



Nassau Intergroup of AA, Inc.

361 Hempstead Turnpike, West Hempstead, NY 11552-1342

www.nassauny-aa.org intergroup@nassauny-aa.org

516.292.3040 (24/7 Hotline) 516.292.3045 (Business)

JANUARY 2017

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All meetings are Intergroup events held at
361 Hempstead Turnpike unless otherwise noted.



JANUARY 2017

- 1/1— **New Year's Alkathon**; continuing from 12/31; hourly AA meetings; last meeting starts 10PM.
- 1/4— Institutions Committee, 8PM, Simpson United Methodist Church, 30 Locust Ave. (off Sunset Ave. from County Line Rd.), Amityville 11701
- 1/5— **Reps Orientation**, 7PM (Suggested for new Reps.)
Reps Meeting, 7:30PM
- 1/9— Archives Committee, 7PM
- 1/11— Share-A-Day Committee, 7PM
- 1/12— PI/CPC Committee, 7:30PM. (Meets every other month.)
- 1/16— [Nassau General Service Group](http://www.nassauny-aa.org) (NGSG) Roundtable Workshop, 7PM; Concepts I and II
- 1/18— Website Committee, 7:30PM
- 1/19— **Newsletter deadline** for February
- 1/26— **Steering Committee**, 7:30PM (By invitation.)

FEBRUARY 2017

- 2/1— Institutions Committee (See above, 1/4.)
- 2/2— **Reps Orientation**, 7PM (Suggested for new Reps.)
Reps Meeting, 7:30PM
- 2/8— Share-A-Day Committee, 7PM
- 2/11— SENY Assembly hosted by NGSAG, Bishop Kellenberg High School, 1400 Glenn Curtiss Blvd., Uniondale 11553; 8:30AM-3:30PM. (Go to www.aanassaugs-ny.org > "Calendar" or www.aaseny.org > "Events" for details.)
- 2/13— Archives Committee, 7PM
- 2/15— Website Committee, 7:30PM
- 2/16— **Newsletter deadline** for March
- 2/20— [NGSG](http://www.nassauny-aa.org) Meeting Orientation, 7PM. (Suggested for new DCMs/GSRs.) NGSAG Meeting, 7:30PM
- 2/23— **Steering Committee**, 7:30PM (By invitation.)

2/24-26— Northeast Regional AA Service Assemble (NERAASA), hosted by Area 30, Eastern Massachusetts, Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center, 1657 Worcester Rd., Framingham, MA 01701. (Go to www.neraasa2017.org for details.)

From the Chair

I would like to wish all of Nassau AA a happy, healthy, sober New Year in 2017. Nassau Intergroup begins 2017 with a new rotation of Steering Committee members, and with a vote of confidence from the Intergroup Reps, I begin my journey as your chairperson.



I began my sober journey 24 years ago with my first home group commitment at 90 days. I can't say it was ever my idea; it was my AA sponsor who guided me to understand my alcoholism and the solution to it. She carried the message to me as it was brought to her, and that included the Steps, Traditions and service in AA. I have continued that simple solution in the spiritual principles and helping another alcoholic, and it has kept me sober and allowed me to meet the many challenges of daily life with hope and gratitude.

I look forward to the coming year in service to Nassau AA, and helping our Intergroup facilitate carrying the message for all of our groups and members. We carry this message together and in unity, and Nassau Intergroup is always open to anyone who would like to participate in AA service.

(Continued on page 3.)

AA'S THREE LEGACIES FOR JANUARY

Step 1— We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.

Tradition 1— Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity.

Concept 1— Final responsibility and ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

AA HISTORY FOR JANUARY

January 1939— First draft of "Big Book" completed with 400 copies distributed for evaluation. It is suggested the phrases "God as we understand Him" and "Power greater than ourselves" be added to the Steps and basic text.
 January 18, 1939— Alcoholic Foundation Board increased from five to seven members with non-alcoholics still outnumbering alcoholics.
 January 10, 1940— AA meeting moves from Dr. Bob's home to King School, Akron, Ohio, becoming the first AA meeting not held in a home.
 January 18, 1954— Hank P. ("The Unbeliever," *Alcoholics Anonymous*, 1st Ed.) dies, Pennington, NJ.
 January 1961— Bill W.—Carl Jung correspondence.
 January 24, 1971— Bill W. dies at Miami Beach, Florida.

"It is truly awful to admit that, glass in hand, we have warped our minds into such an obsession for destructive drinking that only an act of Providence can remove it from us."

