

August 2006



The Beacon

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Volume 8 Number 8

From the Treatment Seminar in April....

“AA in Our Community: Is Our Message Clear?”, an Open Seminar

“I really like AA. It seems to me that a lot of the people that share have the “been there, done that” kind of attitude. They speak of their problems to better themselves and better us as human beings. AA is giving us situations we might face in the upcoming years and are showing us the right path although we may not really choose it. The first step is admitting you have a problem and you have to cope with it if you want help. I really enjoy listening to them speak because they came here on their own free will. It takes a lot of courage to throw your story on the line to strangers. AA can help you deal in society when you get back in the out. Although you may choose to reject, AA really does have a lot to offer.” 17 year-old resident of Spectrum Youth Academy.

This testimonial was shared at the District 25 and Worcester Area Intergroup’s (WAI) open seminar “AA in our Community: Is Our Message Clear?” on April 22. The event was organized by the Joint Treatment Facility Committee (JTFC) and was open to all AA members and treatment professionals.

The seminar opened with a viewing of the video “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous” and was followed with presentations and information relating to bringing the message of hope to treatment facilities and preserving our single purpose of recovery from alcoholism. It was clear by the end of the day that AA’s message of ‘not having one drink for one day’ and ‘practicing these principles in all our affairs’ is the message we need to continue to bring to those sick and suffering in treatment facilities. As you can see by the testimonial above from a treatment facility client, our message of hope is welcomed.

The term “treatment facilities” includes a broad range of facilities such as detoxes, residential programs, nursing homes, psychiatric facilities, long-term adolescent facilities, and veterans’ programs, to name a few. The JTFC of District 25 and WAI currently do their best to serve nine facilities that have requested help in providing them with AA commitments.

The committee requests commitments from individual AA members and/or AA groups to share their experience, strength and, particularly, hope to individuals in these facilities. We are always looking for volunteers to help bring in Alcoholics Anonymous’ message and to bridge the gap between the individual’s treatment program and their transition to the AA program.

We learned that there are several conference committees committed to carrying AA’s message to other local areas, such as Cooperation with the Professional Community, Corrections, and Public Information. We have found that working together we can accomplish much more.

Adhering to AA’s Traditions will help us have improved relations with facility administrators and clients. Specifically, Traditions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 & 12 are useful when bringing AA’s message into facilities. In particular, Tradition 10 states, “Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never been drawn into public controversy.” AA members ought to abide by the rules and regulations of the treatment facility even though they may disagree with its policies. AA’s learn to “walk to walk” and simply carry the AA message and should not be diverted from the primary purpose.

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<u>Step Eight</u>	<u>Tradition Eight</u>	<u>Concept Eight</u>
<p>“Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.”</p>	<p>Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.</p>	<p>The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the large matters of overall policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.</p>

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 September 1971. While they were originally intended primarily for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.

On-Line 12 Steps & 12 Traditions, Articles, and Tradition Checklist's

www.aagrapevine.org/stepsTrads/stepsTrads_index.html

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|--|---|
| 1. Is my own behavior accurately described by the traditions? If not, what needs changing? | 2. When I chafe about a particular Tradition, do I realize how it affects others? |
| 3. Do I sometimes try to get some reward—even if not money—for my personal AA efforts? | 4. Do I try to sound in AA like an expert on alcoholism? On recovery? On medicine? On Sociology? On AA itself? On psychology? On spiritual matters? Or, heaven help me, even on humility? |
| 5. Do I make an effort to understand what AA employees do? What workers in other alcoholism agencies do? Can I distinguish clearly among them? | 6. In my own AA life, have I any experiences which illustrate wisdom of this Tradition? |
| 7. Have I paid enough attention to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions? To the pamphlet AA—Tradition—How it Developed? | |

Life is a dance, When you take the steps



SPONSORSHIP CORNER:

Continued from the July issue...

Should a sponsor lend money to a newcomer?

This is, of course, a matter of individual judgment and decision. Involved in it is the basic fact that A.A. has a single purpose: to help alcoholics with their drinking problem. A.A. is not a philanthropic or job-finding society.

Money, or the lack of it, has never been a key factor in an individual's ability to get sober in A.A.

The sponsor who lends money to a newcomer does so at risk and may even be slowing down the new person's progress toward sobriety. This does not mean that a sponsor should not voluntarily make a small gift to a newcomer if such a gift can help toward sobriety. (If the gift is returned some day, so much better, since the sponsor did not regard it as a loan in the first place.) It does mean that the newcomer who turns to A.A. for money, clothes, or assurance of employment is coming to the wrong place for the wrong thing. A.A. has something far more important to offer: sobriety.

Professional agencies can furnish other kinds of help if any are needed. But many alcoholics when sober can solve their own domestic, vocational, or legal problems.

Should a sponsor intercede with an employer?

