



The Beacon

Worcester Area Intergroup

100 Grove St., Suite 314

Worcester, MA 01605

(508) 752-9000

(508) 752-0755 (fax)

www.aaworcester.org

Office Hours:

Monday 10am-2pm

Tuesday 10am-8pm

Wednesday 10am-2pm

Thursday 10am-8pm

Friday 10am-2pm

Saturday 9am-2pm

Sunday CLOSED

The Beacon Staff:

January 2014 to December 2014

Editor: John B.

Committee: Kathy K.
John H.

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Volume 16 Issue 5

May 2014

Worcester Area Intergroup Newsletter

Group and District News Wanted Field Editors Needed

Beacon is looking for volunteers who would be willing to be writers, roving reporters and field editors. Must be sober, fun loving and have a zest for life. Interest in journalism is helpful but not required. A computer with desktop publishing software or Microsoft Word or Microsoft Publisher will be the only prerequisite to getting started. Please contact the Beacon editor at beacon@aaworcester.org

Group Spotlight

Tell us why your group is the best group in AA and we'll do a spotlight on your group in the Beacon.

AA Activities

If anyone has any information about upcoming AA related activities please contact the editor at Beacon@aaworcester.org. Be sure to check out the following websites in the meantime for information as well, aaworcester.org, aadistrict26.org, aaemass.org.

"Don't drink, go to meetings and ask for help. Get a home group and get active."

Local Service Meetings

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—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!

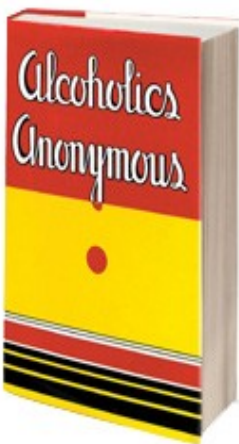


On-Line 12 Steps & 12 Traditions, Articles, and Tradition Check-lists

www.aagrapevine.org

\$13.00 at Worcester Area Intergroup

Announcing the 75th Anniversary Commemorative Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*



Step 5 : “Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

Tradition 5 : “Each group has but one primary purpose-to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

TRADITIONS CHECK LIST :

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I over impressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to AA before? What his other problems are?

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Traditions Checklist

These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through October 1971. While they were originally intended primarily for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.

Concept 5: “Throughout our world service structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be careful-

Step Five

“Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

A.A.'s Twelve Steps ask us to go contrary to our natural desires ... they all deflate our egos. When it comes to ego deflation, few Steps are harder to take than five. But scarcely any Step is more necessary to longtime sobriety and peace of mind than this one. A.A. experience has taught us we cannot live alone with our pressing problems and the character defects, which cause or aggravate them. If we have swept the searchlight of Step 4 back and forth over our careers, and it has revealed in stark relief those experiences we would rather not remember, if we have come to know how wrong thinking and action have hurt us and others, then the need to quit living by ourselves with those tormenting ghosts of yester-day gets more urgent than ever. We have to talk to some-body about them but the things that really bother us and burn us we say nothing about.

I am happy to share my experience strength (weaknesses) and hope with you today by the telling of an accident that turned my life upside down in early March of this year. I discovered how my ego does seemingly run the show, but when something like an accident or tragedy happens (and it will) how very little I know about true humility, honesty, tolerance of others, and myself!

It was going to be a great day that Monday, as a student and heading to class that morning I was prepared to finish out the 5th semester and finally start looking for the job that would allow me to be self-supporting through my own contributions. However, God had other plans and all of my big plans and schemes came to a screeching halt for the time being. The accident was the easy part, how I reacted was normal I guess, but how I coped when I got home is an entirely different story. I was released home four days later with a plate in my left ankle to an apartment with two flights of stairs, alone. It is interesting how an accident like this forced me to recognize how controlling I am, how fearful I still am about finances and how fragile and out of balance my “sobriety” really is when I observed my lack of tolerance and patience with others. In addition, with chilling mortification, I saw myself criticizing the very people that were kind enough to help with the sweeping of the floor or other simple daily household tasks. When they went shopping and did not buy what I had plainly written on my list, or left the dust bunny in the corner, they did not do a “good job” or had left something out of place I actually resented it! I wallowed in the helplessness of it all and mild depression set in then started to get squirrely from being alone too long and worry about how I was going to live after being out of work for so long. I finally surrendered to the fact that I need people when the bell rang for me. So an inventory had to be done again, and step 5 with another human being. The steps had to be revisited to allow some sanity in and clear thinking.

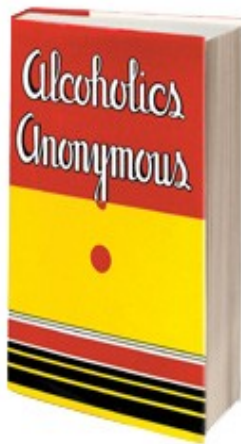
It does not matter where or how you isolate, or who you run from. When you are stuck in bed and alone the glaring character defects become even more glaring because I cannot hide behind a smile or lies. I had to realize step one first, that I am powerless over everything ***Everything***. I had to start to make a gratitude list for everything I had to regain spiritual attitude and start to let go of my control to allow people help me the best way that they could and that had to be enough until I could do it myself again.

The Beacon

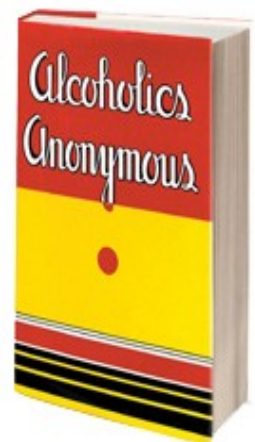
Any Group Anniversaries or A.A. functions please notify webmaster@aaworcester.org and we will put it on the website "calendar of events" as soon as possible. If you have a flyer in electronic format please send that along and we will include it.

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.



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



Women to Women New England Conference
Nov 13-16
Holiday Inn, Boxborough, Ma

Post Conference Assembly
June 1st, Haverhill Elks Lodge
24 Summer Street
Haverhill, Ma

THE GRAPEVINE: AA's meeting in print IS IN TROUBLE! PLEASE HELP BY PURCHASING A SUBSCRIPTION!

The AA Grapevine is the international journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. Written, edited, illustrated and read by AA members and others interested in the AA program of recovery from alcoholism, the Grapevine is a lifeline linking one alcoholic to another. The AA Grapevine communicates the experience strength and hope of its contributors and reflects a broad geographic spectrum of current AA experience with recovery, unity and service. ©GRAPEVINE

1 year Print version (12 Issues) = \$28.97 Online version = \$34.97 Grapevine complete = \$49.97 (Please see the website: www.aagrapevine.org for an explanation of the 3 types of subscriptions.)

You may order the Grapevine in one of three ways 1. Call 1 (800) 631-6025 2. Online at: http://www.aagrapevine.org/catalog/shop_gvsuborder.php 3. Mail check or money order made out to GRAPEVINE; PO Box 16867; North Hollywood CA 91615-9191

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-MAIL ADDRESS _____

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.

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 BothAges I am willing to work with: Teens 20 to 30 30 to 40 40 to 50 50 to 60 Over 60

Other (Please specify) _____

MAIL TO: Worcester Area Intergroup
100 Grove St., Suite 314
Worcester, MA 01605

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.

Intergroup Officers & Committee Chairpersons

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

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 an event you would like publicized. Please email information to the Office Manager at:

webmaster@aaworcester.org

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.