared. I'm thirty-five and *I don't have the answers, dammit!* I don't *know* what I want to do when I grow up. I don't *know* if I want to be married, single or a monk. I do not know a lot of things. I want to come into the halls of Alcoholics Anonymous with answers, with a plan, with a swagger that says, "come to me, I get it." My ego assures me that this is what I need to do to be okay.

History shows that the only way I have ever gotten answers is to throw up my hands and tell the truth, "I don't know!"

The humility learned through calling my friends that also work this program, telling the truth, and coming into meetings admitting "I don't know", is often the spiritual tool (or principle) that begins to heal me, faster than I'd have suspected possible.

The converse alcoholic tool to humility would be to pretend I *DO* know what to do, and give the appearance that I'm just dandy. When I'm in fear, my mind tells me to go into a meeting and try to sound good, try to impress a few people, and that will make me okay. The delusion here is that it's more important to convince you that I am okay than it is to tell the truth, which in actuality will get me on the road to actually *being* okay. My ego doesn't even entertain the possibility that I *am* okay, right here, right now, or that I can actually *be* okay. It's highest goal is to *feel* okay.

#### ONLINE....

**Worcester Area Intergroup**

**NEW!!!**

[www.aaworcester.org](http://www.aaworcester.org)

**Alcoholics Anonymous  
General Service Office**

<http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org>

**Grapevine**

<http://www.aagrapevine.org>

## Korte's Korner

Last night, when I stated, "I don't know what to do!" as a legitimate position, my tenth step friend was having none of it.

"Oh you do to!" she said, feigning frustration for effect.

I was surprised, and a little excited, "I do?"

She proceeded to remind me about tenth step work, prayer and meditation, and helping others. She added calling my sponsor and friends and listening to their experience and their take on my perceptions.

"Oh," I thought dully, "the program of Alcoholics Anonymous", the "design for living that really works in rough going". Well, this *is* rough going, I admitted. You try to call a friend for help, and all you get is an annoying suggestion like "*do the work?*" Surely you jest, there simply *must* be some other way!

It came to me, as it often does when I speak with an alcoholic with experience, that no, I still don't have any answers, but I *do* have a solution for *all* my problems. Do the work. Or, "*Do the numba!*" as my friend Joe likes to say.

So I did. I put down the tools of self, the tools so familiar to me.

**Resentment:** It's *your fault* that I am late, poor, skinny (fill in the blank).

**Self-pity:** Sure I suck, but I've got so much going against me blah blah blah... (Please see [The Beacon](#) editor for the attached forty-seven page document containing the complete list of reasons why I can't do what every other person on the planet is expected to do.)

**Self-seeking:** I would have to publish a volume to cover this specifically. This is any action or reaction based on getting what I want, preventing what don't want, reacting to fear, manipulating, acting out in ways other than drinking, etc. The list literally goes on indefinitely.

**Dishonesty:** This justifies whatever I am up to, is based in delusion (false "facts") and convinces me I *should* be: scared, entitled, or feel some certain way, and that it is probably your responsibility (or fault) that things aren't going well. It can also convince me that things are not going well when things actually *are* going well. Again, there are hundreds of dishonesties I could list, but they all fall under a few general categories.

Are these tools effective? No! But are they familiar? You betchum. It is a lifetime of work *un*learning these skills. And, let's face it, if they didn't work in some capacity at some point, we'd never have grown so accustomed to them in the first place.

These are the tools, that *drunk or sober*, lead me right back to the unmanageability of page 52. Having recently taken enough of a self-inflicted beating, I put them down (grudgingly) and headed back for the spiritual kit of tools that were laid at my feet and so often stay there, lying on the floor, collecting dust while I run the show with my nifty alcoholic kit of self-delusion, fear, and self-pity. I use these tools expecting to land on page 84, living comfortably in the promises, but inevitably, I end up in the miserable existence on page 52, and somehow shocked with the result. There is a solution.