—From, "Step One," *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 21.

Who Am I?

I started in January 1939 making the rounds both within the young Fellowship, and with potential friends. Thanks to the efforts of Bill W. and Hank P., by April, I was able to become a permanent part of the AA landscape and its principal voice.



(Answer on page 8.)

NASSAU INTERGROUP - EMAIL ADDRESSES



OFFICERS

- Chairperson chair@nassauny-aa.org
- 1st Vice Chair 1stvice@nassauny-aa.org
- 2nd Vice Chair 2ndvice@nassauny-aa.org
- Secretary secretary@nassauny-aa.org
- Treasurer treasurer@nassauny-aa.org

STANDING COMMITTEES

- Archives archives@nassauny-aa.org
- Coop. Pro. Comm. (CPC) cpc@nassauny-aa.org
- Corrections corrections@nassauny-aa.org
- Financial Review finance@nassauny-aa.org
- Institutions (H&I) institutions@nassauny-aa.org
- Literature literature@nassauny-aa.org
- Meeting List meetinglist@nassauny-aa.org
- Newsletter news@nassauny-aa.org
- Night Book nightbook@nassauny-aa.org
- Officer Coordinator (Mgr.) officemanager@nassauny-aa.org
- Program Chair/Secretary seclist@nassauny-aa.org
- Public Information (PI) publicinfo@nassauny-aa.org
- Share-a-Day (SAD) shareaday@nassauny-aa.org
- Speakers Exchange speakersexchange@nassauny-aa.org
- Special Needs specneeds@nassauny-aa.org
- 12th Step List 12thstep@nassauny-aa.org
- Website webcommittee@nassauny-aa.org

From the Editor

One more go at the newsletter for me. The new editor, Kathy W. of the North Bellmore Group, will be at the helm starting with next month's issue.



I'd like to thank those who helped out the past two years. Firstly, all those who took the time to contribute something to the newsletter, be that an article, a poem or haiku, a puzzle, a remembrance, something for the calendar, a special announcement or something else. Secondly, I need to thank those who took the time to help with the proofreading each month. You stare at this stuff long enough, and you can no longer see your mistakes, so another pair of eyes has helped.

Once more, consider an e-subscription to our newsletter. Find a [subscription link](#) under the "Current Issue" pdf icon on our website.

In Service,
 Bill C., Acting Editor, NI Newsletter
 516-292-3045 or news@nassauny-aa.org



NB— Alcoholics Anonymous and AA are registered ® trademarks of AAWS, Inc. Quotes and other items from AA literature or other AA sources are copyright © AAWS, Inc. or AA Grapevine, Inc., and are used with permission or under fair use provisions.

A Bit More AA History

Bill W.-Carl Jung Correspondence

Carl G. Jung had been the doctor of Roland Hazard, an alcoholic he felt was beyond his assistance, hopeless, and who might only find recovery along a spiritual path, a message Roland embraced, and would later bring to Ebby T. who in turn would bring it to Bill W.

In January 1961, Bill W. corresponded with the Swiss psychoanalyst as a part of his acknowledgment of AA's debt to the many people he felt were responsible for its creation. In his [letter](#), Bill recalled Jung's counsel to Roland, and called it "the first foundation stone upon which our Society has since been built."

Jung replied later that same month with a [letter](#) thanking Bill, and further describing alcoholism as a "spiritual thirst" demanding a "higher understanding."

(See, [Markings, Vol. 33, No. 3, Winter 2013](#); *Pass It On*, pp. 381-385.)

-oooOooo-

Haiku

New beginnings start
 Freedom from alcoholism
 Spiritual change.

by Brenda P.

"The moment this Twelfth Step work forms a group, another discovery is made—that most individuals cannot recover unless there is a group. Realization dawns that he is but a small part of a great whole; that no personal sacrifice is too great for preservation of the Fellowship. He learns that the clamor of desires and ambitions within him must be silenced whenever they could damage the group. It becomes plain that the group must survive or the individual will not."

—"Tradition One," *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 130.

We continue to offer a listing of opportunities for service with Nassau Intergroup. Interested? Leave a message at the NI office during business hours (9AM-5PM daily) at 516-292-3045 or send an email to the addresses below.

For January and beyond, the service opportunities include:

- **Assistant Treasurer**— Back up for the treasurer, but primary responsibility for record keeping and compliance with respect to proposed literature sales and related sales tax filings. (Probably to begin some time later this year.)

