

May 2005



The Beacon

Worcester Area Intergroup

Email: Beacon@AAworcester.org

Volume 7, Issue 5

Joint Treatment Facilities Seminar

Did you miss District 25 and Worcester Area Intergroup's Joint Treatment Facilities seminar on Saturday, March 12??!! You missed an excellent day! I am grateful for all those that participated in their event. Bravo!!

Since AA co-founders first stayed sober by carrying the AA message into hospitals, many other alcoholics have discovered the great value to their own sobriety of working with suffering alcoholics in treatment facilities. In 1934, Bill W. kept trying to help drunks in Towns Hospital in New York City. None of them seemed interested at that time, but Bill stayed sober. Dr. Bob worked with thousands of alcoholics at St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, Ohio. In 1939, Rockland State Hospital, a New York mental institution, was the site of one of our first AA hospital groups. Today many AA meetings take place in treatment facilities all over the world. Twelfth Stepping and sponsoring other alcoholics where they are has long been one of the most important and satisfying ways of keeping ourselves sober.

The primary purpose of a treatment facilities committee is the same throughout the United States and Canada, to carry the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers. To quote Chapter 7 of the Big Book: "Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail...Carry this message to other alcoholics! You can help when no one else can. You can secure their confidence when others fail."

The Joint Treatment Facility Committee has regular monthly meetings on the 4th Saturday of the month at WAI. To keep groups informed of our activities, the chairperson attends monthly District and WAI meetings. If your group does not have a Group Service Rep or an Intergroup Rep, suggest they do to keep informed. Better yet, become a Treatment Facilities Rep and get first hand information at our monthly meeting. Isn't it time for your group to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic? Please contact Sue N. at treatment@rcn.com or at [REDACTED] for more information. We currently are helping seven facilities set up commitments.

The seminar opened with a viewing of the video "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous". The Joint Treatment Facilities Committee of District 25 and WAI in conjunction with Area 30 JTFC presented this seminar. Treatment facilities committees are formed to coordinate the work of individual AA members and groups who are interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in treatment facilities, and to set up a means of "Bridging the Gap" from the facility to an AA group in the individual's community. According to the AA 2001 Membership Survey, 32% of our members came from treatment facilities.

Anne Marie M., AA Treatment History: Several treatment facilities for alcoholism exist today including, but not limited to, correctional facilities, outpatient programs, mental health facilities, hospitals, asylums, 28-day programs, and 3-5-day programs. Alcoholics Anonymous, without affiliation to any of these programs, carries the message of sponsorship into these facilities and assists those in treatment in getting to area meetings.

Continued on Page 7



“The circle stands for the whole world of A.A., and the triangle stands for A.A.’s Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service.”

Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age, page 139

<p><u>Step Five</u> (Recovery)</p>	<p><u>Tradition Five</u> (Unity)</p>	<p><u>Concept Five</u> (Service)</p>
<p><i>Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.</i></p>	<p><i>Each group has but one primary purpose — to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.</i></p>	<p><i>Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.</i></p>

Traditions Checklist

These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971. While they were originally intended primarily for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.

~

Each Month the corresponding Tradition checklist will be published.

Tradition Five Checklist

<p>1) Do I ever cop out by saying, "I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me"?</p>	<p>4) Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?</p>
<p>2) Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the limitations of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?</p>	<p>5) Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose?</p>
<p>3) Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?</p>	<p>6) Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?</p>

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On-Line 12 Steps & 12 Traditions, Articles, and Tradition Checklist's

www.aagrapevine.org/stepsTrads/stepsTrads_index.html

Service Meetings Monthly Schedule			
InterGroup/District 25 & 26			
Public Information	Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 309 Worcester	4th Monday	7:00 pm
District 25 (GSR's)	St. Joan of Arc Church 570 Lincoln St. Worcester	1st Tuesday	7:30 pm
Joint Corrections	Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 309 Worcester	2nd Tuesday	7:00 pm
District 25 - CPC Committee	Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 309 Worcester	2nd Wed.	6:30 pm
District 26 (GSR's)	Local 60 Union Hall Mechanic St. Leominster	1st Thursday	7:00 pm
Steering Committee	St. Joan of Arc Church 570 Lincoln St. Worcester	2nd Thursday	6:15 pm
Intergroup Delegates	St. Joan of Arc Church 570 Lincoln St. Worcester	2nd Thursday	7:00 pm
Social Committee	Sacred Heart Church 595 Cambridge St. Worcester	2nd Saturday	6:00 pm
Joint Treatment	Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 309 Worcester	4th Saturday	10:00 am
Area 30			
Grapevine Committee	Boston Central Service 368 Congress St. Lower Level Boston	4th Sunday	1:00pm
Literature Committee	Carter Methodist Church 800 Highland Ave. Needham	1st Monday	7:30pm
Eastern Mass. GSC	St. John's 80 Mt. Auburn Watertown	4th Wed.	8:00pm
Joint Public Information	Boston Central Service 368 Congress St. Lower Level Boston	1st Thursday	7:00pm
CPC Committee	Boston Central Service 368 Congress St. Lower Level Boston	2nd Thursday	7:00pm
Archives Committee	St. John's 80 Mt. Auburn Watertown	3rd Thursday	7:30pm
Corrections Committee	Boston Central Service 368 Congress St. Lower Level Boston	4th Thursday	TBD
Joint Treatment Facilities	St. Paul's 59 Court Street Dedham	3rd Friday	8:00pm

