

The Beacon

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

Tradition Eleven

Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion: we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.

From The Traditions Checklist:

1. Do I sometimes promote AA so fanatically that I make it seem *un-attractive*?
2. Am I always careful to keep the confidences reposed in me as an AA member?
3. Am I careful about throwing AA names

around – even within the fellowship?

4. Am I ashamed of being a recovered, or recovering alcoholic?

5. What would AA be like if we were not guided by the ideas in Tradition Eleven? Where would I be?

6. Is my AA sobriety attractive enough that a sick drunk would want such a quality for himself?

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ONLINE....

Worcester Area Intergroup

<http://www.aaworcester.org>

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

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

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Deadline....

.....for information to go into the December issue of The Beacon is November 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)

Special Needs

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

There is also a number to call for an update of meeting in the Boston Area that are interpreted, the number is (508) 752-9000 and this list of meetings is updated every Friday.

Miscellaneous

Dr. Paul Jones of the Psychiatry Dept. at U-Mass Medical Center would like to get more AA meetings held at U-Mass. Any group interested in relocating there or anyone seeking a location for a new group can call John at the Intergroup office at 508-752-9000 Mon. - Thurs. 10:00am to 2:00pm. Dr Jones will negotiate a meeting site and rent with the hospital administration

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!!

The Noon and Friday Nite Flick
Southbridge
29 Pine Street
is moving week of 10/21/2002
from 21 pine street to 61 Pine street!
note : Same parking
lot. Meeting in adjacent building up the hill.

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.

Step 11: Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, *as we understood him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

Steering Committee & Committee Chairpersons

- Chairperson** – Brandy H.
- Vice Chair** – Bob D.
- Secretary** – Tom B.
- Treasurer** – Kimball M.
- Assistant Treasurer** – Glen S.
- Trustees** – Enzo H., Darlene V., Billy S., Ellen Mc.
- Office Manager** - John H.
- Treatment Facilities** – Ellen Mc.
- Correctional Facilities** – Roosevelt S. (Alternate)
- H.A.L.T.line** – Paul P.
- Social Committee** – Natasha H.
- Public Information** – John H.
- Beacon Editor** – Brandy H.
- Liaison to District 25** – Kate F.
- Liaison to Area 30** – Brandy H.
- Alcathon Committee** – Billy S.

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.

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 several hours open that need to be filled!! If you can help, 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.

Public Information is looking for more people to get active with their committee. Please call John H. at (508) 752-9000.

Alcathon Committee needs people to help in many areas for the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Alcathons. Please see the article elsewhere in this issue for more information.

Several of our Intergroup and District Committees are in need of help. Worcester Area Intergroup is trying to eliminate the need to have 'committees of one'. 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.

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.

Upcoming

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

November 8-10, 2002 – 39th Annual Massachusetts State AA Convention. Fitchburg, MA. Call Marilyn @ (508) 752-9000

April 10-13, 2003 – EACY-PAA 1 – Hyatt Regency Cambridge. Contact Joe M. for more info (508) 752-9000

June 2002 to May 2003

November 14, 2002 - drawing for Christmas and New Years Alcathons

December 12, 2002

January 9, 2003 – Guidelines reviewed to determine if revisions are needed

February 13, 2003 – Nominations Committee appointed

March 13, 2003 – Nominations made for all officers and Committee chairpersons

April 10, 2003 – Elections and appointments

May 8, 2003 – New signature cards for bank account signed; Budgets proposed and voted on

Service Meetings

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

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
 2nd Wednesday

Joint Corrections
 Intergroup Office
 100 Grove St. # 309
 Worcester
 TBA

Social Committee
 Intergroup Office
 100 Grove St. # 309
 Worcester
 TBA

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
 1st 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

FAQ 2002 ALCATHONS

What are Alcathons?

Thirty-Six hours of continuous **Alcoholic Anonymous** meetings starting at noon of and running until mid-night of the holiday.

