

December
2006



The Beacon

Email: Beacon@aaworcester.org

Volume 8 Number 12

Elections were held in November..... We have new Committee Chairs & Elected Post's !

Please welcome& We Need People to get Involved ! Please Help AA by becoming a trusted servant

*Intergroup Chair: Harry H. (Joy of Living—Webster) Alternate Chair: Mary M. (Worcester 7AM) Secretary : **We Need You!**
Treasurer: Joe N. (Webster Triton) Alternate Treasurer: Ellen McQ. (Courage to Change-Charlton)*

Trustee's: Bob McC. (Fellowship of Webster) Liz C. (Holden Thursday night) Bob L. (12 & 12 Fitchburg) Brandy H. (None)

*Committee Chairs— Treatment, Jill M. (Westboro Forge) Corrections: **We Need You!** Halt Line: **We Need you!***

*Social: **We Need you!** Public Information: **We Need you!** Webmaster Brandy H. Liaison to District 25: Mary M. (Worc. 7AM)*

*Liaison to Area 30: Ellen McQ. Alcathon Joe N. (Webster Triton) Beacon: **We Need You!***

Thank you to all our outgoing trusted servants for your dedication and selfless work.

Hosted By District 25 & Worcester Area Intergroup

The Alcathon's for

Christmas & New Years

are at

sacred Heart Church
600 Cambridge Street

Worcester MA

Baked goods welcome!

Candy anyone?

Bring a snack !

Step Twelve

Tradition Twelve

Concept Twelve

"Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."

The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserves be it's prudent financial principle; that it place none of it's members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that it's actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement of public controversy; that it never performs acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

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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| <p>1. Why is it good for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to me if AA as a whole disappeared?</p> <p>3. In my opinions of and remarks about other AAs, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?</p> <p>5. Have I a personal responsibility in helping an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is my part?</p> <p>7. Do I do all I can do to support AA financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a grapevine subscription?</p> <p>9. Do I fulfill all AA responsibilities in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really?</p> <p>11. Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversations when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of AA so attractive that other drunks want it?</p> | <p>2. When I do not trust AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?</p> <p>4. Do I ever get a certain AA group to conform to my standards, not its own?</p> <p>6. Does my personal behavior reflect the sixth Tradition—or belie it?</p> <p>8. Do I complain about certain AAs' behavior—especially if they are paid to work for AA? Who made me so smart?</p> <p>10. Do my utterances always reflect the tenth tradition, or do I give AA critics real ammunition?</p> <p>12. What is my real importance among more than a million AAs'?</p> |
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A word on anonymity:

Middle of the Road

"In some sections of A.A., anonymity is carried to the point of real absurdity. Members are on such a poor basis of communication that they don't even know each other's last names or where each lives. It's like the cell of an underground. "In other sections, we see exactly the reverse. It is difficult to restrain A.A.'s from shouting too much before the whole public, by going on spectacular "lecture tours" to play the big shot. "However, I know from these extremes we slowly pull ourselves onto a middle ground. Most lecture-giving members do not last too long, and the super anonymous people are apt to come out of hiding respecting their A.A. friends, business associates, and the like. I think the long-time trend is toward the middle of the road-which is probably where it should be.

As Bill Sees It, p., 241

SPONSORSHIP CORNER:



Life is a dance, When you take the steps

I remember my sponsor's answer when I told him that the Steps were "suggested." He replied that they are "suggested" in the same way that, if you were to jump out of an airplane with a parachute, it is "suggested" that you pull the ripcord to save your life. He pointed out that it was "suggested" I practice the Twelve Steps, if I wanted to save my life. So I try to remember daily that I have a whole program of recovery based on all Twelve of the "suggested" Steps.

Daily Reflections, p.344

PRINCIPLES, NOT PERSONALITIES

The way our "worthy" alcoholics have sometimes tried to judge the "less worthy" is, as we look back on it, rather comical. Imagine, if you can, one alcoholic judging another!

The Language of the Heart, p. 37

Who am I to judge anyone? When I first entered the Fellowship I found that I liked everyone. After all, A.A. was going to help me to a better way of life without alcohol. The reality was that I couldn't possibly like everyone, nor they me. As I've grown in the Fellowship, I've learned to love everyone just from listening to what they had to say. That person over there, or the one right here, may be the one God has chosen to give me the message I need for today. I must always remember to place principles above personalities.

Daily Reflections, p. 365



All the prayer and meditation in the world will not help me unless they are accompanied by action. Practicing the principles in all my affairs shows me the care that God takes in all parts of my life. God appears in my world when I move aside, and allow him to step into it.

