

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 May issue of The Beacon is April 12th, 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 Four

Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.

From The traditions Checklist:

1. Do I insist that there are only a few *right* ways of doing things in AA?

2. Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of Loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?

3. Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it?



4. Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved

Fellowship?

5. Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths -- his lengths, not mine -- to stay sober?

6. Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?

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## Special Needs

Deaf AA members requiring interpreters for AA meetings can call Paul Hostovsky at (TTY #) 1-508-752-9000, (hearing) 1-508-752-9000 or 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 1-508-752-9000 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!!

# 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!!*

**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

**CHANGE!!** Stow Sunday Morning now meets at Stow Town Hall, 380 Great Road, Stow

## June 2001 to May 2002

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

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

Dear Beacon,

As I am approaching my eleventh AA birthday, I am caught up in remember when.... But life is so much better these days. The quality of life being a sober man is so great. The promises have been working in my life as I live the steps every day and not just out of a book. I use AA to function and treat my booze problem. I go to meetings, talk to my sponsor and other AA's daily. What kept me sober in the beginning still works today. I've got a home group, sponsor, AA phone lists and the Steps, Traditions and Concepts. These are very important tools these days 11 years down the road as they work themselves on my journey in service work. I really enjoy a sober and spiritual life. This, for me, is the only way to go.

Thanks,  
Jim M.  
Interested AA  
Member

## Steering Committee

**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.  
**Office Manager** - John H.

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.

## 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.

## Bookie Meeting

There will be a Bookie Exchange Meeting on Wednesday, June 5th, 2002 at the Intergroup Office, 100 Grove St., Suite 309, Worcester. The exchange will begin at 6:30pm and will be available until

## Spring Dance April 27th General Service District 26

Knights of Columbus  
165 Electric Ave.  
Fitchburg, MA

Doors open at 6:00 PM  
Speaker Meeting at 7:30PM.

Meal at 6:30 PM  
Dance 8:30 till

Midnight

Tickets \$6.00 Meal will be catered  
DJ on hand for dance NON SMOKING HALL  
contact your GSR or James S. for further info.  
1-508-752-9000

### Step 4:

Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

## Help Wanted

**H.A.L.T.line** is looking for volunteers to answer the phone from their homes when the office is closed. We currently have about 20 hours open that need to be filled!! If you can help, even an hour a week please call Paul P. at 1-508-752-9000 .

**Treatment Facilities** needs groups to fill the new commitments that are coming up. If you can help, please call at the Intergroup Office. Congrats to Mike S. who will take over the overseeing of this Committee until new committee chairs come on board in June. Mike can be reached at 1-508-752-9000 .

**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.

**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

## Upcoming Events

**April 6-7, 2002** – Cape Cod Intergroup 3<sup>rd</sup> Spring Into Sobriety Round Up. Red Jacket Inn, S. Yarmouth, MA. Call Debra @ 1-508-752-9000

**April 12-14, 2002** – Cape Cod Pockets of Enthusiasm. Eastham, MA. Call Maggie 1-508-752-9000

**April 12-14, 2002** – Vermont State AA Convention. Burlington, VT. Call Rita @ 1-508-752-9000

**April 12-14, 2002** – 37<sup>th</sup> Annual SENY Convention. Monticello, NY. Call Brenda @ 1-508-752-9000

**April 14, 2002** – Area 30 Pre-Conference Assembly. Jackson Mann School, Brighton, MA. See your DCM for more info.

**April 27, 2002** – District 26 Spring Dance. Knights of Columbus, Fitchburg, MA. Call James @ 1-508-752-9000

**May 3-5, 2002** – South Jersey Young Peoples Conference. Camp Matollionequay, Medford, NJ. Call Gerry @ 1-508-752-9000 . Open to AA Members only!!

**May 17-19, 2002** – 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Delaware Convention. Rehoboth Beach, DE. Contact: Convention 02, P.O.Box 1, Harbeson, DE

19951.

**May 19, 2002** – Area 30 Post-Conference Assembly. Winthrop High School, 372 Main St. Winthrop, MA. See your DCM for more info.

**May 23-26, 2002** – 45<sup>th</sup> ICY-PAA. Louisville, KY. Call 1-508-752-9000 for more info.

**May 24-27, 2002** – 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Boston Gay and Lesbian Round Up. Mass College of Art, Boston MA. Call 1-508-752-9000 for more info.

**May 31-June 1, 2002** – Western Mass Area 31 Round Up. Call Lisa @ 1-508-752-9000 .

**June 1, 2002** – Boston Central Service 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinner Dance. Call BCS @ 1-508-752-9000 for more info.

