



# The Beacon

Worcester Area Intergroup Newsletter

Volume 18 issue 12

December 2016

## Worcester Area Intergroup

100 Grove St., Suite 314  
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-2pm  
Thursday 10am-8pm  
Friday 10am-2pm  
Saturday 9am-2pm  
Sunday CLOSED

The Office will be closed on Monday, December 26, 2016 for Christmas

## The Beacon Staff :

(January 2016 to December 2016)

Editor:  
Brandy H

Committee:  
John H  
Marc B

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 and/or The Grapevine.

## Step 12

*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.*

## 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 Twelve

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

### From the Traditions Checklist:

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

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**FROM THE EDITOR**

**DID YOU KNOW??**  
 You can have a full color version of The Beacon emailed to you every month by sending an email to: Beacon@aaworchester.org and use SUBSCRIBE as the subject!!

**The Faithful Fivers Club**—AA members who donate \$5 or more a month on a regular basis to Worcester Area Intergroup! See form on this page...

**THANK YOU** to our Faithful Fivers: Tom E., Brenda Mc.-T., Ernie K.,

WAI also accepts **Anniversary Donations!** It is suggested \$1 or \$2 for each year of Sobriety! See Page 2 for submission form or pick up donation envelopes at the WAI Office.

**2017 Intergroup Officers & Committee Chairpersons**

| <b>Position</b>          | <b>Name</b>                            | <b>email address</b>            |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Chairperson              | Brandy H.                              | chair@aaworchester.org          |
| Alt. Chair               | Nicole L.                              | altchair@aaworchester.org       |
| Secretary                | Bob S.                                 | secretary@aaworchester.org      |
| Alt. Secretary           | Karen McG.                             |                                 |
| Treasurer                | Ellen McQ.                             | treasurer@aaworchester.org      |
| Alt. Treasurer           | Lisa R.                                | alttreasurer@aaworchester.org   |
| Trustees                 | Tom E., Kevin L.,<br>Anne G., Wendy S. |                                 |
| Office Manager           | John H.                                | steps@aaworchester.org          |
| Treatment Facilities     | Marc B.                                | treatment@aaworchester.org      |
| Correctional Facilities  | Wes M.                                 | corrections@aaworchester.org    |
| Halt Line                | Dot B.                                 | haltline@aaworchester.org       |
| Social Committee         | Ellen McQ.                             | social@aaworchester.org         |
| Public Information       | Bill S.                                | pichair@aaworchester.org        |
| Webmaster                | John H.                                | webmaster@aaworchester.org      |
| Joint Alcathon Committee | Marc B.                                |                                 |
| Beacon Editor            | Brandy H.                              | beacon@aaworchester.org         |
| Liaison to District 25   | Nicole L.                              |                                 |
| Liaison to District 26   | Bob S.                                 |                                 |
| Liaison to Area 30       | Ellen McQ.                             |                                 |
| Bookie Exchange          | Bill S.                                | bookieexchange@aaworchester.org |

**Worcester Area Intergroup Faithful Fiver Form**

The Faith Fiver idea came about when we remembered that we wasted much more than five dollars each month during our drinking days.

*" When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat, we give a token that we are grateful for our blessing and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer."*

Bill W, Language of the Heart

YES, I want to help continue to carry our life-saving message of hope.

I will pay    Annually(\$60)    Quarterly(\$15)    Monthly(\$5)

Here is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (in case of questions): \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to: Worcester Area Intergroup**

**100 Grove St., Suite 314**

**Worcester, MA 01605**

**(508) 752-9000**

# AA Events

**NECYPAA XXVII**—Sheraton Boston Hotel 12/30/2016—1/1/2017 [necypaahost.org](http://necypaahost.org) to register and book hotel room.

**Area 30 2017 Kick-Off Assembly**—January 8, 2017 9am-4pm—Brockton High School, 470 Forest Ave., Brockton, MA

**NERAASA 2017**—February 24-26, 2017—Framingham, MA—Pre-registration deadline: January 27, 2017 [www.neraasa2017.org](http://www.neraasa2017.org)

**The Way Out Group 13th Anniversary**—December 7, 2017—Burcoat Baptist Church—475 Burncoat St., Worcester, MA—7pm followed by the Group Meeting at 8pm.