Contact: treasurer@nassauny-aa.org.

- **Public Information**— Speaking at schools, colleges and other venues; commitment of one hour a month. Contact: publicinfo@nassauny-aa.org.

- **Institutions (H&I)**— Many opportunities for speaking at institutions. Come to the H&I meeting (see the Calendar of Events) or, contact: institutions@nassauny-aa.org.

- **Intergroup Office**— Volunteers needed to answer phones and handle literature questions, any day(s), 9AM-1PM or 1-5PM. Contact: officemanager@nassauny-aa.org.

- **Website**— Volunteer(s) needed familiar with PHP or MySQL. Contact: webcommittee@nassauny-aa.org.

Also, with the rotation of service positions within the Steering Committee, the following additional Standing Committee Chair jobs are available or are otherwise vacant: 12th Step Contact List Chair, Accessibility/Special Needs Chair, Website Chair. Want to know more? Phone the office and leave a message for the chair (Elise M.) or email, chair@nassauny-aa.org.

From the Chair (Continued)

We have a number of commitments to fill as we start the year. We have chair openings for 12 Step List, Accessibility/Special Needs and Website, and we always need Office Phone Reps. I am also seeking your ideas and suggestions for how we may improve the experience for your group and the membership as it relates to the Intergroup Office. Please feel free to send me a message via email, or drop by the office and leave it in my inbox.

I would also like to express my gratitude for our outgoing chair LaRaine, and all the hard work and dedication she has provided us the last two years as our chair. Also a special thanks to Marty our outgoing 12 Step Chair. Many thanks also to those who are staying on and rotating into new positions. I am excited to begin the New Year working with all.

In Service,
Elise M., Chair, 516-292-3045 or chair@nassauny-aa.org



NIAA Institutions Committee

Occasionally, AA members will ask what's involved in institutions work, so it might be of value to describe this work and its components over the next several issues of the newsletter.

As with regular AA meetings, for any specific institution meeting there is a chairperson. That chair can either arrange for speakers, or speak at the meetings him/herself. Speakers can be booked at the monthly institutions meeting, or from among the members of the chairperson's home group. However, one important difference from regular AA meetings is this: In a regular AA meeting, if a speaker doesn't show up, a group member can be asked to take the meeting, while in an institution, there is no one but the patients/inmates. So if the chair or speaker doesn't show up, there is no meeting that day. Since this involves considerable responsibility, a chairperson should have a minimum of one year sobriety, and the commitment is typically for one year. In addition to arranging for speakers, a chairperson's other responsibilities include ensuring that speakers are able to represent AA effectively, that speakers are familiar

with the rules of a particular institution, ensuring AA literature is distributed to patients/inmates, seeing that meetings are conducted in accord with AA traditions, and for referring inmates/patients about to be discharged to Intergroup or to local AA groups in their areas. Chairpersons often choose to alternate with another AA member, and this sharing the responsibilities tends to work well.

The founders of AA were visionaries, particularly in their characterization of alcoholism as a disease. This was a revolutionary idea at the time—rather than the prevailing view that alcoholics were simply bad people, the perception was transformed to the modern view that alcoholics are gravely ill people—and people who can get well.

As you probably know, the NIAA Institutions Committee (also known as Hospitals and Institutions or H&I) brings AA meetings into institutions throughout the county. (It is the longest standing committee of NIAA.) As you probably also know, these days most of us find our way to AA through an institution of some sort. The goal of the committee is a simple one, and in support of our primary purpose: We try to make sure that whenever someone in a detox, rehab or psych ward reaches out for help, the hand of AA is there. Beyond that, while these institutions provide treatment for the acute symptoms of the disease of alcoholism, we can provide the information and introduction to the broader AA community necessary to get well, and stay well.

If you think you might be interested in supporting this kind of service, would like to learn more about it, or if you know of an institution interested in having AA meetings, please attend the meetings of the Institutions Committee held the first Wednesday of each month at 8PM at the Simpson Methodist Church, 30 Locust Avenue, Amityville 11701, which is right across Sunrise Highway from South Oaks Hospital. If you can't make it, feel free to contact me (see below). If you or your group has any literature that is no longer needed or that you would like to contribute, please let me know. We'll pass it on to the various institutions we support.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the AA members who chair the various institution meetings and arrange for speakers, as well as those AA members who go to those institutions to share their experience, strength, and hope.

Mike F., Institutions Committee Chair
Serenity by the Sea, Pt. Lookout
516-292-3045 or
institutions@nassauny-aa.org



AA Grapevine Highlights for January

January Issue— Featuring stories from AA members of emotional sobriety.