Thanksgiving: Beginning at Noon on Wednesday November 27 and ending at Midnight on Thursday November 28, 2002.

Christmas: Beginning at Noon on Tuesday December 24 and ending at Midnight on Wednesday December 25, 2002.

New Year: Beginning at Noon on Tuesday December 31 and ending at Midnight on Wednesday January 1, 2003.

How does my Group get a time slot commitment?

There are **two** methods of getting a commitment to any of the **3** Alcathons listed above.

The Thanksgiving Alcathon commitment will be drawn as follows:

District 25 GSR Meeting on Tuesday, October 1, 2002 at St Joan Of Arc Church
570 Lincoln Street, Worcester, where odd hours will be drawn.

Worcester Area Intergroup Meeting on Thursday, October 10, 2002 at St Joan Of Arc Church 570
Lincoln Street, Worcester, where even hours will be drawn.

The Christmas and New Year Alcathon commitments will be drawn as follows:

District 25 GSR Meeting on Tuesday, November 5, 2002 at St Joan Of Arc Church
570 Lincoln Street, Worcester, where odd hours will be drawn.

Worcester Area Intergroup Meeting on Thursday, November 14, 2002 at St Joan Of Arc Church 570
Lincoln Street, Worcester, where even hours will be drawn.

Who gets to draw the time slots?

Your GSR for District 25 or your Delegate/Representative for Worcester Area Intergroup.

Those members who have had representation on a regular basis to the district and intergroup monthly meetings will have first pickings on the drawings. After drawings have been done at the meetings listed above, a second choice of a time slot will be afforded to those groups who wish to change their time slot. The second choice drawn will remain committed.

In the event that all time slots have not been allocated, groups may call the Intergroup Office [(508) 752-9000] for drawings for the Thanksgiving Alcathon after October 11, and the Christmas & New Year Alcathons after November 15, 2002.

What are Alcathon Host/Hostess and How Do I Volunteer?

The Host/Hostess are responsible for the alcathon kitchen area, overseeing coffee preparation and refreshments, general housekeeping of meeting facilities. Service may be from 1 hour to as many hours as you wish. More than 1 AA member can serve during the same time frame. Suggested sobriety of 1 year, but less time if other host/hostess have 1 year.

Call the Intergroup Office [(508) 752-9000] and leave your name, address, telephone number, or e-mail address, and time slots you are interested in working. Brandy H. will get back to you with confirmation. Or you may e-mail her directly at BRANDYLH1@yahoo.com. Please use the word "Alcathon" in the subject line.

All host/hostess must be pre-approved by the alcathon steering committee

Korte's Korner

When I met a man I'll call Stanley this morning, I made an immediate connection with him. I'm not sure *he* felt it, but I sure did.

Stan was finishing up the night shift, taking care of the man I too had been hired to care for. From the second I came in the door, Stan was on stage, he was on fire. He was informing me of everything I needed to know, he was entertaining our autistic client, then he was informing, then entertaining, then informing, then pouring coffee, entertaining, performing-informing, pouring, zigging, zagging, leading the balloting for the Emmy or Tony or whatever award it is that you win for stellar kitchen performances.

At first, I wondered how many cups of coffee Stanley had downed this morning. I soon realized he was on his first cup, and pondered whether or not he might be manic. No. High on life? What the heck *was* it?

Stan had mentioned how hard he had worked all week and how much he was looking forward to "relaxing all day". I had never before seen someone burn 1200 calories explaining how he was going to relax. Amused but puzzled, I put Stan out of mind and went through the day, tending to the needs of my client, attentive, but mostly bored.

About five o'clock, I ran into Stan and a buddy of his. He was "relaxing" in front of two TV sets, each hooked up to a different satellite. He had the capability of tuning in to any NFL football game. He was intently focused on *both* television sets, neglecting his beer. The happy-go-lucky guy of the morning was in another solar system; this guy was all business. He was wound up like a steel coil. He was oblivious to our client, barely saying hello, a stark contrast to the Vaudeville show he had put on this morning.