Daily Reflections, p. 367



THE HOME GROUP:

My Sponsor Still Walks With Me

I was celebrating forty-three years of sobriety at my home group and expressed regret that my first sponsor, Mac, couldn't be there because he had died thirty-four years earlier. Right away, a woman I sponsor broke in: "Your sponsor didn't die--you've kept him alive. All I've heard, for years, is what Mac said and what Mac did." She was right. As I thought about it, I realized that my last-ditch question, when facing a problem I didn't feel able to handle, was always, "What would Mac do or say?"

I began to think about all the things Mac had passed on to me that had stood the test of time. The first thing was that he exemplified what AA could be for those of us who needed a simple program right at the beginning. He was a very simple man--a devout follower of Dr. Bob's "Keep It Simple" philosophy. Our relationship didn't make much sense on the surface. Mac was much older than I was; our backgrounds and educational levels were different. But he had a solid, workable brand of sobriety that I wanted, and he was willing to spend all the time I needed in giving it away to me.

He never gave me advice; he would mostly listen, then tell me what he had done under similar circumstances. Certainly, he made firm "suggestions," but it was up to me whether to follow them or not. If I tried to show him where he was in error, he'd listen intently for a while, then when there was a break in the discussion, he'd smile and walk calmly away to get a cup of coffee.

Mac said that if I didn't have discipline in my AA program, I probably wouldn't have any in my life outside AA, so he suggested some basic disciplines. First: I knew what time the meeting started, so be there on time. Second: I should never leave a meeting till it was over and I had put something in the collection basket. Third: I should never let a week go by without attending at least one meeting. (He didn't say, *Go to one meeting a week*; he said, *At least one meeting a week*.) And last: I should never volunteer in a discussion meeting--the chairperson would call on me if he wanted me to talk.

He added a couple of footnotes to these disciplines, and said that they applied to me only, and that I wasn't to impose them on anyone else. And if I ever had a legitimate reason for deviating from them, that was okay, I never have.

First, it wasn't necessary to understand the Twelve Steps before putting them into action--in fact, if I waited till I understood them, I'd probably never get around to working them. Second, Mac suggested that I be able to explain a word or phrase--or not use it. I liked to use clever phrases, often borrowed from others, because they seemed dramatic and attention-getting. His suggestion made sense, and I began to think before I spoke.

Third, Mac was adamant about the importance of having a home group, and so I never even considered not having one or being active in it. He felt it was necessary to stay active in group service and all local activities, regardless of the stature of the job. And when general service came into the picture, he wanted me to try that, too. (Mac was very active in prisons and institutions work, and the inmates all loved him because of his simplicity and lack of drama.) As a result of his prodding about responsibility, I did get active in general service, becoming a GSR, area chair, then delegate and trustee. If Mac had lived long enough to see it all happen, he would have told me not to get carried away. I can just hear him say, "Jim, all it means is that you're a lucky drunk."

Fourth, Mac believed that when we talk a lot but do little, we tie God's hands. He believed that God could, and would, make results happen in our sobriety only if we took actions.

Finally the most important suggestion he gave me was to point out that we all know the difference between right and wrong, for ourselves. But he cautioned that we don't know what is "best." Thus my guide for living today, oversimplified though it may be, is: "I do the right thing, not the best, because only God knows what is best. Then I leave the results up to God."

My sponsor still lives in my sobriety and in the lives of those I sponsor. I can almost feel him looking over my shoulder as I write these words. I can imagine his reaction. He would simply grunt a bit, then walk away to get a cup of coffee.

Jim M. Carmichael, California

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Join a Group & Get active....



Groups don't drink !

Worcester County Sheriff's office needs help!

340 Main Street 2nd floor--Worcester

Commitment twice a month.

COAP Program: Corrections Opportunity Advancement Program

Adult males on probation. Mon or Thursday 5:30-6:30PM

Require at least one year sobriety .

Want more info Email: Treatment@aaworcester.org

Alcathon Updates

Please note....SMOKING will be allowed in DESIGNATED area's only! (Street side of the parking lot)
We are asked NOT to smoke in front of the doorway.

Please abide by the Church's request so we don't jeopardize this site for
AA Meetings and any future Alcathon's.

If your group has the time slot commitment on Christmas Eve please remember there is midnight mass held in the church & park on the Street or in the far Parking lot to the left, Sacred heart has many older parishioners.

Thank you—The Alcathon Committee

~ We may be the only copy of the Big Book that Sacred heart parishioners see.

This event is sponsored by District 26 - General Service.

Joy of Living Weekend

When: Friday evening January 12th, 2007 thru Sunday morning January 14, 2007

Where: Best Western Royal Plaza

150 Royal Plaza Drive

Fitchburg, MA 01420

Round-Up

Email: JoyofLivingWeekend@yahoo.com

Registration Address: P.O. Box 1057 Shirley, MA 01464

Room rate: \$73.00/per night up to 4 people deadline 12/13/06

USE JOY OF LIVING PROMOTIONAL CODE WHEN BOOKING.