Books— New, *Forming True Partnerships* (GV34), *Un Día A La Vez* (SGV03), and, *Our Twelve Traditions* (GV35). Many e-book titles also available.

Sobriety Calculator— It's fun to count your years, days, hours or minutes in recovery.

The Laugh's On Us— [Submit](#) a caption for a *Grapevine* cartoon.

Daily Quote Subscription— [Sign up](#) to receive an inspirational daily quote from the *Grapevine* via email.

Consider a *Grapevine* or *La Viña* subscription or one of the many other AA Grapevine publications as a gift for that special AA friend.

Go to www.aagrapevine.org for more info or to get an AA Grapevine [catalogue](#).

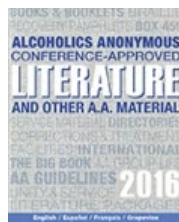


“Conference-Approved” Literature

The literature published by both AA World Services (AAWS) and AA Grapevine offers the wealth of AA's shared experience, strength and hope available to struggling alcoholics, and those already in recovery through AA. Beginning this month, we'll talk about our literature, and highlight some of the different books, booklets, pamphlets and other items available. A good starting point may be the notion of what it means for a piece of literature to be “Conference-approved.”

General Service Conference approval tells us the given piece of literature has gone through a particularly lengthy and painstaking process of consideration, development and approval before publication, and as such “represents solid AA experience,” and “that everything in such literature is in accord with AA principles. Conference-approved material always deals with the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous or with information about the AA Fellowship.” (From, “[Conference-Approved Literature](#),” SM F-29.) Conference-approved literature carries the statement, “This is AA General Service Conference-approved literature.” The term does not imply disapproval of any other literature from any other source.

Not all literature published by AA is Conference-approved. As a practical matter for instance, the monthly *AA Grapevine* magazine



could not be published if every issue needed to go through the Conference approval process. The *Grapevine* enjoys a special endorsement from the Conference set out in a 1986 Conference Advisory Action in lieu of being “Conference-approved.”

There are also items published through AAWS such as the *AA Guidelines* (drawn from collected AA experience, and published on a variety of topics to assist groups and members in reaching informed decisions), and a variety of other “service material” items which have not gone through the approval process, but which are nevertheless thought to be useful and worthy of publication by AA.



Local AA service groups and committees also publish items (like this newsletter) which are not “Conference-approved,” but nevertheless may be considered legitimate and useful AA material.

Next month, a quick look at the AAWS literature [catalogue](#) (F-10), and then, [The AA Group: Where it all begins](#) (P-16).

Bill C., Literature Committee Chair
516-292-3045 or literature@nassauny-aa.org

Check It Out— New Online Meeting List

Finding meetings here at home and out on the road has just become a whole lot easier.

A special thank you to the folks out at the Santa Clara Intergroup in San Jose, CA, and others around the country for putting together a wonderful web page plugin for use on both regular web sites and on smart phones.



It has now been implemented on our web site at <http://nassauaa.org/meetings>. It can also be reached through all of the regular links on our site. When you land on the page, it knows you're here in Nassau, and it is aware of the day of the week. If you have the location settings turned on, it will be able to tell you how far it is to the meeting you are looking for.

It can now also be said that there is an app for that. They have made available an app for both iPhone and Android use. Check out the [Google Play](#) store or the [Apple Store](#) for the app “Meeting Guide” by Josh R.

Many intergroups across the country and around the world are hooking into the app which automatically refreshes itself twice a day across all the participating intergroups. To get an idea of who has joined in, check out their site: <https://meetingguide.org/>. Also of note is an experimental map they are working on, locating intergroups/central offices across the country, including those that are not yet being synced. You can find that at <https://meetingguide.org/map>.

Because of the universality of this program, certain restrictions do have to be adhered to. Nassau County is apparently one of the very few intergroups to make the distinction of CD and OD meetings for instance. Everywhere else meetings are open, closed or a discussion meeting. So look first for an open or closed meeting, then check the notes to see if it is a discussion meeting or not.

Particular care is also going to have to be observed in using the proper names and addresses of all of the meeting locations. As part of enabling the mapping features, all entries are automatically run through Google to be located on the maps, and Google can be very fussy. After uploading our list the first time, I discovered that the Jones Beach meeting was down in Florida, and that another of our meetings was in Spokane, WA.