**BOOKIE EXCHANGE MEETING**— January 10, 2017—6-7pm— Worcester Area Intergroup Office, 100 Grove St., Worcester, MA Suite 314 **ALL ARE WELCOME**

## 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!*

## Anniversary Donation

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Home Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Sobriety Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

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

*All Anniversaries submitted will be published the month following submission. Please contact the newsletter Editor at [beacon@aaworcester.org](mailto:beacon@aaworcester.org) if an Anniversary has not been published for two months following submission.*

**Deadline....**

.....for information to go into the January issue of The Beacon is December 15th, 2016. Information can be sent to :

**Worcester Area Intergroup**  
100 Grove St., Suite 309  
Worcester, MA 01605  
or e-mailed to:  
[Beacon@aaworcester.org](mailto:Beacon@aaworcester.org)

**BOOKIE EXCHANGE MEETING**

Jan. 10, 2017  
6-7pm

Worcester Area Intergroup  
100 Grove St.  
Worcester, MA  
Suite 314

## Meeting List Changes

### FORMAT CHANGE

**SPENCER FELLOWSHIP**—Congregational Church, Rt.9, Spencer, MA—Mondays 7:30pm now OPEN SPEAKER/DISCUSSION

### MOVED

**BURBANK SUNDAY MORNING STEP**—Sundays 9am MOVED to Burbank Campus of Health Alliance—Urgent Care Entrance—up one floor to Bergevin Conference Room

**PASS IT ON**—Sundays 6:45pm MOVED to Holy Rosary Church (off Regan St), Gardner, MA (open speaker)

**SHREWSBURY SUNDAY MORNING**— Veterans, Inc., 59 South St, Shrewsbury—Sundays 10am

TEMPORARILY MOVED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE to SAC Park 438 Lake St., Shrewsbury (open speaker)

**MARLBOROUGH NEW LIFE** - MOVED to Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 474 Lincoln St.

**WEDNESDAY WOMENS 12 STEP**—MOVED to 81 Plantation St.—entrance on Chrome St.—Worcester

### TIME CHANGE

**HAPPY JOYOUS & FREE**—St. Andrews Church, N. Grafton—TIME CHANGE—to 7-8:30pm

**HOW IT WORKS** - Northboro, Wednesdays TIME CHANGE - to 7:30pm-8:30pm

**FOUR CORNERS** - Worcester, Wednesdays TIME CHANGE - to 7:30pm-8:45pm

**GREENDALE GROUP** - Friday nights—TIME CHANGE—to 7:30-8:30pm (beginning June 3<sup>rd</sup>)

**REBOUND** - Saturday nights—TIME CHANGE—to 8:30-9:30pm - FORMAT CHANGE to Speaker/Discussion

**FITCHBURG FRIENDSHIP**—205 Summer St., Fitchburg, MA—TIME CHANGE—to Monday Nights - 7:30-8:30pm EFFECTIVE JULY 4TH

**ITS ABOUT TIME**—1059 Main St. (Jeremiah`s Inn), Worcester—DAY CHANGE—to Friday Nights - 7:00-8:15pm

### NEW

**STEP FORWARD**—Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 345 Main St, Sturbridge, MA—Mondays 6:30pm NEW GROUP

**NORTHBORO LIVING SOBER**— Church of The Nativity, Howard St. Northboro—Thursdays 7-8pm NEW GROUP— (Men`s Group)

**SOBA SISTA`S**—6 City Depot Rd., Charlton—Wednesdays 4-5pm—NEW GROUP (Women`s Discussion)

**WOMEN`S WISDOM IN RECOVERY**—Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Rd., Barre—Sundays 10-11am—NEW GROUP (Women`s Open Discussion)

