

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 July issue of The Beacon is June 14th, 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 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:



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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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)?

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!!

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

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 6th 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 7th. 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

NEW!! Shrewsbury now has a Closed Discussion meeting at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church on Prospect Street. They meet on Tuesday nights from 5-6pm.

CHANGE!! The Monday night Happy Destiny step meeting has moved to the Congregational Church at 1070 Pleasant St. in Worcester effective May 6th. They meet from 7-8:30pm

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 7:45pm. Coffee will be served. Come and fill up those blank spots!!!

Group Anniversaries

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

Saturday, June 8th at 7:00pm, **The Milford Eye Opener** will celebrate it's 6th Anniversary. There will be an open speaker meeting, food and refreshments served--all are welcome.

We are located behind the Dunkin Dounuts on Main Street in the basement of the Unitarian Church.

Leominster Original will be celebrating their 49th Anniversary on Monday, June 17th at St. Leo's cafeteria. Food and fellowship at 6:30 an speakers at 7:45pm. Food and book donations are welcomed.

Step 6:

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

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.

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
(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

Upcoming Events

June 1, 2002 – Boston Central Service 61st Annual Dinner Dance. Call BCS @ (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 – 36th Annual New Hampshire AA Convention. North Conway, NH. Call Lin @ (508) 752-9000 for more info.

June 28-30 – Soberfest 2002. Moodus, CT. Call (508) 752-9000 .

July 4-7, 2002 – SERCYPAA 2002. Columbia, SC. www.SCWEBSTER.com

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

July 12-14, 2002 – 25th Annual Maine Round Up. Sugarloaf Mountain, Carrabassett Valley, ME Call Julia @ (508) 752-9000

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

August 2-4, 2002 – 9th Annual Pennsylvania State Convention. Carlisle, PA Call Lou (508) 752-9000

September 13-15, 2002 – 49th Area 64 Tennessee State Convention. Kingsport, TN. Call Ann or Mike @ (508) 752-9000

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

October 4-6, 2002 – North East Regional Convention will be held at the Sheraton South Portland Hotel in Portland Maine. Call Ted @ (508) 752-9000 .

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 .

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.

ONLINE....

Worcester Area Intergroup

NEW!!!

www.aaworcester.org

**Alcoholics Anonymous
General Service Office**

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

Grapevine

<http://www.aagrapevine.org>

I was having a discussion with an alcoholic friend that shares the same spiritual path with me this week about what it means to live a spiritual life and what it means to do God's will. I have often been confused as to what this should look like in my own life. I sometimes have narrow, limited ideas about the spiritual life. In spite of actually having a vision that showed me the meaning of the 3rd step and God's will for me as contrary to my own restrictive notions, I still cling to my own very limited perceptions all too often.

I occasionally fancy myself some sort of a drunk-turned-evangelist...then nausea kicks in and I have to abandon the idea. Once in a while, I'll picture myself doing some sort of work with "troubled" kids, which I have done, enjoyed, yet discovered wasn't for me. I imagine I should be teaching someone somewhere about alcoholism, using the knowledge I was given to enlighten others, most likely others that aren't interested in being "enlightened".

I frequently fall to asking myself questions like: Am I doing *enough*? What should I *really* be doing with the gifts God has given me? Why am I still so afraid of failure sometimes, or that I'm not "recovered enough", or "doing this right". Is this because I don't meditate well (and have put in little or no effort to improve in the area)?

Often, I start to convince myself there is some benchmark God wants me to achieve, some particular career or position He has me ear-marked for that I keep passing on out of ignorance, or lack of effort. I then assume God will be annoyed with me for blowing up His plan again and again, as if I had the power to accomplish that.

For reasons that escape me, I started telling my alcoholic chum about another friend I'll call Billy. The anniversary of Bill's death is this week. Billy fought in World War II, but he never told me any war stories. I was a teenager, so I was always hungry for a daring story of explosions and escapes, or at least a drunken adventure, but I'd get none from Billy.

Bill lived in the same town his entire life. In a small town where scuttle-butt is nothing new, I could not remember ever hearing a rumor about the man, or a harsh word. I had talked to Billy hundreds of times, but I couldn't recall him saying anything negative about anyone. Oh, he joked a lot, in fact, he was known for having a million puns- all of them bad, but I can't recall him getting a laugh at someone else's expense. I do, however vaguely remember him gently looking at situations from different points of view a few times when I was character-assassinating them.

Bill was referred to as the Mayor of Whitinsville for years, probably because he knew everyone in town, and always made time to stop and say a kind word. He was a great one for throwing a tennis ball at you one minute yelling, "think quick!", and leaving you chuckling the next. Bill made a habit out of taking the bus to visit people at St. Vincent's Hospital that he didn't know. One day I asked him about this, saying "Do you mean to tell me you don't even *know* these people, why would you do that?" Bill replied matter-of-factly, "well they don't have anyone to visit them" as though he were stating something obvious.

Many times I finished my breakfast at the local diner and upon trying to pay, found that Billy had picked up my check on his way out. I found out some more neat things about Billy at his funeral. It seems he had picked up a habit of going to all the funerals in town and quietly praying in the back of the church, giving the father a spirited salute each time he saw him (the father gave Bill one last salute from the podium). I didn't know that Bill ever went to church. As people milled around having coffee after the funeral, I heard story after story of the little things this man had done, so often thinking of others and so seldom of himself. It was truly amazing. I thought I knew Billy pretty well, but the stories kept coming and coming.

