

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

# THE BEACON

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### Deadline....

.....for information to go into the July issue of The Beacon is June 15th, 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 SIX

*An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.*

From The Traditions Checklist:

1. Should my fellow group members and I go out and raise money to endow several AA beds in our local hospital?

2. Is it good for a group to lease a small building?

3. Are all the officers and members of our local club for AAs familiar with "Guidelines on Clubs" (which is available free from GSO)?

4. Should the secretary of

our group serve on the mayor's advisory committee on alcoholism?

5. Some alcoholics will stay around AA only if we have a TV set and card room. If this is what is required to carry the message to them,

should we have these facilities?

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## STEERING COMMITTEE (AS OF 06/03/2001)

Chairperson – Enzo H..  
Vice Chair – Jack H..  
Secretary – Kate G..  
Treasurer – Joanne O..  
Assistant Treasurer – Kimball M..  
Trustees - Brandy H., Bob D., Eric R., Tom W.

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

**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.

**November 1-4, 2001** – 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Hawaii AA Convention will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii. For more information call (508) 752-9000

**July 20-22, 2001** – Maine Area Round-up will be held at Sugarloaf Mountain. Registration fee is \$20.00 and various accommodation packages are available. For more information call Tom at (508) 752-9000 or email [tranello@maine.rr.com](mailto:tranello@maine.rr.com)

## SPECIAL NEEDS

Step 6:  
Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

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](mailto:Paul.Hostovsky@state.ma.us)

There is also a number to call for an update of meetings 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 **eleven** hours in the week left to fill. If you can give, even an hour a week, please call the Intergroup Office.

**Treatment Facilities** is again in need of 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.

# Archives

You may have heard of the famous article written about Alcoholics Anonymous by Jack Alexander. It was published in 1941 in the *Saturday Evening Post*, and came at a time when AA was young and not yet well known. Alexander spent one month with Bill W., Dr. Bob, and others in AA, then wrote his article that helped spread AA to the masses. At the time that the article was written, our numbers ranked at only about two thousand. After the article appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post*, the New York office of AA, now known as the General Service Office, was inundated with six thousand letters. These letters from drunks and their families begged for more information on AA; how to contact a member or group. how to start a new group. or just how to get sober. These types of letters still reach GSO every day, and there are more than 97,000 AA groups worldwide.

Here in the Archives, we have an original copy of that *Saturday Evening Post* that brought hope to alcoholics who were sick and suffering. We also have many other interesting articles, papers, and books pertaining to the history of AA. We probably have a meeting list for the year you were born, or handouts for the AA State Convention that took place the year that you came into AA yourself. We are always looking for people who want to donate something to our Archives collection. We would also be very interested in interviewing longtimers, or taking a group's history to add to our collection. Please contact Laura W. at (508) 752-9000 .

## ONLINE....

**Worcester Area Intergroup**  
<http://www.ultranet.com/~steps>

**Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Office**  
<http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org>

**Grapevine**  
<http://www.aagrapevine.org>

### 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 [REDACTED]



**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.



## KORTE'S CORNER

As I think back to my thoughts regarding the fifth step in my early sobriety, I have to laugh at the things I "heard" that people probably never said about the fifth step in meetings.

Many times I *swore* I heard that the real work was over after finishing an arduous fourth step and reading the rubbish off to your sponsor. I was positive that the real work was behind me after embarking on steps six and seven, and continuing on with the latter steps. I was positive that it was time for the good stuff.

Moreover, it was time for the better version of Korte that had never emerged to finally appear and run my life. It would now be cake for me to walk the earth in my tunic and sandals, healing the sick and spreading the good news throughout the land. Clearly, I would be all better!

Maybe it was this delusional thought that kept me going in the toughest moments. Perhaps I needed this obliviousness to justify all this work to the alcoholic mind that still had so much control over the decisions in my life.