**CLINTON BB WORKSHOP**—169 Chestnut, Clinton—Wednesdays 7-8pm—NEW GROUP (OBB

**THURSDAY OBB**—28 Vernon St., Worcester—Thursdays 6:30-7:45pm—NEW GROUP (OBB)

**12 STEP SISTERS**—6 City Depot R., Charlton, MA—Tuesdays 6:00-7:00pm—NEW GROUP (Closed Women`s Step Meeting)

**AA BEGINNERS Q&A** —St. Stephen`s Church, 16 Hamilton St. Worcester, MA—Saturdays 9:00-9:30am—NEW GROUP (Open Beginners Meeting)

### CLOSED

**PRIMARY PURPOSE**—60 West St., Leominster

**Service Meeting Schedule**

**Intergroup Steering Committee\*** - 100 Grove St. , Worcester MA —6:00pm

**Intergroup Delegates\*** - 100 Grove St. , Worcester 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**—Madonna of the Holy rosary Church Hall, 118 Theresa St., Fitchburg, Ma meets first Thursday of the month 7:00pm AA members welcome— please come join us!

**AREA 30 Eastern Mass. General Service Committee** — Grace Vision Church 80 Mt. Auburn Watertown 4th Wednesday 8:00pm (December will be held on the 3rd Wednesday)

**Why does your group need an Intergroup Delegate?**

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**

| <b><u>Position</u></b>   | <b><u>Name</u></b>                        | <b><u>email address</u></b>  |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Chairperson              | Tom E.                                    | chair@aaworcester.org        |
| Alt. Chair               | Brandy H.                                 | altchair@aaworcester.org     |
| Secretary                | Bob S.                                    | secretary@aaworcester.org    |
| Alt. Secretary           | Karen McG.                                |                              |
| Treasurer                | Mike D.                                   | treasurer@aaworcester.org    |
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| Trustees                 | Bob L., Nicole L.,<br>Anne G., Barbara C. |                              |
| Office Manager           | John H.                                   | steps@aaworcester.org        |
| Treatment Facilities     | <b>Open</b>                               | treatment@aaworcester.org    |
| Correctional Facilities  | Wes M.                                    | corrections@aaworcester.org  |
| Halt Line                | Dot B.                                    | haltline@aaworcester.org     |
| Social Committee         | Ellen McQ.                                | social@aaworcester.org       |
| Public Information       | Bill S.                                   | pichair@aaworcester.org      |
| Webmaster                | John H.                                   | webmaster@aaworcester.org    |
| Joint Alcathon Committee | Marc B.                                   |                              |
| Beacon Editor            | Brandy H.                                 | beacon@aaworcester.org       |
| Liaison to District 25   | Nicole L.                                 |                              |
| Liaison to District 26   | Bob S.                                    |                              |
| Liaison to Area 30       | <b>Open</b>                               |                              |

**Subscription Form**

Please fill out form, enclose your payment, and mail to:  
 Worcester Area Intergroup ATTN: The Beacon  
 100 Grove Street Suite 314  
 Worcester Mass. 01605

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Subscriptions to The Beacon are \$10.00 per year to defray the cost of mailing.  
 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

Ag<sup>e</sup>s I am willing to work with: Teens 20 to 30 30 to 40 40 to 50 50 to 60 Over 60

I am willing to: (please circle all that apply)