By the time an alcoholic turns to A.A., he or she may have already lost a job or be in danger of losing one. If there is a job, it may involve working for an employer who is uniformed about problem drinkers and knows little or nothing of A.A.

Whether or not a sponsor should intercede to preserve another alcoholic's job depends upon the individual circumstances of each case. A surprising number of employers, anxious to restore competent employees to maximum efficiency, welcome the news that a worker has turned to A.A., and are interested in knowing more about the recovery program.

An informative pamphlet, "Is There an Alcoholic in the Workplace?," has been prepared to acquaint employers with the help that A.A. can offer.

*Reprinted with AAWS permission - questions and answers on sponsorship P.19-20

A word on anonymity:

"In my view, there isn't the slightest objection to groups who wish to remain strictly anonymous, or to people who think they would not like their membership in AA known at all. That is their business, and this is a very natural reaction.

"However, most people find that anonymity to this degree is not necessary, or even desirable. Once one is fairly sober, and sure of this, there seems no reason for failing to talk about A.A. membership in the right places. This has a tendency to bring in other people. Word of mouth is one of our most important communications.

"So we should criticize neither the people who wish to remain silent, nor even the people who wish to talk too much about belonging to A.A., provided they do not do so at the public level and thus compromise our whole Society."

Letter, 1962 * reprinted with AAWS permission

THE HOME GROUP: >>>>>>

Will return next Month

Worcester Area Inter Group Social Committee Presents....

Sober Sunbathers!

At Newport Beach

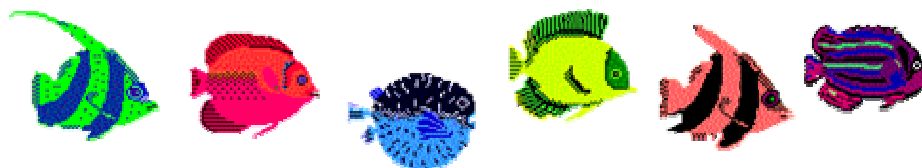
When: Sat. August 12th departing parking lot at 9 am

Where: Meet in Wendy's parking lot on Southbridge/Cambridge St. @ 8:45 am then on to Newport Beach in Rhode Island

What: Fellowship, Swimming, Sunbathing, and Fun

BYOB: (Beach Blanket)

Other fun summer events: Lazing at the Lake Sat. July 8th
Happy Hikers Sat. July 29th Hiking at Mt. Wachusett



Continued from page 1...

Here are some guidelines for working within treatment facilities, taken from the conference-approved pamphlet "AA in Treatment Facilities":

Suggested Do's

Abide carefully by all the rules of the facility. AA members are guests of the facility.

Make sure every AA promise is kept to the letter.

Limit yourself to carrying your own honest message of alcoholism recovery.

Listen at least as much as you talk.

Live by the spirit of AA's Traditions.

Remember that you are AA to people in that facility. Your language, appearance, manners, and mood all affect other people's opinions of our Fellowship. Your behavior can make sure AA is always welcome.

Always maintain a cheerful humility about how AA works.

Remember that you "are responsible". Let the patients know about the benefits of sponsorship, as well as the temporary contact program.

Suggested Don'ts

AA's should not try to claim special exemptions or privileges or try to manipulate the agency into making concessions.

Do not make any commitment that cannot be met. Excuses do not speak well for AA, but faithfulness and results do.

Do not talk about medication, psychiatry, or scientific theories of alcoholism. This is the territory for professionals.

Our own personal spiritual life does not make us experts on religion.

Do not argue about anything, with patients or staff. Arguments never win friends.

Do not expect any professional agency to govern itself by our Traditions. They cannot and have no need to do so.

Do not give agency personnel or patients any reason to be unhappy about AA.

Do not brag about AA. Let results speak for us.

Do not just carry the message to the facility and leave it there.

Thousands of times, these suggested Dos and Don'ts have helped to keep AA relationships with professional cooperative and cordial.

Best of all, doing this Twelfth Step work will help keep AA members sober and grateful. Join us in carrying AA's message of recovery into treatment facilities. Check out the available openings in this newsletter or on WAI's website at www.aaworcester.org then contact me at [REDACTED] treatment@rcn.com to book your or your group's treatment commitment.

Peace, Sue N.