Also be aware, that if you are using the phone app, only those meetings active for that day will be shown or even searchable. For example, if on Tuesday you wanted to look for a meeting at Jones Beach, Jones Beach would not even show up in the list of regions. However, from the detail listing for any of the meetings, if you scroll all the way down to the link to the website, then you could do a search to all the towns of Nassau.

In Love and Service,
Cory B., Webmaster, 516-292-3045 or webcommittee@nassauny-aa.org

From the Night Book

The New Year is here, and we can look back at another successful year of “carrying the message,” the whole reason for the existence of our Fellowship. How many people did we help overcome the craving for the first drink after a week of being sober? How many times last year were our Night Book volunteers a comforting voice on the phone for a desperate caller, a worried spouse, son, daughter, parent of an alcoholic, or just someone looking to share in the middle of the night? The list could go on and on.



This month also marks the end of my first year as your Night Book Chair. It has given me a great deal of satisfaction to be a “facilitator” of this wonderful service commitment. Few things in AA have made me happier than when a first-time volunteer calls me up all excited about the drunk they helped last night.

Our Night Book is stronger than it's ever been in recent memory, and it will keep getting better as long as our groups keep stepping up to take the commitment. Perhaps your group hasn't done it in a while or at all. In that case, you should ask your Intergroup Rep to raise their hand at the next Reps meeting and take it for a week.

My goal for the coming year is to venture into uncharted territory, and get new groups to sign up and take “The Book.” Only about one sixth of the AA groups in Nassau County even send Reps to the monthly meetings. Let's change that with Action. A good service commitment is contagious. If you've done it recently, share it with your friends.

On that note, I wish to thank all the groups who've stepped up to the plate in December:

- Albertson-Searingtown Afternoon Discussion Group, Manhasset
- Extravagant Promises Group, Massapequa
- Port Washington Group
- Woodmere Graveyard Group, Hewlett

Thank you all!

Sincerely, Steve S., Night Book Chair
516-292-3045 or
nightbook@nassauny-aa.org

“Service is Gratitude In Action”



Practice These Principles

Step 1—

“We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.”

Happy New Year and New Life - Step One, Surrender

If you are reading this, you too have been blessed to have had that moment of clarity, that first spiritual awakening that results in a huge internal shift and the ability to do Step One. You know to surrender, and to give up the fight in order to survive.

Such a miracle occurs when we become hopeful. We realize the possibility really exists to stop the madness, and let me tell you, it is a revelation!! This hope is the spiritual medicine that can arrest alcoholism. We get it from God, and from others who share it.

Doctors and consequences have been unable to stop alcoholics from destroying themselves since the beginning of time. We are blessed that Bill W. and Dr. Bob found this invisible and intangible spiritual solution 80 years ago. There is freedom from the merciless obsession. When we realize we are not alone and become a WE instead of an isolated, fearful, lonely person and that we can surrender to win, we are empowered with spirit and the magic starts to happen.

“Don't quit before the miracle,” and “Keep Coming Back” are the slogans that represent how hard and enduring the struggle can be.

After years of misery, at that jumping off point, I cried and prayed and cried and prayed, and woke up a different person. My cord was plugged into the power & the struggle was over. This surrender filled me with gratitude, and that changed everything.

If you are grateful to get another chance to be happy, to be useful, to be a productive member of the human race, and to have a meaningful life, you will do service and share your most precious gift, and this enables you to keep it. Gratitude, Love and Service keeps you sober.



Hopi Tapuat

“May I never lose the sense of wonder I experienced on that first evening with AA, the greatest event of my entire life.”

Daily Reflections, October 19

Pat D., Pass It On Group, Sea Cliff

Tradition 1—

“Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity.”

I was first introduced to the AA Traditions by my sponsor who has a great passion for them. We would discuss them after meetings, and in the car on the way home from General Service events. I next started to learn about them by attending my home group's Tuesday Step meetings where the last Tuesday of the month is a Tradition meeting. I think my best education on Traditions, however, came from my group's business meetings when during discussions someone would cite a Tradition. More than once the Tradition points brought up at these meetings would help to sway my vote. I learned very early on at these business meetings how a Tradition could help a group of people reach a **united** decision.

What does this have to do with my personal recovery and AA unity? In order for me to maintain my **personal recovery** and for me to grow as an emotionally sober woman, I must be a part of a group that is emotionally sober and unified. If a group is not strong and functional, people will begin to drift away. For us, to drift away is to die. What do I do to help maintain the emotional sobriety of my group? Simply, I try to do the right thing.