Talk to a person on the phone Go to a persons home to talk \*

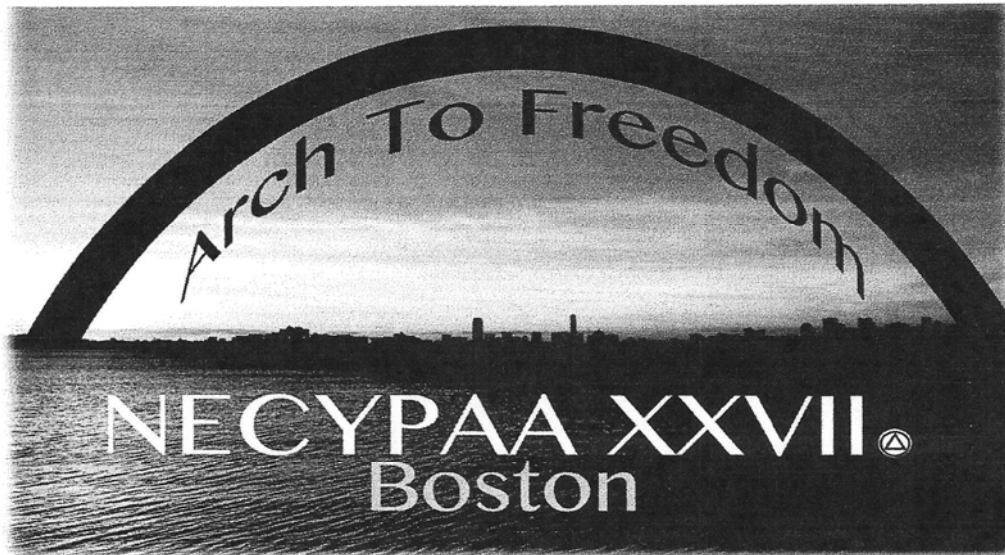
Give rides to AA Meetings Give rides to Detox \*

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





New England Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous

**Sheraton Boston Hotel**

**Pre-Registration**



39 Dalton Street  
 Boston, MA, 02199  
 1-888-627-7054

**\$20**

**12.30.16 – 1.1.17**

**NECYPAA Room Rate Special \$149/Night**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Sobriety Date \_\_\_\_\_

- Would you like to help outreach in your area? Yes No
- Would you like to be of service at the conference? Yes No
- Will you be buying a T-Shirt at the conference? Yes No
- Do you need a partial or full scholarship? Yes No
- Are you under the age of 21? Yes No
- Would you like to make a donation to NECYPAA? Yes No Amount \_\_\_\_\_
- Would you like to be added to our mailing list? Yes No
- What would you like to see at NECYPAA? \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you have any special needs? Yes No Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

Will you require Spanish translation at the conference? Yes No

Will an ASL interpreter be helpful for your conference experience? Yes No

**Make checks payable to NECYPAA**  
 PO Box 714  
 208 Main Street  
 Norfolk, MA 02056

**To register online & to book hotel room go to:**  
[www.necypaahost.org](http://www.necypaahost.org)

2016 Christmas Alcahion Slots

|                   |           |                              |
|-------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| 1 Saturday 12/24  | 12pm-1pm  | Worcester Fellowship         |
| 2 Saturday 12/24  | 1pm-2pm   | Worcester Four Corners       |
| 3 Saturday 12/24  | 2pm-3pm   | Worcester Daily Reflections  |
| 4 Saturday 12/24  | 3pm-4pm   | Worcester Young People       |
| 5 Saturday 12/24  | 4pm-5pm   | Worcester Quinsig Group      |
| 6 Saturday 12/24  | 5pm-6pm   | Worcester Rebound            |
| 7 Saturday 12/24  | 6pm-7pm   | Hudson Second Chance         |
| 8 Saturday 12/24  | 7pm-8pm   | Worcester Way of Sobriety    |
| 9 Saturday 12/24  | 8pm-9pm   | Worcester Midday             |
| 10 Saturday 12/24 | 9pm-10pm  | Worcester Gratitude          |
| 11 Saturday 12/24 | 10pm-11pm | Worcester It All Starts Here |
| 12 Saturday 12/24 | 11pm-12am | Mian South Sobriety          |
| 13 Sunday 12/25   | 12am-1am  | Worcester Hi-Noon            |
| 14 Sunday 12/25   | 1am-2am   | Naquag Firewater             |
| 15 Sunday 12/25   | 2am-3am   | Westboro Forge               |
| 16 Sunday 12/25   | 3am-4am   | Worcester There Is Hope      |
| 17 Sunday 12/25   | 4am-5am   | Happy, Joyous & Free         |
| 18 Sunday 12/25   | 5am-6am   | Charlton Daybreaker          |
| 19 Sunday 12/25   | 6am-7am   | Webster Triton               |
| 20 Sunday 12/25   | 7am-8am   | Northboro Saturday Morning   |
| 21 Sunday 12/25   | 8am-9am   | Worcester 7am Group          |
| 22 Sunday 12/25   | 9am-10am  | Worcester Seven Hills        |
| 23 Sunday 12/25   | 10am-11am | N. Brookfield Sunset Group   |
| 24 Sunday 12/25   | 11am-12pm | Millbury Traditions          |
| 25 Sunday 12/25   | 12pm-1pm  | Webster Early Risers         |
| 26 Sunday 12/25   | 1pm-2pm   | Worcester Saturday BBSS      |
| 27 Sunday 12/25   | 2pm-3pm   | Shrewsbury Sunday Morning    |
| 28 Sunday 12/25   | 3pm-4pm   | NECYPAA                      |
| 29 Sunday 12/25   | 4pm-5pm   | Holden                       |
| 30 Sunday 12/25   | 5pm-6pm   | Worcester Daily Choice       |
| 31 Sunday 12/25   | 6pm-7pm   | Shrewsbury Eternal Vigilance |
| 32 Sunday 12/25   | 7pm-8pm   | Worcester Greendale Group    |
| 33 Sunday 12/25   | 8pm-9pm   | Grafton Easy Does It         |
| 34 Sunday 12/25   | 9pm-10pm  | Shrewsbury Gratitude         |
| 35 Sunday 12/25   | 10pm-11pm | As Bill Sees it              |
| 36 Sunday 12/25   | 11pm-12am | Worcester The Way Out        |



