



The Beacon

Worcester Area Intergroup Newsletter

Worcester Area Intergroup

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Office Hours:

Monday 10am-2pm

Tuesday 10am-8pm

Wednesday 10am-2pm

Thursday 10am-8pm

10-5 second Thurs of Mo.

Friday 10am-2pm

Saturday 9am-2pm

The Beacon Staff :

January 2015 to December 2015

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Volume 17 issue 11

November 2015

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.

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.

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 unattractive?
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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FROM THE OFFICE MANAGER

Worcester Area Intergroup (WAI) accepts information regarding AA related events to be included in the website calendar. Let us know if you have event you would like publicized.

Please email information to the Office Manager at: webmaster@aaworcester.org

A.A. PREAMBLE©

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover

from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

On-Line 12
Steps & 12 Tra-
ditions, Articles,
and Tradition
Checklists

www.aagrapevine.org

Identification Is

'The Essence of our Common Bond'

“ ‘My name is Rosemary P., and I am an alcoholic.’ That’s a simple introduction. And powerful. It tells you who and what I am, instantly. It immediately connects me to you if you, too, are an alcoholic.”

Speaking at the June 1989 Northeast Regional Forum in Portland, Maine, Rosemary called identification “the very essence of our common bond” and expressed concern that “the way we traditionally introduce ourselves at meetings has changed so much, the word ‘alcoholic’ often is omitted entirely.”

The delegate (Panel 39) for Central New York pointed to a new crop of introductions heard around A.A.—from “I’m cross-addicted” and “I’m chemically dependent” to “I’m a recovering person.” She said that she is “always tempted to respond, ‘You’re a cross-addicted what?’ ‘You’re a chemically dependent what?’ And ‘Whom or what are you recovering from?’ ” Her frustration mounts, she added, because “I need to know that you’re at the meeting for the same reason that I’m there—for ongoing recovery from the disease of alcoholism.”

Rosemary further believes that the breakdown in the way we identify ourselves “puts a serious strain on our function that ‘I’m a drug addict and an alcoholic’ or ‘I’m a cross-addicted alcoholic,’ I am telling you that I’m a special kind of alky—my case of alcoholism is different from yours! I add an extra dimension to my disease—one that, because of our singleness of purpose, should not be addressed at an A.A. meeting. I have just cut our common bond in half and, more importantly, have diluted my known purpose for being there.”

In her area, Rosemary noted, “it was thought that after a person was around A.A. for a while, all other descriptive words would fall away and we would hear, ‘I am an alcoholic.’ But this has not happened. We see people sober in A.A. for two, three, four years and more —still clinging to the treatment jargon they were first taught. They have not made the transition.”

What we need to do, Rosemary suggests, is to separate our issues and take separately to the programs designed to address them: Narcotics Anonymous for drug addiction; Overeaters Anonymous for food, and so on. When participating in these various meetings, he feels, “we should identify ourselves accordingly.”

It has been suggested, she said, “that we approach treatment facilities and, in the spirit of cooperation and concern for the newcomer, ask that they instruct their patients on how to separate their addictions rather than group them together under the label of ‘addictive personalities’— using the catchall phrase we hear so often, that ‘a drug is a drug is a drug.’”

The idea of seeking outside cooperation is all very well, Rosemary observed, “but I wonder if the real answer doesn’t lie squarely within our own Fellowship. Isn’t it the responsibility of each of us to keep our program intact, to pass it on to the newcomer as it was given to us? Importantly, can we do this with patient explanation, tolerance toward differences—and more patient explanation? I believe we can, through committed sponsorship, strong home groups and active service. That way, our new members will learn how to be a part of A.A., not a fragment of it.”