"The **solution**, great. Oh *puhleez* tell me there is some easier softer, way." Then it comes to me, this *is* the easier, softer way. I may not have the answers, but I *do* know what to do. There is a very clear choice today for me between the tools of self (destruction) and the spiritual tools my sponsor taught me from the Big Book, the decision I made in step three, and need to re-affirm every day. The old tools, or the new? I may not have the answers, but I do know what to do:

Trust God. Clean house (in ten and eleven.) Help others.

The amazing thing is that "God gave us brains to use", and when I pray for Help and treat my mind with the spiritual tools I have been taught. I become divorced from self and get into the solution. My God-centered mind is my friend. Simply amazing.

## 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	Millis Fellowship (Thurs. 8:00pm) Bill G. (508) 752-9000	Aurora Group (6:45pm-8pm) Joanne K. (508) 752-9000 leave message
How It Works (Northboro): (Wed 8:00pm) David C. (508) 752-9000	Douglas Maintenance and Repair (Thurs. 7-8pm) Paul P. (508) 752-9000	New Way Of Life ( Mon. 7pm-8pm) Audrey M. (508) 752-9000
Hopedale Ray Of Hope: (Sun 10:30am) Carol Y. or Ricky B. (508) 752-9000	Top Of The Hill (Wed. 8:00pm) Jeanne M. (508) 752-9000	Sherborn Wednesday Night (Wed 8pm-9:15pm) Debbie C. (508) 752-9000
4 Corners (Worcester): (Wed. 8:00pm) John Y. (508) 752-9000	Webster Joy of Living (Mon. 8:00pm) Harry (508) 752-9000	7AM Group (daily) Alan S. (508) 752-9000
Way Of Sobriety (Worcester) (Sun 10:00 am) Gina G. (508) 752-9000	Hudson Townline (Sat. 8:00pm) Bob G. (508) 752-9000	Southbridge Sunday Night John B. (508) 752-9000
Stow Sunday: (Sun. 11:00 am) Tom S. (508) 752-9000	Greendale Group (Worcester Fri. 8:30pm) Paul H. (508) 752-9000	Millbury Traditions (Saturdays 7:30pm-8:30pm) Donna (508) 752-9000
Holden Thursday Night (Thurs. 8:30pm) Gill B. (508) 752-9000	Putnam Young People's (Putnam, CT Fri. 8:00pm) Glenn R. (508) 752-9000	Webster Triton (Sundays 7:30-9:00pm) Ellen McQ (508) 752-9000
Starting Anew (Holliston) (Wed. 8:00pm) Elaine K. (508) 752-9000	Westboro Sunday Morning (Sunday 11-noon) Janet (508) 752-9000	Bellingham – Workshop (Mondays 7pm-8pm) outgoing only Sean K. (508) 752-9000
GOYA (Whitinsville) (Thurs. 8:00pm) Mike P. (508) 752-9000	Upton Spirit (Wednesday) Amy L. (508) 752-9000	Crozier (Mondays 8-9:30pm) Paul G. (508) 752-9000
Worcester Young People (Tues. 7:30pm) Jamie F. (508) 752-9000	Groton Easy Duz It (Tuesday 7:30pm) Joe F. (508) 752-9000	Auburn Group (Wednesdays 7:30-9pm) Tony B. (508) 752-9000
Hudson Straight Shooters (Thurs. 8:00pm) Brian B. (508) 752-9000	Early Risers (Worcester Sun 10am) Dayle (508) 752-9000	Dudley Day At A Time (Thursdays 8:30-10pm) Kerry (508) 752-9000
Hudson Sunday Best (Sunday 7:30pm) David B. (508) 752-9000	Leominster Original (Mon 7:45-9:00pm) James S. (508) 752-9000	<b>Area 30 Joint Treatment Facilities Committee Calendar Coordinator Tracey M.</b> (508) 752-9000
	Clinton Shamrocks (Tues. 7:15p-8:30pm) Cheryl D. (508) 752-9000	

## Service Meetings

INTERGROUP / DIS-  
TRICT 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  
TBA

**Joint 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  
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  
1<sup>st</sup> 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

**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

**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

**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.