2016 New Years Alcaathon Slots

|                   |           |  |
|-------------------|-----------|--|
| 1 Saturday 12/31  | 12pm-1pm  | Westboro Forge                         |
| 2 Saturday 12/31  | 1pm-2pm   |  |
| 3 Saturday 12/31  | 2pm-3pm   | Worcester Seven Hills                  |
| 4 Saturday 12/31  | 3pm-4pm   | Worcester Greendale Group              |
| 5 Saturday 12/31  | 4pm-5pm   | Upton Spirit                           |
| 6 Saturday 12/31  | 5pm-6pm   | Worcester Rebound                      |
| 7 Saturday 12/31  | 6pm-7pm   | Way Of Sobriety                        |
| 8 Saturday 12/31  | 7pm-8pm   | Charlton Daybreaker                    |
| 9 Saturday 12/31  | 8pm-9pm   | Holden                                 |
| 10 Saturday 12/31 | 9pm-10pm  | Worcester Gratitude                    |
| 11 Saturday 12/31 | 10pm-11pm | Worcester People Helping People        |
| 12 Saturday 12/31 | 11pm-12am |  |
| 13 Sunday 01/01   | 12am-1am  | Worcester Wednesday BigBook Step Study |
| 14 Sunday 01/01   | 1am-2am   | Shrewsbury Gratitude                   |
| 15 Sunday 01/01   | 2am-3am   | Millbury Traditions                    |
| 16 Sunday 01/01   | 3am-4am   | Worcester There Is Hope                |
| 17 Sunday 01/01   | 4am-5am   | Worcester Saturday BBSS                |
| 18 Sunday 01/01   | 5am-6am   |  |
| 19 Sunday 01/01   | 6am-7am   | Worcester Mid Day                      |
| 20 Sunday 01/01   | 7am-8am   |  |
| 21 Sunday 01/01   | 8am-9am   | Webster Early Risers                   |
| 22 Sunday 01/01   | 9am-10am  | Worcester Daily Choice                 |
| 23 Sunday 01/01   | 10am-11am | Worcester Serenity                     |
| 24 Sunday 01/01   | 11am-12pm | Worcester Main South Sobriety          |
| 25 Sunday 01/01   | 12pm-1pm  | Worcester Hi-Noon Group                |
| 26 Sunday 01/01   | 1pm-2pm   | Worcester Fellowship Group             |
| 27 Sunday 01/01   | 2pm-3pm   | Worcester Quinsig Group                |
| 28 Sunday 01/01   | 3pm-4pm   | Worcester Four Corners                 |
| 29 Sunday 01/01   | 4pm-5pm   | Shrewsbury Eternal Vigilance           |
| 30 Sunday 01/01   | 5pm-6pm   | Worcester The Way Out Group            |
| 31 Sunday 01/01   | 6pm-7pm   | Worcester Happy,Joyous & Free          |
| 32 Sunday 01/01   | 7pm-8pm   | Worcester Young People                 |
| 33 Sunday 01/01   | 8pm-9pm   | As Bill Sees It                        |
| 34 Sunday 01/01   | 9pm-10pm  | It All Starts Here                     |
| 35 Sunday 01/01   | 10pm-11pm | Northboro Saturday Morning             |
| 36 Sunday 01/01   | 11pm-12am | Naquag Firewater                       |