Group Donations			
<i>The following shows a suggested breakdown of each Group dollar donated and the mailing address for each Service Entity:</i>			
50%	30%	10%	10%
Worcester Area Intergroup 100 Grove Street Suite 309 Worcester, MA 01605	G.S.O. PO Box 459 Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163	District #25 PO Box 4553 Turnpike Station Shrewsbury, MA 01545	General Service Committee PO Box 51411 Boston, MA 02205

The Bookie Board

	Town	Group	Time	Contact	Phone
Sunday	Ashburnham	Naukeag Group	6:15 pm	Dan L.	(508) 752-9000
	Brookfield	Sunday Morning	10:00 am	Paul L.	
	Fitchburg	Sunday Morning	10:15 am	Frank G.	
	Shrewsbury	Shrewsbury Gratitude	7:00 pm	John S.	
	Southbridge	Southbridge Originals	7:00 pm	André L.	
	Stow	Stow Sunday	11:00 am	Ed C.	
	Webster	Triton	7:30 pm	Kim W.	
	Worcester	Early Risers	10:00 am	John O.	
		There is Hope	10:00 am	Gene C.	
		Way of Sobriety	10:00 am	Sandy A.	
Monday	Leominster	Original Group	7:45 pm	Dean R.	(508) 752-9000
	Spencer	Spencer Fellowship	7:30 pm	Anna R.	
	Sutton	Sutton Center	7:00 pm	John C.	
	Webster	Joy of Living	8:00 pm	Harry H.	
	Worcester	Crozier	8:00 pm	Marla V.	
Tuesday	Charlton	Courage to Change	7:30 pm	Darryl	(508) 752-9000
	Groton	Easy Does it	7:30 pm	Joe F.	
	Webster	Fellowship of Webster	7:30 pm	Jack	
	Worcester	Young People	7:30 pm	Steve D.	
Wednesday	Auburn	Auburn Group	7:30 pm	Tony B.	(508) 752-9000
	Westboro	Westboro Forge	8:00 pm	Larry B.	
	Worcester	Four Corners	8:00 pm	Sarah N.	
		Top of the Hill	8:00 pm	Bonnie	
		We Mean Business	7:00 pm	Happy C.	
Thursday	Douglas	Maintenance & Repair	7:00 pm	Suzanne	(508) 752-9000
	Dudley	Day at a Time	8:30 pm	Jim B.	
	Holden	Holden Group	8:00 pm	Mike K.	
	Whitinsville	GOYA	8:00 pm	Peter L.	
	Worcester	Stay Active	6:45 pm	Nancy Q.	
		Serenity	7:30 pm	Cynthia C.	
Friday	Marlboro	New Life	8:00 pm	Dick C.	(508) 752-9000
	Worcester	Greendale	8:30 pm	Ginny	
Saturday	Millbury	Millbury Traditions	7:30 pm	Mary C.	(508) 752-9000
	Upton	Upton Capertown	1:30 pm	Curt	
	Worcester	How it Works	6:45 pm	Mike S.	

*** Group Updates Needed!! ***

If your group is not listed, please eMail your updates to : Beacon@AAworchester.org

H.A.L.T. Line needs your help!

Contact the H.A.L.T. line chairpeople at haltline@aaworcester.org or call WAI at (508) 752-9000 to volunteer to answer the phone when someone calls looking for a meeting in the Greater Worcester Area.

The following chart shows the available hours that need to be filled on the H.A.L.T. Line.

During the hours listed below there is nobody to answer the phones when someone calls looking for a meeting in the area.

“...We can't keep it unless we give it away...”

Day	Available Hours			
Sunday	All slots filled!			
Monday	All slots filled!			
Tuesday	8:00 - 9:00 am	9:00 - 10:00 am	All other Tuesday slots are filled!	
Wednesday	All slots filled!			
Thursday	3:00 - 4:00 am	4:00 - 5:00 am	5:00 - 6:00 am	6:00 - 7:00 am 7:00 - 8:00 am
Friday	8:00 - 9:00 am	9:00 - 10:00 am	All other Friday slots are filled!	
Saturday	5:00 - 6:00 pm	8:00 - 9:00 pm	9:00 - 10:00 pm	10:00 - 11:00 pm

Upcoming Events

May 20-22	NERF - North East Regional Forum Hosted by Area 28 - Maine, Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME
June 30 - July 3	2005 International Convention - 70th Anniversary of AA Toronto, Canada
Nov 11 - 13	42nd Massachusetts State AA Convention

Quotes from “The Big Book”

“All members of the family should meet upon the common ground of tolerance, understanding and love.”	Page 122
“The most satisfactory years of your existence lie ahead.”	Page 152
“More than most people, the alcoholic leads a double life.”	Page 73
“To be helpful is our only aim.”	Page 89

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

**2005
 Intergroup Timeline**



May 12	New signature cards for bank account signed; Budgets proposed and voted on
June 9	New Officers and Committee chairs begin term of office; Meeting times for the year established.
Monthly Meeting Schedule	May 12 , June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8.