I attend business meetings and participate. If a vote doesn't go my way, I must accept the results without having a chip on my shoulder. I take commitments and share in the responsibilities of the group.

If someone in my home group begins to gossip, I need to change the subject or walk away. I must be the best copy of the “Big Book” I can be.

I must not take others' inventories. Am I ever guilty of this? Sure, sometimes. But as I keep coming back, those instances become few and far between, and what used to be judgments are starting to evolve into acceptance.

If I don't care for the way someone is sharing, or if another member tries to get me to acknowledge their “eye roll” during another's share, I must avoid their gaze. If I don't love someone's personality, I must remember that God gave them that personality. I must accept them with love and tolerance. Who am I to question God's work?

I must listen respectfully to people with time as well as to newcomers, as each one

(Continued next page)

Practice These Principles

Tradition 1 (Continued)

has something to teach me. If I am texting during a meeting, or my cell phone is visible, it gives a message that there is something going on that is more important than the person that is sharing. If my handbag or my jacket is on the chair next to me, am I giving a sign that the chair is “taken” and not available? We must remember to be welcoming.

These are a few examples of what I can do to help keep our group, our **common welfare**, strong, functioning, and unified. These practices may not always be so easy, but practice makes better. “We claim spiritual progress rather than spiritual perfection.” Step Ten in the “Big Book” tells us that “love and tolerance is our code.” AA’s unity depends on this code.

My group consists of women and men who, alone, could not put down the drink. Together, we form a group of sober alcoholics whose primary purpose is to help another alcoholic. Today as I look around my home group, I know that I have truly learned to put “principles before personalities.” I have to. My life, my personal recovery, and the life of every other alcoholic in the room, depend on it.

Regina T., DCMC, NGS

Concept I—

Concept I states, “*The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.*” The groups assumed this responsibility in 1955 at the St. Louis International Convention.

The theme of the recent 66th Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous was, “Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts.” Taken from its final report, “This encompasses our 36 Principles: such as honesty, love and tolerance found in the Steps; anonymity and humility in the Traditions; and vision, mutual trust and sacrifice in the Concepts.”

It all began in 1938, with the creation of a trusteeship, that was called the Alcoholic Foundation. In 1948 it became known that Dr. Bob was suffering from a fatal illness. Bill and Dr. Bob realized that when they were gone, there would be no one to advise the Trustees and link the Alcoholic Foundation

to the groups. Previously, there was concern among the Trustees of the Board that a representative conference of delegates would be subject to immense risks and that “fruitless strife surely would result.” By 1954 the members’ trust through the success of the Alcoholic Foundation was overwhelming, and the Foundation was renamed the General Service Board. Under this new title, services previously provided by the Alcoholic Foundation that groups could not do continued in the form of literature, public information about AA, taking calls for help, publishing a magazine and carrying the message in other languages. The General Service Conference that was established in 1951 meets every year to help guide AA, adhering to the group(s) directions (conscience) and trusting in the wisdom of God, who works through all of us. This Conference is made up of delegates representing areas from North America.

So it is appropriate that we ask ourselves these two simple questions taken from the “[Concepts Checklist](#)”:

1) “Does our group have a general service representative (GSR)? Do we feel that our home group is part of AA as a whole and do our group’s decisions and actions reflect that?”

2) “Is the collective conscience of Alcoholics Anonymous at work in my home group? In my Area?”

Concept I tells us that the ultimate authority should reside with the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship and helps us realize that there is no substitute for a strong Tradition based group that relies on the ultimate authority, “a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.”

Steve K., AM Group, Rockville Centre

12th Step Contact List

When a struggling alcoholic reaches out for help to the Nassau Intergroup office or connects with the Night Book, that call commonly sets in motion an effort to arrange a 12th Step contact. It’s a critical moment which must be seized lest the drunk’s readiness to acknowledge his or her problem and resolve to seek help may fade. In that time, Intergroup needs to be able to move nimbly to set up that 12th Step



outreach. We don’t want to fumble, and perhaps lose the chance to help.

Too often however, we find ourselves relying on outdated group contact information. Any member who has worked the Intergroup phones knows the frustrating experience of working their way down a series of group 12th Step Contact Lists only to find that this one is no longer active in AA, that one is no longer in the area, and yet another may no longer be alive or sober.