UMass PTC at Worc. State Hospital—Friday's

Westboro State Hospital—2nd Tuesday of the month

Spectrum Women & Children—Tuesday's 1st , 2nd & 4th

Worcester State Hospital—Wednesday's 3rd , & 4th

UMASS 8 East— Tuesday's—3rd



Steering Committee & Committee Chairpersons

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>email address</u>
Chairperson	Bob McC.	chair@aaworcester.org
Alternate Chair	Harry H.	None
Secretary	Brandy H.	secretary@aaworcester.org
Treasurer	Mary M.	treasurer@aaworcester.org
Alternate Treasurer	Joe N.	
Trustees	Ellen McQ.	
	Bob D.	None
	Jeanne L , Laraine S	
Office Manager	John H.	steps@aaworcester.org
Treatment Facilities	Sue N.	treatment@aaworcester.org
Correctional Facilities	Your Name?	Corrections@aaworcester.org
Halt Line	Scott L.	haltline@aaworcester.org
Social Committee	Kolleen H.	Social@aaworcetser.org
Public Information	Brandy H.	PiChair@aaworcester.org
Webmaster	Brandy H	webmaster@aaworcester.org
Liaison to District 25	Mary M	None
Liaison to Area 30	Your Name?	None
Alcathon Committee	Billy - Inter- group	
Co—Chairs Intergroup & District 25	Tina P.— District 25	None
The Beacon	Ellen McQ.	Beacon@aaworcester.org
C.P.C	Your Name?	professional@aaworcester.org

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Office Hours:
 Monday 10am-2pm
 Tuesday 10am-8pm
 Wednesday 10am-8pm
 Thursday 10am-8pm
 Friday 10am-2pm
 Saturday 9am-2pm
 Sunday CLOSED

Do I do my part?

The opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to A.A. as a whole, nor does the publication of any article imply an endorsement by either A.A., general services nor Intergroup. Comments, questions and articles may be directed to The Beacon. * All excerpts & Articles reprinted with permission from AAWS

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The Beacon Staff: September 2005-December 2006 ~ Editor: Ellen McQ.—Courage to Change , Charlton, MA.

Assistant Editor: Mary M.—Courage to Change, Charlton Support Staff: Renee R. We hope you enjoy the changes!

Rule 62 “ Don’t take yourself too damn seriously.”



- A shortcoming is like having a flat tire, A defect is like driving on it.
- Meeting Makers make it
- Read the Big Book
- BEST—Been enjoying sobriety today?
- SOBER– Son of a B everything’s real
- TIME—Things I must Earn
- THINK– Thank Heaven I now know

Got any one liners or little bits for us email them to the Beacon at Beacon@aaworcester.org

Service Meetings Monthly Schedule

InterGroup/District 25 & 26

Public Information	Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 309 Worcester	4th Monday	7:00 pm
District 25 (GSR's)	St. Joan of Arc Church 570 Lincoln St. Worcester	1st Tuesday	7:30 pm
Joint Corrections	Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 309 Worcester	2nd Tuesday	7:00 pm
District 25 - CPC Committee	Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 309 Worcester	2nd Wed.	6:30 pm
District 26 (GSR's)	Local 60 Union Hall Mechanic St. Leominster	1st Thursday	7:00 pm
Steering Committee	St. Joan of Arc Church 570 Lincoln St. Worcester	2nd Thursday	6:00 pm
Intergroup Delegates	St. Joan of Arc Church 570 Lincoln St. Worcester	2nd Thursday	7:00 pm
Social Committee	Intergroup Office 100 Grove Street # 309 Worcester	3rd Thursday	6:00pm
Joint Treatment	Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 309 Worcester	4th Saturday	10:00 am

Area 30

Grapevine Committee	Boston Central Service 368 Congress St. Lower Level Boston	4th Sunday	1:00pm
Literature Committee	Carter Methodist Church 800 Highland Ave. Needham	1st Monday	7:30pm
Eastern Mass. GSC	St. John's 80 Mt. Auburn Watertown	4th Wed.	8:00pm
Joint Public Information	Boston Central Service 368 Congress St. Lower Level Boston	1st Thursday	7:00pm
CPC Committee	Boston Central Service 368 Congress St. Lower Level Boston	2nd Thursday	7:00pm
Archives Committee	St. John's 80 Mt. Auburn Watertown	3rd Thursday	7:30pm
Corrections Committee	Boston Central Service 368 Congress St. Lower Level Boston	4th Thursday	TBD
Joint Treatment Facilities	St. Paul's 59 Court Street Dedham	3rd Friday	8:00pm



**WE NEED YOU TO HELP CARRY THE MESSAGE
TO
ALCOHOLICS THAT STILL SUFFER!!!!**

**Become a Joint Treatment Facilities Committee Member
to learn how your district is helping Alcoholics in
Treatment Facilities!!**

**JOIN OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS THE 4TH SAT-
URDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:00 AM AT WORCES-
TER AREA INTERGROUP, 100 GROVE ST., 3RD
FLOOR, WORCESTER, MA**

**TO GIVE BACK TO AA WHAT WAS SO FREELY GIVEN TO
US, HERE'S YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO BE OF SERVICE**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT SUE N. AT
[REDACTED] TREATMENT@RCN.COM**



**The Halt-Line still has 12 hours of
unmanned phone time....can you
spare an hour?**

**Call the Haltline Chair
Scott L. [REDACTED] for more info**

**New Meeting:
BBSS
Lakeview Congregational Church
115 Coburn Ave. Worcester, Ma.
Wednesday's
7:00-8:30PM**