

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

# The Beacon

### Inside this issue:

EACYPAA	1
Bookie Meeting	2
Help Wanted	3
Miscellaneous	4
Alcathon News	5
GSO Bus Trip	6
Service Meetings	7

### Deadline....

.....for information to go into the November issue of The Beacon is October 11th, 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 Ten

Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

From The Traditions Checklist:

1. Do I ever give the impression that there really is an "AA opinion" on Antabuse? Tranquilizers? Doctors? Psychiatrists? Churches?

Hospitals? Jails? Alcohol? The federal or state government? Legalizing marijuana? Vitamins? Al-Anon? Alateen?

2. Can I honestly share my own personal experience concerning any of those without giving the impression I am stating the "AA opinion"?



supporting Traditions in subtle, perhaps unconscious, ways?

7. How can I manifest the spirit of this Tradition in my personal life outside AA? Inside AA?

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... 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.

3. What in AA history gave rise to our Tenth Tradition?

4. Have I had a similar experience in my own AA life?

5. What would AA be without this Tradition? Where would I be?

6. Do I breach this or any of its

## EACYPAA

EACYPAA!!!

The Eastern Area Convention of Young People in AA are pleased to note the following events:

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

Please visit the calendar at:  
<http://calendar.yahoo.com/ecypaacalendar/>

## ***Timeline***

### **June 2002 to May 2003**

**October 10, 2002** – drawing for Thanksgiving Alcathon timeslots

**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

## **Bookie Meeting**

There will be a Bookie Exchange Meeting on Wednesday, December 4th, 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!!!

### **Step 10:**

Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

## **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.

### ONLINE....

**Worcester Area Intergroup**

<http://www.aaworcester.org>

**Alcoholics Anonymous  
General Service Office**

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

**Grapevine**

<http://www.aagrapevine.org>

## Upcoming Events

**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** – 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Massachusetts State AA Convention. Fitchburg, MA. Call Marilyn @ (508) 752-9000.

**April 10-13, 2003** – EACYPAA 1 – Hyatt Regency Cambridge. Contact Joe M. for more info (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.

DOUGLAS MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR  
3RD. ANNIVERSARY OCT 10TH 6PM TO  
7PM FOOD  
7 TO 8 PM SPEAKER  
8 TO 830 RAFFLE AN MONTHLY CHIPS  
830 TO WHENEVER CAKE AN FELLOW-  
SHIP

## Miscellaneous

Worcester Area Intergroup  
100 Grove St., Suite 309  
Worcester, MA 01605  
(508) 752-9000  
(508) 752-0755 (fax)

[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

**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.

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. Don't wait to rely on your group to have extras in stock!! See back page for subscription form or pick up forms at the Intergroup Office.

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.

**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](mailto: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.

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!!

***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!!***

Charlton Saturday night meeting now:

OSp\* LIFE SECOND TO NONE - St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Rd.  
Off Route 20 (turn at Trolley  
Stop) 7:00 - 8:00PM

## 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](mailto:BRANDYLH1@yahoo.com). Please use the word "Alcathon" in the subject line.

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

# A Day In The Life

The alarm went off at 2:20 am on the morning of August 16th, 2002, and with a jolt I leapt from bed, and with eyes still closed, managed to shut the alarm off, and begin wandering in the general direction of the bathroom, for a much needed shower. As I went through my morning routine, shower, brush my teeth, shave, and get dressed, I silently wondered what this day would bring. I said my morning prayers as I walked down to turn on the coffee pot, as each of the morning rituals were modified slightly at this ungodly hour!.

I finalized my lists and readied my bag, as I waited for the coffee to finish brewing. My fiancée woke and wished me "A good day", and as I kissed her goodbye, I poured my coffee, and was on my way out the door at 2:45. As always, I tooted my horn as I left my driveway, a signal that soon I will return, and also as a final goodbye.

I headed towards Paul P.'s house, just a few miles from my own. My eyes were heavy, as I maneuvered the roads, and drank some coffee, wondering aloud "He better be ready". I pulled into his drive and out he came and we headed towards Dedham, Massachusetts, to a "T" stop where we were to meet other recovering Alcoholics.