Does your group have a current 12th Step Contact List form on file with Intergroup? We’d like every group to update their list with us at least once a year, ideally twice. You can find out the last time your group updated its list by contacting the office or the 12th Step List Chair (see below). Better yet, just pick up a blank 12th Step Contact List form at the office, from our [website](#) or use the one on the next page of this newsletter, pass it around at your next group business meeting, and get it back to the office to the attention of the 12th Step List Chair.

Your effort could literally be life-saving.
12th Step List Chair
516-292-3045 or 12thstep@nassauny-aa.org

Note: Intergroup is currently looking for a new 12th Step List Chair to oversee this important work. Want to know more, contact the Intergroup Chair, Elise M., at 516-292-3045 or chair@nassauny-aa.org. In the interim, the work is being covered by other members of the Steering Committee.

“The AA groups today hold ultimate responsibility and final authority for our world services—those special elements of over-all service activity which make it possible for our Society to function as a whole. The groups assumed that responsibility at the St. Louis International Convention in 1955. There, on behalf of Dr. Bob, the Trustees and AA’s old-time leaders, I made the transfer of world service responsibility to our entire Fellowship.”

—From, “Concept I,” *Twelve Concepts for World Service*, p. 6.

In Memoriam

Ron P.

9 December 2016

Jones Beach Group

UPDATED: _____

NASSAU INTERGROUP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

361 Hempstead Turnpike, West Hempstead 11552-1342

Hot Line: (516) 292-3040

Office: (516) 292-3045

eMail Address: 12thStep@nassauny-aa.org

WebSite: <http://www.nassauny-aa.org>

**** 12th STEP CONTACT LIST ****

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Group Town: _____	NIAA No.: _____
Group Name: _____	GSO No.: _____
Mtg. Facility: _____	
Mtg. Addr.: _____	Zip Code: _____
Grp Mail Addr.: _____	Zip Code: _____

It is recommended that you have 90 days sober before including your name on this list.

NAME	TOWN	TELEPHONE	Gender M/F	TIME AVAILABLE		
				Anytime	Wkdays	Wkends

***When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there,
And for That: I AM RESPONSIBLE.***

12/15/2015

Every group is encouraged to have a current (updated within the last six to 12 months) copy of the [“12th Step Contact List”](#) form (above) on file with Nassau Intergroup. This allows NI to connect effectively 24/7 through our Hotline (516-292-3040) with the still sick and suffering alcoholics who reach out to us for help. The form is also available in the office and online at www.nassauny-aa.org. Please pass a copy around at your next business meeting and return it to the office to the attention of “12th Step List.”

From the First Vice Chair

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from your 2017-2018 First Vice Chair for Nassau County Intergroup.

Thank you for your support in my being elected. I will do my best to serve you all during the coming term.

Kevin McH., First Vice Chair
516-292-3045 or 1stvice@nassauny-aa.org

Meeting List Changes

Please help NI keep its meeting information current and correct by submitting a "[Meeting List Changes](#)" form (available through the office or on-line under "Group Services") whenever your meeting details change.

(Changes received as of 12/22/2016.)

BEGINNERS = B BIG BOOK = BB CLOSED = C
CLOSED DISCUSSION = CD OPEN = O
OPEN DISCUSSION = OD STEP = S TRADITION = T
WC = WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE YP = YOUNG PEOPLE

NON-ALCOHOLICS ARE WELCOME AT "OPEN" MEETINGS.

NEW GROUPS

- Freeport 11520
Thursdays As Bill Sees It Group, Freeport Community Church of the Nazarene, 301 Atlantic Ave.; Thur. 7PM C (As Bill Sees It).
—Garden City 11530
Grupo Tu Si Puedes, LI Ethical Humanist Society, 38 Old Country Rd.; Wed. 7:30PM Mujer (Women); en español (in Spanish).
—Levittown 11756
Serenity Night Live Group, Good Shepard Lutheran Church, 3434 Hempstead Tpk.; Sat. 6:30PM CD.
—Malverne 11565
Big Book Fever Group, Church of the Intercessor, 50 St. Thomas Pl.; Sun. 8PM BB.
—North Bellmore 11710
Moonlight Group, Walk in for Love Jesus Church, 906 Newbridge Rd.; Mon. 9PM B.
—Rockville Centre 11570
Joy of Living Group, St. Agnes Cathedral, 29 Quealy Pl. (Dominic Room, basement rear); Sat. 9AM BB.
—Wantagh 11793
Peace Within 11th Step Meditation Group, 3050 Merrick Rd.; Sun. 7:30PM O.
—West Hempstead 11552
Creatively Sober Group, 482 Hempstead Ave.; Mon. 8AM CD, Sat. 7PM B; WC.