**Area 30**

Alcoholics Anonymous  
General Service Committee  
of Eastern Massachusetts



# 2017

## KICK-OFF ASSEMBLY

HOSTED BY DISTRICT 6

**WHEN: Sunday, January 8, 2017 – 9AM-4PM**

**WHERE:** Brockton High School 470 Forest Ave., Brockton, MA

**WHO:** All GSRs, DCMs, Area 30 Officers, Committee Chairs and alternates are responsible to attend. All interested AAs are welcome and encouraged to attend

**67<sup>th</sup> GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE THEME:**

**“Supporting Our Future”**

**Tentative Agenda:**

- 9-10 AM Registration (Assembly is open all day)
- 9:15-9:45 AM Orientation for New GSRs and DCMs
- 10-Noon Assembly Opens
- Noon-1 PM Lunch (Served by Hosting District)
- 1-3 PM Workshops
- 3-4 PM Report Backs

**Directions:**

Brockton High School is located minutes off of Rte 24, taking Rte. 123 (Belmont Street)  
From Rte. 24, take Exit 17A for Rte. 123 East toward Brockton. Merge onto Belmont St.  
Turn right onto Forest Ave. and then right onto Memorial Drive.

**Worcester Area Bookie Exchange Meeting**  
**110 Grove Street Suite 314**  
**Worcester, Ma 01605**  
**January 10, 2017**  
**6 - 7 p.m.**



**Your local Worcester Area Intergroup Office would like to invite all bookies to come on down to Intergroup to exchange phone numbers. There has been some twitter going around that bookies are having trouble making connections with other bookies. We hope that this meeting will be a way to connect you all. All are welcome!!**

**Any questions please contact: 774-312-4026**



# **District 26 AA Christmas** **Alkathon**

Hosted by our Activities Committee  
(33 hour Marathon of Meetings)



Starts at **noon time on December 24<sup>th</sup>**, 2016  
and goes **through 9:00PM December 25<sup>th</sup>**, 2016  
Knights of Columbus Hall  
110 South Main Street, Gardner, MA  
Join us for food and fellowship.

**Book and food donations encouraged!!**

For more information please contact:  
Rob S. 978-353-9204 or Karen M. 978-496-0500







# Sober DANCE

**Saturday, Dec 31, 2016**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL**

**110 South Main St., Gardner**

**\$8.00 at the door includes Baked Chicken Supper**



**6 pm Doors Open.. Dinner 6:30 Meeting at 7 – 7:45 pm..**



**Gift and 50/50 Raffles**

**DJ & Dancing from 8 pm till 1:00 PM**

[www.aemassd26.org](http://www.aemassd26.org)

Sponsored by District 26 Activities Committee

**For info call: Rob S. 978-353-9204 or Karen M. 978-496-0500**



# The Way Out Group's 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party Wednesday December 7<sup>th</sup>

Please join your AA brothers & sisters of the  
Way Out Group as they celebrate thirteen years of  
Unity, Service & Recovery.

The Burncoat Baptist Church  
475 Burncoat St  
Worcester



7 p.m. Celebration, Food & Fellowship  
8 p.m. Way Out Group Meeting



## Anonymity, the Internet and Social Media

(Reprinted excerpts from MG-18, AA Guidelines-Internet)

### GUARDING ANONYMITY ONLINE

Modern communication in A.A. is flowing from one alcoholic to another in ways that are high-tech, relatively open-ended and evolving quickly. Protecting anonymity is a major concern for members, who are accessing the Internet in ever-growing numbers. When we use digital media, we are responsible for our own anonymity and that of others. When we post, text, or blog, we should assume that we are publishing at the public level. When we break our anonymity in these forums, we may inadvertently break the anonymity of others.