**June 2, 2002** – Worcester Area Intergroup Annual Breakfast and Installation of Officers. Call (508) 752-9000 for more info.

**June 14-16, 2002** – 36<sup>th</sup> Annual New Hampshire AA Convention. North Conway, NH. Call Lin @ 1-508-752-9000 for more info.

**June 28-30** – Soberfest 2002. Moodus, CT. Call 1-508-752-9000 **July 4-7, 2002** – SERCY-PAA 2002. Columbia, SC.

[www.SCWEBSTER.com](http://www.SCWEBSTER.com)

**July 12-14, 2002** – 35<sup>th</sup> Annual New York State AA Convention. Albany, NY. Write to: NYS AA Convention, P O Box 550, Rensselaer, NY 12144

**July 12-14, 2002** – 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Maine Round Up. Sugarloaf Mountain, Carrabassett Valley, ME Call Julia @ 1-508-752-9000

**July 26-28, 2002** – PENNSCY-PAA XIV Pittsburgh, PA Call Rich @ 1-508-752-9000

**August 2-4, 2002** – 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Pennsylvania State Convention. Carlisle, PA Call Lou @ 1-508-752-9000

**September 13-15, 2002** – 49<sup>th</sup> Area 64 Tennessee State Convention. Kingsport, TN. Call Ann or Mike @ 1-508-752-9000

**September 29, 2002** – Area 30 Workshop Assembly. See your DCM for more info.

**October 4-6, 2002** - Regional Convention will be held at the Sheraton South Portland Hotel in Portland Maine. Call Ted @ 1-508-752-9000

**November 3, 2002** – Area 30 Elections Assembly. See your DCM for info.

## 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>

Once in awhile, I feel a sense of duty to say something. I just read a terrific article titled "Follow the Directions", and feel compelled to share my own experience with you.

After finally getting clearance to go into the local jails, I attended an AA meeting at the Buncombe County Correctional Facility last Wednesday evening. It never fails to leave me shaking my head as I hear story after story of relapse and subsequent arrests/disasters told by men that didn't want to drink, men that were sure they had beaten the bottle, men that had spent years, sometimes decades in AA, only to pick up a drink. Now I'm not totally naïve, I understand that many alcoholics know what they need to do, but just don't do it. But that is *not* the case in many instances.

The situations that frustrate me are born of ignorance of the disease. Many men and women drink, and diagnose themselves weak-willed or failures, as opposed to just simply alcoholics that didn't follow directions.

These events sadden me. How can it be that individuals can spend *years* in the rooms of AA and not know about the *solution*? Sure, many know, but attempt to get by on half-measures, but I believe many more are oblivious to the best kept secret in Alcoholics Anonymous, which is, of course, the *program* of Alcoholics Anonymous.

There was an older man in my first home group named Kenny. Kenny was the guy everybody hoped would share each week at the meeting. He went to 12x12 meetings and soaked up what he heard. He went on AA and religious retreats, and shared at commitments to institutions. Kenny went to church and hit an awful lot of Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. Had I done what Kenny did, I don't know that I would have gotten the results that he got, but it was obvious that he was well. He had gone from being a gutter-drunk to an admired member of his community and AA.

What AA offers is *one way*, not the only way, but one way that works especially well for alcoholics that want to get well. The forward to the first edition states "We alcoholics...have recovered...to show other alcoholics *precisely how we have recovered* is the main purpose of this book."

Precisely? Precisely. You mean exactly? Yup, that's what they mean.

"If you are an alcoholic that wants to get over it, you may already be asking, 'what do I have to do?'"

It is the purpose of this book to answer such questions specifically."

"Further on, clear-cut directions are given showing how we recovered"  
(pgs. 20, 29 Alcoholics Anonymous)

Specifically? Clear-cut directions?

There are many "suggestions" circulating the rooms of AA that have little or nothing to do with the actual *program* of Alcoholics Anonymous. It can be difficult, to say the least, for a newcomer to disseminate this information. For example, "no relationships for a year" or my favorite, "no major decisions or changes for a year." These types of suggestions, while well-intentioned and possibly useful and important for some are no more a part of the directions to wellness for an alcoholic than "90 meetings in 90 days". Wait a minute...we just told these new folks "one day at a time", now we tell them 90 meetings in 90 days? What do we say when a newcomer asks how the founders worked their programs when there were only two meetings a week, and they were hundreds of miles apart? Then we read the "promises" and fail to tell them that they don't come true after a certain number of meetings, but a certain amount of work.

I heard a guy once say, "at some point, a real alcoholic arrives at a place where he has three option: A) take his own life, B) go back to blotting out the pain with booze and drugs as best he can, or C) try the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. If I let a man or woman believe they *have* tried the program of Alcoholics Anonymous when they haven't, I have just folded that third option."