The tragic truth is that I still had absolutely no idea how to live at the beginning of my sobriety, and still had virtually no idea of how to live upon completion of my fifth step. What I primarily acquired in doing my fifth step was self-knowledge. The primary thing I recall the book mentioning about self-knowledge was that it wouldn't fix my alcoholism. The fifth step afforded me a full knowledge of my condition. The notion that I could manage my life in any capacity or under any circumstance was completely shattered. I saw how clearly how the mindset I had was based on selfishness and self-centered fear, and my reactions to that fear formed my basic plan for life.

I based my decisions on a fantasy world that didn't exist. I shaped my world view or my collection of conventional wisdom, from information my alcoholic mind distorted (and sometimes interpreted correctly) from parents, siblings, friends, the New England Patriots, the A-Team, Charlie's Angels, several members of the World Wrestling Federation and porn industry, and many other not-so-reliable sources. I based my life on what I thought was

expected of me for me to be okay and how I could convince the world I really was okay. I guess it goes without saying, but the plan failed miserably.

The fourth and fifth steps demolished most of the delusions I had been operating under. What they didn't provide was a blueprint for how to go forward and live a "normal" life. I had truly believed I was about to enjoy some sort of "graduation" after the fifth step, and what I now realize is that I had merely put up the ante to get into the game of recovery. It took me an awful long time to discover my "grosser handicaps", i.e. what was totally obvious about Korte to everyone else. It was obviously going to take much more time (a lifetime, to be exact) to work on all the small stuff that still plagues my everyday life.

That being said, it was the greatest thing I ever did for myself and those in my life. It was the starting point for the spiritual voyage of recovery that would become the focal point of my life. I was no longer equipped with fairytales and nonsense about manhood and what it took to be happy—those were obliterated. I was instead armed with the facts about myself.

I must remind myself that the fifth step is only a beginning. It's my understanding that my recovery is contingent on daily spiritual growth. In a daily program, there are no laurels to rest on. Of this I am frequently reminded.

It saddens me deeply, but I have to say good-bye to a friend that worked just as hard on his recovery as I did. Good-byes are not my favorite thing to begin with, but this one leaves me with a lump in my throat and a tear in my eyes.

My friend Johnny was one of the funniest, most insightful people I ever met in AA. He had a truly humorous way of saying things, (and a bluntness he inherited from his sponsor) that made you laugh and learn at the same time, (and then analyze yourself because of his innate ability to pigeonhole character defects.) I always, and usually grudgingly, identified with Johnny when he shared, and I especially enjoyed hearing him speak about his sponsor Chris and the struggles they went through during John's fifth step.

One night at dinner, Johnny was talking about how Chris refused to let him B-S his way through his

fifth step. I laughed so hard at the descriptions that my ginger ale nearly came through my nose. But more importantly, at that moment, I knew how much his sponsor loved him, despite all the crap John had pulled and put them both through. Some might have turned their back after a sponsee self-destructed, but not Chris. Chris showed his love for Johnny by holding him accountable to the truth, in spite of Johnny's best efforts to cling to his own way of thinking and his many protestations.

Johnny told me when he asked Chris to help him after a relapse, Chris welcomed him back with the tough love a too-sharp-for-his-own-good guy like Johnny needed. He said, "Sure, I'll help you...but when I'm through with you, *you're gonna know it.*"

I still get chills thinking of that conversation. John said a chill went through him, but he trusted Chris implicitly, and finished his fifth step with him. He went on to enjoy a level of sobriety and joy he had never known before.

That day I got a new understanding of what it meant to love somebody as a sponsor, to love people that can't even love themselves enough to see the simple truth, let alone tell it. The guy was beautiful, he didn't *need* to B-S anybody. How the heck did Chris know that when Johnny didn't? I often think of that conversation when it's time for me to tell a sponsee something he needs to hear, but isn't going to be happy about.