“...get involved, stay active, and stick around until the miracle happens to you....then pass it on...”

Steering Committee & Committee Chairpersons

Position	Name	eMail Address
Chairperson	Ellen McQ.	Intergroupchair@rcn.com
Alternate Chair	Bob Mc.	
Secretary	DonnaMae B.	Intergroupsecretary@rcn.com
Treasurer	Harry H.	Intergrouptreasurer@rcn.com
Alternate Treasurer	Sandy A.	
Trustees	Bob D. , Kristi C. , Jeanne L., Bruce W.	
Office Manager	John H.	steps@rcn.com
Treatment Facilities	Sue N.	treatment@rcn.com
Correctional Facilities	OPEN	Corrections@rcn.com
H.A.L.T. Line Co-Chairperson	Janet L.	haltline@rcn.com
Co-Chairperson	Scott L.	
Social Committee	Mark J.	Social@rcn.com
Public Information	Bruce W.	PIChair@rcn.com
Webmaster	Bruce W.	webmaster@rcn.com
Liaison to District 25	Mary M.	
Liaison to Area 30	Open	
Alcathon Committee	Billy S.	
Beacon Editor	Charlie W.	beacon@rcn.com or [REDACTED]

Joint Treatment Facilities Seminar /Continued

Ray K., Bridging the Gap: Because the transition from treatment facility to home can be a difficult one, Alcoholics Anonymous has established a program called "Bridging the Gap", which offers temporary contact telephone numbers to the newly sober alcoholic. Bridging the Gap can be reached at 1-800-332-4334.

Ken W., CPC (Cooperation with Professional Community) Committee: The committee carries the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to professionals such as treatment facilities, courts, hospitals, etc. This message is carried in the form of videos, the AA Grapevine magazine, meeting lists, books such as the Twelve & Twelve, Living Sober, and the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as the pamphlets "Understanding Anonymity", "A Newcomer Asks", Problems Other Than Alcohol", among others.

The following treatment facilities were represented at the seminar:

- Deveraux located in Rutland is an integrated treatment unit treating adolescent boys and girls 13-18 years of age. This is a 6-9 or 12-month program with workshops in substance abuse as well as relapse prevention.
- Worcester State Hospital, Psychiatric Treatment Center is a locked, short stay, psychiatric unit established in 1993. The average length of stay is 6 days, providing approximately 700 admissions per year with 26 available beds. Thirty to ninety per cent of the patients are suffering from substance abuse issues as well as psychiatric symptoms.
- Spectrum House located in Westborough is a 6- or 9-month residential treatment facility. Programs include detox, primary care, transitional, and re-entry with no outside contact for the first 30 days.

The panel discussion included:

- * The Role of the Home Group
- * Delivering the AA Message
- * Is our Message Clear?
- * How AA Grapevine & Other Literature is Used

Seminar concluded with a Q&A session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue N. Chairperson - Joint Treatment Facilities Committee

Do you have a story to tell?

Sobriety based stories are always welcomed at *The Beacon*.

There are only a few suggested guidelines when submitting something for consideration:

- This publication is provided by Worcester Area Intergroup, and therefore stories are limited to experience, strength and hope as it relates to alcoholism.
- No personal information will be printed (i.e. Phone numbers, email addresses, etc). You may submit your writings as "Anonymous" if you wish, however contact information is required in case the editor has any questions/concerns.
- The editor has final say as to what does and does not get published.
- The publication goes to the printer on the 15th of the month, so writings must be submitted by the 10th for enough time for review and any revisions that may be needed.

eMail your stories to: Beacon@AAworchester.org

12 Step Volunteer Application

Name: (last initial only)	_____	Phone: _____
Towns you will accept calls from:	_____	
Available Hours:	_____	
I wish to help:	<input type="checkbox"/> Males only <input type="checkbox"/> Females only <input type="checkbox"/> Both	
Age Groups I prefer:	<input type="checkbox"/> Teens <input type="checkbox"/> 20-30 <input type="checkbox"/> 30-40 <input type="checkbox"/> 40-50 <input type="checkbox"/> 50-60 <input type="checkbox"/> Over 60 Other: _____	
I am willing to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Talk to a person on the phone <input type="checkbox"/> Go to a persons home to talk <input type="checkbox"/> Give rides to A.A. Meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Give rides to Detox/Rehab <input type="checkbox"/> Meet someone at a meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	

Note. It is strongly suggested that a person NOT go on a Twelfth Step call alone!



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.



"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."

The Beacon Subscription Form

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