Cost for weekend \$ 25.00 after 12/13/06 \$ 35.00

Activities planned: workshops, a banquet dinner, dance and lots of meetings and coffee.

Registration forms available at the website: www.26ac.org

Save the Date..



Steering Committee & Committee Chairpersons

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>email address</u>
Chairperson	Harry H.	chair@aaworcester.org
Alternate Chair		None
Secretary		secretary@aaworcester.org
Treasurer	Joe N.	treasurer@aaworcester.org
Alternate Treasurer		
Trustees	Bob McC,	None
Office Manager	John H.	steps@aaworcester.org
Treatment Facilities		treatment@aaworcester.org
Correctional Facilities		Corrections@aaworcester.org
Halt Line		haltline@aaworcester.org
Social Committee		Social@aaworcetser.org
Public Information		PiChair@aaworcester.org
Webmaster		webmaster@aaworcester.org
Liaison to District 25		None
Liaison to Area 30		None
Alcathon Committee	Joe N.	
Co—Chairs Intergroup & District 25	intergroup D-25 Tina P.	
The Beacon		Beacon@aaworcester.org
C.P.C		professional@aaworcester.org

Worcester Area Intergroup

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(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

Do I do my part?

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The Beacon—100 Grove Street Suite 309 Worcester, MA 01605 email:beacon@aaworcester.org or [redacted]

The Beacon Staff: September 2005-December 2006 ~

Editor: Ellen McQ.—Courage to Change, Charlton, MA., Assistant Editor: Mary M.—Courage to Change, Charlton

We hope you enjoy the changes!

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



As we bid you farewell We rerun our favorites:

I was never a sloppy drinker, I was always very proper-I made sure my drink was on the bar before I fell off my stool—Brian D.

AA is a recovery of doing something not just knowing something.

Prudence is rational concern without worry—Bill W. 1966 Talk

The Alcoholic is the one with both feet firmly planted in mid air.

You can't fix a sick mind with a sick mind—Meeting makers make it!

The monkey is off my back but the circus is still in town.

Recipe for Recovery: (half measures avail us nothing); Start with a generous helping of step one. Add substance and let it soak in. Add a power greater than yourself (any brand of your own choosing will do).

Divide into Twelve Steps, distribute evenly and thoroughly. Set timer for Gods Will. Sit back and pray.

(note: do not close mind; closed minds result in returning to step one.) Any problems, Call 1-800-

SPONSOR

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	5:30PM
Joint Treatment	Intergroup Office 100 Grove St. # 309 Worcester	4th Saturday	10:00 am

New Time

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

Is your Group Represented at the Intergroup Delegates Meeting?

If you don't attend you can't vote...

If you don't vote you don't have a voice..

Come find out what's going on in our area

2nd Thursday of the month
St. Joan of Arc Church Lincoln Street Worcester 7:00 -8:30 PM

We counted 150 Groups in Worcester area only about 20 are represented, and only 8 show up at the Delegates meeting on a regular basis. Want to find out more call the Intergroup office 1-508-752-9000

or email the beacon
beacon@aaworcester.org

We'd be happy to answer your questions.

W.A. I. Needs your help!
There are service positions that are unfilled.
Join us the 2nd Thursday of each month 7:00pm
St. Joan of Arc Church Lincoln Streetcome see where you can help! Elections of New Officers & Committee Chairs this Fall !! Please Join us !!

New Meeting in Spencer
Saturday Mornings
Big Book Meeting
9:30-10:30 AM
Methodist Church

The Halt-Line still has 19 hours of unmanned phone time....can you spare an hour?
Call the Haltline Chair
Scott L. [REDACTED] for more info



Women's Meeting Big Book (tapes)
Thursdays 5:30—6:45 PM
Calvary Retreat House South Street
Shrewsbury, MA.

Check the bulletin board for meeting changes and new meetings in our area On Intergroup's Very own web page:
www.aaworcester.org
Meetings, updates, bulletin Board....Check it out!

New Meeting:
"In the Wind" has Moved from District 23 (Framingham) to District 25 (Worcester)
Holy Angles Church 1 Milford Rd. (Rt. 140) Upton Ma.
Fridays 8:00PM

NEW MEETING
Big Book Thumpers
Thursday Night 7:30-9:00pm arrive before 7:30 doors lock.
Calvary Retreat House
59 South St. Shrewsbury

Uxbridge—New Meeting— Big Book (Tapes)
Church of the Nazarene
130 Douglas Road (RT. 16)
Saturday Nights 7:00-8:00PM

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

W.A.I. - Social Committee:
Check the Website for up to the minute information
www.aaworcester.org or Email: social@aaworcester.org
Check it out and see what fun events they have planned !

To find out about social events in District 26 (North & west of Worcester) check out their unofficial web site:
www.26ac.org