Johnny became an extraordinarily effective carrier of the truth. He was an excellent speaker that traveled all over New England carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. Tragically, Johnny is also one of many wonderful AAs that didn't make it. He had a great sponsor. He had good friends. For a time, he had a wonderful relationship with God. The plain truth of the matter is that this is a truly, truly lethal disease.

I have spent many mornings in this last month wondering what I could have done to help Johnny's life turn out differently. I still don't have an answer, but I know that because of Johnny and his sponsor Chris, my life will forever be changed and so will the lives of the many he touched during his too short time with us.

I love you, Johnny. Thanks for being you. I wish you were still with us so I could tell you.

***The notion that I could manage my life in any capacity or under any circumstance was completely shattered.***

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

Stow Sunday: (Sun. 11:00 am)  
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)  
Tom B. (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)  
Deane M. (508) 752-9000

Groton Easy Duz It  
(Tuesday 7:30pm)  
Joe F. (508) 752-9000

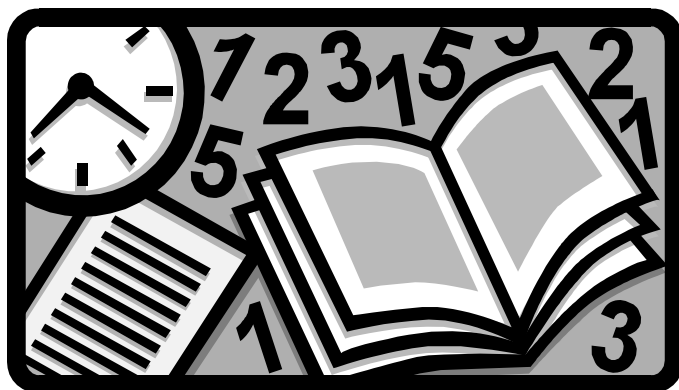
Early Risers (Worcester Sun 10am)  
Dayle (508) 752-9000

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



# ELECTION RESULTS

The Elections were held on April 19th at the regular Intergroup Delegates Meeting followed by Committee Chair Appointments made by the incoming Intergroup Chair as well as a new position created. Here's the line-up for the 2001-2002 Intergroup Year:

- Chairperson:**  
Enzo H.
- Vice Chair:**  
Jack H.
- Secretary:**  
Kate G.

- Treasurer:**  
Joanne O.
- Asst. Treasurer:**  
Kimball M.
- Trustees:**  
Brandy H., Eric R.,  
Tom W., Bob D.
- Public Information:**  
John H.
- Corrections:**  
Leo M.
- Beacon Editor:**  
Brandy H.
- Social Comm.:**  
Joanne O.
- H.A.L.T.Line:**  
Paul P.

- Intergroup Rep to Alcathon Committee:**  
Ellen M.
- Liaison to District 25:**  
Melissa J.
- Liaison to Area 30:**  
Brandy H.

These positions will begin as of the Intergroup Breakfast of June 3rd. We are currently still looking for a Chairperson for the Treatment Committee.

## Bookie Meeting

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



## INTERGROUP BREAKFAST

The Social Committee will be hosting the Annual Buffet Breakfast and Installation of Officers on Sunday, June 3rd from 10am to 1pm at the Tuttle Post, 88 Bancroft St. in Auburn. Tickets are \$7 each and can be purchased at the Intergroup Office. There will be a speaker and presentation of Officers for the 2001-2002 year following breakfast.

## Group Anniversaries

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

**Worcester Four Corners** will be celebrating their Anniversary on Wednesday,

May 9th from 8pm-9:30pm. There will be a speaker followed by food.

**Worcester Big Book Step Study** will be celebrating their first Anniversary on Saturday, May 12th. The meeting will be regular format from 10-11:30 am followed by food and fellowship.

## REMINDER

All Committee budgets must be submitted for voting at the May 10th Intergroup Delegates' Meeting. Incoming Chairpersons are asked to please come and present their proposed budgets in person in case there are any questions.

# 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.