His pal alternately fondled a Bud light and two football cards, checking the point spreads on them for probably the ten-thousandth time that afternoon.

It *clicked!* It made sense now. I had been *identifying* with him this morning. Of *course* he was excited...it was **Sunday!** The beginning of **football** season, no less, what's *not* to be excited about?

Stanley was riveted to the television screen. His dad, a mean of some means, sat by and asked how many points "they" were up on a particular game. Stan answered, "I don't know...quite a few", with slight irritation. I could feel the lava building, the tenseness in his voice. I also had a hunch that Stanley knew *exactly* how many points he had to play with.

It all came back to me, Sundays on the couch, watching this week's, next week's and month's worth of future earnings being decided by a kicker with a bad hook trying to hit a meaningless field goal that would push me closer to solvency. Getting my father to split a small bet with me, so he wouldn't mind my incessant channel-flicking and score-hunting. My strategy was usually to get him to split a 3-team "teaser bet". The minimum bet was \$25. It was one of those annoying bets that you could be sure the bookie was rolling his eyes over even having to bother with.

"A nickel (\$500) on Minnesota...\$300 parlais...Oakland and SF...a nickel each on the Pats, Miami, the Jets and Pitt...oh yeah, a quarter (\$25) 3-team teaser...it's for my little cousin..."

I related to the incredible stress dam behind Stan's eyes, watching, waitingwatchingwaiting, and yet, I knew

in some way, this *was* relaxing for him. As long as he had action on something going somewhere, nothing else existed in the world. Not his little daughters that needed braces or new clothes for school, or dance lessons, not the pressures of a new marriage, bills to be paid, duties to be done, nothing. On top of that, a whole new world opened up, the world of “what ifs”...all those things he’ll do when he hits, all those places to go, the things he’ll get for his kids, his wife, maybe even buy that house someday. You see...the braces don’t matter now, the dance lessons aren’t there, either. They are a mere formality, a matter of a signed check- once this bet comes through, that is.

I recalled the beauty of oblivion that alcohol provided, but that I had sought through many avenues, not the least of which was compulsive gambling. While in the midst of a poker game, nothing exists, nothing is real except the look on my opponent’s face, the black coffee in front of me (which I always hated, but ordered because saying “coffee- *black* is decidedly...cool.) Reading cards and faces, and my own hand, it fills the gaps, occupies the mind, blots out the reality of the world with incredible effectiveness for some of us.

I needed to see Stanley that way, needed to remember the reality of my disappearance from the lives of those I love and those that depend on me, the vanishing act that always seems to happen when I gamble. I had thought of gambling, I mean seriously thought of it last week. I took the proper steps, talked to people, dug up what was really going on. Life was going on, a relationship ended, fear and insecurity of the future came blasting in, and my ego fought tooth and nail for a break from reality, just a cat nap, a little respite, “we *all* deserve a break, Korte,” it cooed, and the reality of the suffering and humiliation of long ago wasn’t there to protect me anymore.

Much as with alcohol, at some point, the memory of how miserable I once was will be overridden by the un-comfortability of today. What saved me was this simple thought: every decision I make is a step toward or away from God. I *knew* this wasn’t a step toward God, and the reality that one step in the wrong direction...one intentional, selfish and foolish step, (not an honest mistake, I make a ton of those every day) but a premeditated, wrong action could send me on a trip I can’t afford to go on.

When I go to a substance, hobby, person, TV show for relief, I take a step away from God and closer to self-destruction.

The memory of a friend that had it all figured out, hadn’t drank in years, sounded great, etc. came back to me. I asked God how it was possible that such a man relapsed, and took his own life. Something came to me. Maybe he made a bad decision, a bad conscious decision at some point which sent him on a ride he couldn’t get off of...or maybe not. Maybe that’s just *my* lesson for today.

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 .

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.