### ANONYMITY AND EMAIL

Electronic mail is a widely used and accepted method of communication. It is now used regularly as a service tool in A.A., but as with any service, we need to ensure the Fellowship's Traditions are maintained while still receiving the most benefit from this form of communication.

When using email it is necessary to consider the anonymity of the recipients of messages. Sending messages to multiple recipients that disclose the email addresses of everyone on the addressee list is a potential break of someone else's anonymity. Therefore, it is a good idea to obtain a recipient's explicit permission before using his or her email address for A.A. correspondence, especially if it is a workplace email address. When sending A.A. mail to multiple recipients who wish to remain anonymous, use can be made of the BCC (Blind Courtesy Copy) option available on most computers.

### GENERAL SOCIAL NETWORKING WEBSITES

Facebook and other social networking websites are public in nature. Though users create accounts and utilize usernames and passwords, once on the site, it is a public medium where A.A. members and nonA.A.s mingle. As long as individuals do not identify themselves as A.A. members, there is no conflict of interest. However, someone using their full name and/or a likeness, such as a full-face photograph, would be contrary to the spirit of the Eleventh Tradition, which states in the Long Form that, "... our [last] names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed or publicly printed." Experience suggests that it is in keeping with the Eleventh Tradition not to disclose A.A. membership on social networking sites as well as on any

other website, blog, electronic bulletin board, etc., that is not composed solely of A.A. members and not password protected, or is accessible to the public. Websites social networking offer individuals the chance to post a great deal of personal information about themselves (and others). Our experience suggests that some A.A. members do not post anything that is "A.A. jargon" on their personal profiles and in "status updates," while others feel it is alright to do so as long as A.A. or Alcoholics Anonymous specifically is not mentioned. These websites often allow users to create social networking "groups" and the ability to invite others to "events" for like-minded individuals. Some A.A.s have chosen to create A.A.-related groups. Since this is a relatively new medium, A.A. members are frequently "learning as they go," and technology and applications change practically on a daily basis.

Our experience has shown that the evolving nature of social networking platforms makes it difficult to provide specific guidelines for using such resources for A.A. purposes. Any A.A. group or member that is thinking about entering this public arena should closely consider the privacy policies of such sites, in light of A.A.'s tradition of anonymity. For example, social networking sites often provide full names and pictures of group members, contrary to A.A.'s practice of avoiding such disclosures in public media. Even "closed" or "private" groups might still reveal an

individual's identity. Being well-informed prior to joining or starting such a group is the key to protecting your own anonymity, and that of others. G.S.O. has received numerous complaints from concerned A.A. members regarding anonymity breaks online, inappropriate use of the A.A. name, and copyrighted materials and protected trademarks being improperly used on Facebook and other social networking websites. No local online A.A. or non-A.A. entity should purport itself to be a spokesperson for A.A. or act as if they represent the General Service Office, A.A.W.S., or the General Service Board. Each A.A. entity is autonomous and encouraged to make decisions by informed group conscience decision in light of the guidance provided in our Twelve Traditions. A.A. members sometimes contact G.S.O. for suggestions on how to remain within the Traditions on Facebook and other social networking websites. Keep in mind that G.S.O. staff members are not "special workers" of the "technological wizards" variety, but they can act as a resource regarding A.A.'s Twelve Traditions and the shared experience of the Fellowship in the U.S. and Canada. How A.A.'s spiritual principles play out in new technologies needs to be carefully discussed by each A.A. individual or entity creating an online presence.

This information has been distributed by the Public Information Committee of the Worcester Area Intergroup to help AA's understand anonymity issues regarding the use of social media. Questions or concerns may be addressed to the Worcester Area Intergroup office by emailing: [pichair@aaWORCESTER.org](mailto:pichair@aaWORCESTER.org).