Pretty powerful stuff. It may not be popular, but it is my duty...so here it is: if you have not gone through the Big Book *with* a sponsor that had someone with experience *take them* through the book, line by line, step by step, written a fearless and thorough inventory, continued on and worked the remainder of the steps with a sponsor, and practiced what you have learned daily, you haven't tried the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Cheer up, you may not be as sick as me, and you may not *have to do this*. I did.

The directions on *how to do* the steps are in the Big Book, and the Big Book alone. You will not find them in the 12x12, because they are not there. The 12 and 12 is a great book, an excellent *reflection* on the steps by someone that has already *done* the steps, but you can read it up and down, day and night and not find the directions, because they aren't in there. Reading that for me was like reading a summary of a surgical procedure and wondering why I didn't feel better. I hadn't actually *had* the surgery, I just *read about it*.

Is going to a lot of meetings a good idea? Absolutely. Is getting a job in your home group helpful and important, sure it is. Is service work integral to gaining humility and sense of purpose, yes. But there is no guarantee that these things alone simply will supply the psychic change necessary to *recover* from alcoholism.

The Big Book states that certainly we have no monopoly on God, and there are other ways to get well. However, as a person that has worked in half-way houses, worked within many institutions, taken therapy and worked with many, many alcoholics, I have to say that nothing I have ever run across comes even remotely close to the effectiveness of the simple program offered by Alcoholics Anonymous.

If you are hurting, whether you're a month sober or twenty years, *there is a solution*. It's in the book Alcoholics Anonymous.

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.

### **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 1-508-752-9000 .

### **Group Anniversaries**

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

## 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!!*

Auburn Group (Wednesdays 7:30-9pm)

Tony B. 508-752-9000

Aurora Group (6:45pm-8pm)

Joanne K. 508-752-9000 leave message

Bellingham – Workshop (Mondays 7pm-8pm)

outgoing only

Sean K. 508-752-9000

Brookfield Sunday Morning (Sun. 10am)

Leon F. 508-752-9000

Clinton Shamrocks (Tues. 7:15p-8:30pm)

Cheryl D. 508-752-9000

Crozier (Mondays 8-9:30pm)

Paul G. 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 508-752-9000

Early Risers (Worcester Sun 10am)

Dayle O.  
(508-752-9000)

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

John Y. 508-752-9000

GOYA (Whitinsville) (Thurs. 8:00pm)

Mike P. 508-752-9000

Greendale Group (Worcester Fri. 8:30pm)

Paul H 508-752-9000

Groton Easy Duz It (Tuesday 7:30pm)

Joe F 508-752-9000

Holden Thursday Night (Thurs. 8:30pm)

Gill B. 508-752-9000

Hopedale Ray Of Hope: (Sun 10:30am)

Carol Y. or Ricky B. 508-752-9000

How It Works (Northboro): (Wed 8:00pm)

David C. 508-752-9000

How It Works (Worcester) (Sat. 6:45pm)

Laura R. 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

Hudson Townline (Sat. 8:00pm)

Bob G. 508-752-9000

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

James S. 508-752-9000

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

Donna 508-752-9000

Millis Fellowship (Thurs. 8:00pm)

Bill G 508-752-9000

New Way Of Life ( Mon. 7pm-8pm)

Audrey M. 508-752-9000

Northboro Saturday Morning (Sat. 10am)

Chris C. 508-752-9000

Putnam Young People's (Putnam, CT Fri. 8:00pm)

Glenn R. 508-752-9000

Sherborn Wednesday Night (Wed 8pm-9:15pm)

Debbie C. 508-752-9000

Southbridge Sunday Night (Sun 6pm)

John B. 508-752-9000

Starting Anew (Holliston) (Wed. 8:00pm)

Elaine K. 508-752-9000

Stay Active (Thurs. 6:45pm)

Chuck B. 508-752-9000

Stow Sunday: (Sun. 11:00 am)

Tom S. 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)

Cindy S. 508-752-9000

Upton Spirit (Wednesday 8pm)

Amy L 508-752-9000

Way Of Sobriety (Worcester) (Sun 10:00 am)

Gina G. 508-752-9000

Webster Joy of Living (Mon. 8:00pm)

Harry 508-752-9000

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

Ellen McQ 508-752-9000

Westboro Sunday Morning (Sunday 11-noon)

Janet 508-752-9000

Worcester Young People (Tues. 7:30pm)

Joanne O. 508-752-9000

**Area 30 Joint Treatment Facilities Committee  
Calendar Coordinator  
Tracey M.**

508-752-9000

## 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  
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.