Most of us, Rosemary concluded, “have heard it said that if A.A. is ever destroyed, it will be destroyed from within. In my opinion, apathy, cloaked often in the guise of ‘live and let live,’ is one of our greatest enemies. But the destructive force is not those members who introduce themselves as ‘cross-addicted alcoholics’ —it is the attitude of those members who sit back and say, ‘So what!’ ”

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District 25



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS District 26

THANKSGIVING DAY ALKATHON



Thursday, November 26th, 2015 from 8 AM to 9 PM
Unitarian Church, 15 West Leominster

District 26



Hosted by our Activities Committee

For more information Contact Frank G. (978) 840-9785 or Karen M (978) 496-0500

Join us for our All Day Marathon of Meetings from 8 am to 9 pm at the Unitarian Church. Food and Fellowship all day long. Don't be alone on Thanksgiving Day. Be with us! Food and book donations very much welcome.



Any Group Anniversaries or A.A. functions please notify webmaster@aaworcester.org and we will put it on the website "calendar of events" as soon as possible. If you have a flyer in electronic format please send that along and we will include it.



WINTER BREAKFAST

Saturday, December 5th 2015
 Knights of Columbus Hall
 110 South Main St., Gardner, Mass



COFFEE: 9:00 AM TO 9:30 AM



BREAKFAST: 9:30 AM TO 10:30 AM



SPEAKER & RAFFLE: 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

See your GSR for Tickets - \$8.00
 Happy Pat – (978) 270-4264 / Larry B. – (978) 660-1815

Sponsored by District 26 Activities Committee

Service Meeting Schedule

Intergroup Steering Committee* - Veterans, Inc., 59 South St. Shrewsbury, MA — 6:00pm

Intergroup Delegates* - Veterans, Inc., 59 South St. Shrewsbury, MA —7:00pm

**The Intergroup meetings occur the second THURSDAY of each month.*

District 25 General Service Committee—St. Joan of Arc Church, Lincoln Street Worcester, Ma meets first Tuesday of the month 7:30 pm

District 26 General Service Committee—Local 60 Union Hall, Mechanic Street, Leominster, Ma meets first Thursday of the month 7:00pm AA members welcome—please come join us!

Why does your group need an Intergroup Representative?

The Worcester area Intergroup has no authority of it's own but derives it from the participating groups. The representative that each group elects is the groups voice to intergroup—your link to those who maintain and operate the Intergroup Office.

Intergroup Officers & Committee Chairpersons

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>email address</u>
Chairperson	Bob L.	chair@aaworcester.org
Alt. Chair	Tom E.	
Secretary	Anne G.	secretary@aaworcester.org
Treasurer	Mike D.	treasurer@aaworcester.org
Alt. Treasurer	David B.	alttreasurer@aaworcester.org
Trustees	Barbara C., John B. Richard M., Marc B.	
Office Manager	John H.	steps@aaworcester.org
Joint Treatment Facilities	David B.	treatment@aaworcester.org
Joint Correctional Facilities	Open	corrections@aaworcester.org
Halt Line	Dot B.	haltline@aaworcester.org
Social Committee	Ellen Mc Q	social@aaworcester.org
Joint Public Information	Dot B.	pichair@aaworcester.org
Webmaster	John H.	webmaster@aaworcester.org
Joint Alcathon Committee	Don K.	
Beacon Editor	John B.	beacon@aaworcester.org
Liaison to District 25	Nicole	
Liaison to District 26	Richard M.	
Liaison to Area 30	Open	

The Beacon**Subscription Form**

Please fill out form, enclose your payment, and mail to:
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 Worcester Mass. 01605

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Subscriptions to The Beacon are \$5.00 per year to defray the cost of production and postage. Additional donations from members are gratefully accepted.

Worcester Area Intergroup is a non-profit organization, dependent on members' contributions. Please make checks payable to Worcester Area Intergroup.

Worcester Area Intergroup could use support from the local A.A. Groups.

If your group has an excess amount in your treasury please consider making the pie chart split to help not only Worcester Intergroup but the other local A.A. entities and also A.A. World Services. If you are a group treasurer and need more information, feel free to call the office at 508-752-9000.

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

Agers 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.*

Please mail to: Worcester Area Intergroup 100 Grove St. Suite 314
 Worcester, MA 01605