You see, this day we would be traveling to New York City, to visit the General Services Office (GSO), and spend the day seeing the offices, visiting the archives, seeing where "The Grapevine" was published, and also having a few 'gratitude' meetings. The biggest downfall had to be getting up early, and driving down in a crowded van to see what someone at our home group (The Douglas Maintenance & Repair Group), jokingly called "Our drive to Mecca".

The trip down was filled with some nonsensical conversation, and a few slightly heated opinions about various AA related topics. But, I figure if you jam 10 sober alcoholics into a small van for a 5 hour drive, you better expect some spirited conversation. It was a good time to practice the virtues of Patience, Tolerance, and Understanding. And, in light of that working, taking a nap was the next best thing to staying on a positive equilibrium.

After a few stops, a little bit of morning traffic, and loads of caffeine, we pulled into New York City, no worse for the wear. We were greeted in the parking garage by Adrian, a friendly woman, who let us know she was a GSO employee, and would be our contact person for the day, if we had any questions. After a brief time we were given visitor passes, and led into a small conference room for some coffee and pastries. We indulged, naturally, and Adrian spoke briefly about role at GSO, and then a few others also stood up and indicated their area of concern at GSO. We were briefed about the day's events, and then we began our tour of the facility.

Being a typical office environment, there were cubicles and offices here and there, but my attention was constantly being turned towards various paintings on the walls of many of the places that we hear about in AA. There was a painting of Bill W. and Lois, Ruth (Bill W.'s secretary), Dr. Bob, Ebby, and countless others who were so key to the initial success of AA. As we came upon each office, someone would explain their involvement at GSO, and answer any questions that we would have.

We then headed into the "Archives" room, and if I hadn't been moved by what I had seen so far, the items, pictures, paintings, and various original AA materials, moved me emotionally, where I felt gratitude deep inside me that such a program exists, that had certainly saved my life. Here I was staring at a First Edition of the "Big Book", with a tear welling up inside me. And, it certainly was a BIG book, larger even than the third edition, so the nickname was an appropriate one.

There were photographs of East Dorset, Vermont, pictures of Bill, Dr. Bob, Lois, Ruth, Ebby, and others, that helped secure the feeling that I was amongst pieces of history, that had come forth, and helped me have a life second to none. I have to tell you, I got a little emotional, but didn't let my "Big tough guy" image fade. I kept the proverbial "stiff upper lip" as I walked through the "Archives" room a few more times, keeping in mind that it's ok to have feelings.

Later, we had our first meeting, and "Joe" shared his drunk-a-loge and we had a round robin of sharing afterwards. Honesty is one of the many gifts this program has brought into my life, and by the time others had spoken, I had to admit I had been a bit moved by what I had seen so far. "Joe" had spoke of being a surfer who had never surfed, because he never got off the beach (from drinking) to actually do it. I joked that "I was a tough guy, like Joe is a surfer", and that I felt the gratefulness in my heart for taking in a small piece of AA history this day.

We later toured where "The Grapevine" is published, and had another meeting in relation to some brief excerpts from Bill W.'s grapevine writings, known as "The Language of the Heart". A discussion arose out of a topic Paul brought up asking "what constitutes a 'closed' meeting, and how do we enforce it?".

So what do you get when have a roomful of tired Alcoholics, and a hot topic like this one? Well, you get various and sundry opinions, which is what I've come to expect over the years in any AA meeting. I find the liveliness of everyone's opinion invigorating! If topics like this resulted in dull conversations, I for one, would tune out. I sat quietly throughout the meeting (I must have been tired!), and took all the opinions in. But, none of them swayed me from my own belief, that if you fulfill the Third Tradition ("The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking"), then you are welcome at any 'closed' meeting.

Soon, we were wrapping this meeting up, and getting our stuff together for the trip home. I, having other family commitments, opted to fly home. Paul busted me more than once about how I would be home before they hit the Connecticut border.

Well, the joke was on me! Due to severe thunderstorms, my flight was cancelled, then the next flight was cancelled, and then I was bumped all the way until 7:00 pm that night. I managed to meet my family by 9:00 pm for a late dinner in Boston. As I sat, tired as tired could be, I enjoyed my seafood dinner, and reflected on the most recent 24 hours in my life, and a smile came across my face. My fiancée said "What are you smiling about?", and I said "I'm just very grateful to be alive, and to be sober, and to be here with all of you".

Thanks!  
Charlie W.

## 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  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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  
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.