CHANGES

- Baldwin 11510
New Look on Life Group, First Church Baldwin, 881 Merrick Rd. (Parking and entry in rear); Tues. 7:30PM B, 9:00PM C (candlelight/meditation), Fri. 6PM CD (As Bill Sees It), 7:30PM S.
—Cambria Heights 11411
Elmont/Belmont Give It A Try Group, Deliverance Baptist Church, 227-11 Linden Blvd.; Mon. 7PM S and Thurs. 7:15PM B (last Thurs. O anniversary).
—Syosset 11791
Brookville-Muttontown Group, Faith Lutheran Church, 231 Jackson Ave.; Tues. 7:45PM S (T last Tues.), 9PM C, Fri. 7:45PM B, 9PM OD. (New location and schedule.) WC.
—Westbury 11590
Hand in Hand Group, Westbury Friends School, 550 Post Avenue; Mon. 8:15PM CD dropped. No other changes.



Answer to Who Am I?

Alcoholics Anonymous, the "Big Book" — Included by the US Library of Congress in its list of "[Books that Shaped America](#)," the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* was penned beginning in 1938 by AA co-founder Bill W. and a handful of other early members. From its title, it is likely AA takes its name. The book is considered AA's "basic text."

But for many reasons, the book might never have been written or published. It was among many possible plans (including running hospitals and having missionaries) floated among the early members, Bill W. and Dr. Bob. Although supported by only a bare majority, the book project went forward.

By January 1939, a draft copy was ready for circulation. About 400 Multilith copies were distributed according to Bill to, "try the book out on our own membership and on every kind and class of person that has anything to do with drunks." (From, [Markings, Vol. 17, No. 1, June 1997](#), p. 4.)

Not everyone was happy with the title Bill had selected, and more than 100 differing options were floated. A majority of members in New York and Akron favored "The Way Out," but there were already a dozen books published with that title. Somehow Bill's preferred title was on the manuscript that finally went to the printer.

There was controversy too around Bill's use of "God" and the suggestion we need go down "on our knees" originally in Step 7. At the insistence of Hank P. ("The Unbeliever," *Alcoholics Anonymous*, 1st Ed.) and Jim B., that language was softened to a "Power greater than ourselves," and "God as we understood Him," and the reference to going down on our knees was dropped.

The actual printing of the book also has an interesting history. Bill and Hank were disappointed when the chance to gain some publicity through the *Reader's Digest* fell through just as the book was being published. Also, as the Fellowship had severely limited funds available to pay the printer by the time the manuscript was ready, the first printing of *Alcoholics Anonymous* completed and delivered in April 1939 was limited to 5,000 copies. The cost of the book was set at \$3.50, a high price for 1939. To compensate for the price perhaps or to accommodate the shaky hands of the drunk in early recovery, they chose a very heavy paper resulting in a bulky volume which is how the book came to be called the "Big Book." In the forward to the first edition you can see

language which would later come to be repeated in the "AA Preamble."

(See, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, 4th Ed., pp. xiii-xiv; [Markings, Vol. 17, No. 1, June 1997](#), pp. 3-5; *Nassau Intergroup News*, "FAQs About AA History," [April, 2015](#), p. 2; "Did You Know?," [August 2015](#), p. 5; "Who Am I?," [January 2016](#), p. 6 and [September 2016](#), pp. 7-8; "A Bit More AA History," [October 2016](#), p. 2; and, *Pass It On*, pp. 190, 193-210, and 223 among others.)

Winter Weather Alert



Winter is upon us, and with that comes the increasing possibility that the NI office and some meetings may be closed with little or no notice.

When possible, we will put a note on our website if we close the office, but to avoid frustration and a wasted trip, please call ahead on the Business line (516-292-3045) before coming in. (If no answer, the office is closed.) This is a good practice at any time (since we don't always know when office volunteers aren't able to get in), but particularly if the weather is bad.

The hotline (516-292-3040) is always covered, and should have current information on office and meeting closings as available.

Announcements

**Solution Group
Big Book Cycle**

**Open Meetings Mondays
Beginning January 2, 7:30PM**



St. Aidan's RC Church
Rectory Basement
505 Willis Avenue
Williston Park 11596

**Now Forming, AA
Beyond Belief Group**
**Free Thinkers, Humanists,
Non-Believers, Atheists &
Agnostics**
For info contact:
aabbnassau@gmail.com