As I went on and on about Bill and all the crazy funny stuff he used to do and say, my alcoholic friend says..."wow...now *that* guy lived a spiritual life."

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 – open
Correctional Facilities – open
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.

June 2002 to May 2003

June 13, 2002 – New Officers and Committee chairs begin term of office; Meeting times for the year established

July 11, 2002

August 8, 2002

September 12, 2002

October 10, 2002

November 14, 2002

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;

It hit me like a brick on the face, how had I missed it? I almost responded, “but he never even talked about God...he was just himself, he didn’t do anything special!”

Then I thought of all the drunks Bill bought lunch for, all the people he made smile, all the times he had a kind word for someone that desperately needed one. The way he respected people that didn’t even respect themselves. I remember being depressed when I heard Bill had cancer. I saw him walking up Main St with a sweater on in the middle of July, and thought I’d cheer him up with a little pity and compassion. I asked how he was doing, expecting to field a few dozen complaints, and he responded, “I can’t complain!” with a spring in his voice that baffled me. I was trying to lift his spirits, and he lifted mine.

He wasn’t Bill the preacher or Bill the devout, he was just Billy, living a simple life, setting simple examples that it only took a spiritual giant like me twenty years or so to understand.

Bill didn’t have time to talk about the spiritual life, he was too busy living one.

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 (<i>Wednesdays 7:30-9pm</i>) Tony B. (508) 752-9000	Holden Thursday Night (<i>Thurs. 8:30pm</i>) Gill B. (508) 752-9000	Starting Anew (Holliston) (<i>Wed. 8:00pm</i>) Elaine K. (508) 752-9000
Aurora Group (<i>6:45pm-8pm</i>) Joanne K. (508) 752-9000 leave message	How It Works (Northboro): (<i>Wed 8:00pm</i>) David C. (508) 752-9000	Stay Active (<i>Thurs. 6:45pm</i>) Chuck B. (508) 752-9000
Bellingham – Workshop (<i>Mondays 7pm-8pm</i>) outgoing only Sean K. (508) 752-9000	How It Works (Worcester) (<i>Sat. 6:45pm</i>) Laura R. (508) 752-9000	Stow Sunday: (<i>Sun. 11:00 am</i>) Tom S. (508) 752-9000
Brookfield Sunday Morning (<i>Sun. 10am</i>) Leon F. (508) 752-9000	Hudson Straight Shooters (<i>Thurs. 8:00pm</i>) Brian B. (508) 752-9000	Top of The Hill (<i>Wed. 8pm</i>) Jeanne M. (508) 752-9000
Clinton Shamrocks (<i>Tues. 8:00pm-9:15pm</i>) Sean N. (508) 752-9000	Hudson Sunday Best (<i>Sunday 7:30pm</i>) David B. (508) 752-9000	Upton Capertown: (<i>Sat. 1:30pm</i>) John H. (508) 752-9000
Crozier (<i>Mondays 8-9:30pm</i>) Paul G. (508) 752-9000	Hudson Townline (<i>Sat. 8:00pm</i>) Bob G. (508) 752-9000	Upton Spirit (<i>Wednesday 8pm</i>) Amy L. (508) 752-9000
Douglas Maintenance and Repair (<i>Thurs. 7-8pm</i>) Paul P. (508) 752-9000	Leominster Original (<i>Mon 7:45-9:00pm</i>) James S. (508) 752-9000	Way Of Sobriety (Worcester) (<i>Sun 10:00 am</i>) Gina G. (508) 752-9000
Dudley Day At A Time (<i>Thursdays 8:30-10pm</i>) Geri (508) 752-9000	Millbury Traditions (<i>Saturdays 7:30pm-8:30pm</i>) Donna (508) 752-9000	Webster Joy of Living (<i>Mon. 8:00pm</i>) Krista (508) 752-9000
Early Risers (<i>Worcester Sun 10am</i>) Dayle O. (508) 752-9000	New Way Of Life (<i>Mon. 7pm-8pm</i>) Audrey M. (508) 752-9000	Webster Triton (<i>Sundays 7:30-9:00pm</i>) Ellen McQ (508) 752-9000
Four Corners (Worcester): (<i>Wed. 8:00pm</i>) John Y. (508) 752-9000	Northboro Saturday Morning (<i>Sat. 10am</i>) Chris C. (508) 752-9000	Worcester Young People (<i>Tues. 7:30pm</i>) Joanne O. (508) 752-9000
Greendale Group (<i>Worcester Fri. 8:30pm</i>) Paul H. (508) 752-9000	Putnam Young People's (<i>Putnam, CT Fri. 8:00pm</i>) Glenn R. (508) 752-9000	Area 30 Joint Treatment Facilities Committee Calendar Coordinator Tracey M. (508) 752-9000
Groton Easy Duz It (<i>Tuesday 7:30pm</i>) Joe F. (508) 752-9000	Sherborn Wednesday Night (<i>Wed 8pm-9:15pm</i>) Debbie C. (508) 752-9000	
	Southbridge Original (<i>Sun 6pm</i>) Leo 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
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

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.