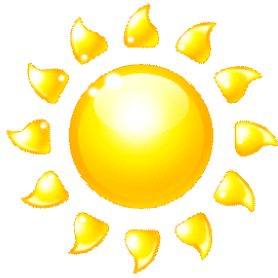


August 2009

Summer Sobriety Edition



SOUTH JERSEY INTERGROUP

ANONYMOUS SJ

### Last Hundred Days

By the time that you are reading this, the Steering Committee will be in the final Hundred Days of the Two Year term. In November of this year, the Trustees will be asked to form a nomination committee to seek candidates for the elected panel, Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer (Asst Treasurer), Secretaries and the open Trustee positions. In December, all of the represented Groups will elect people to those positions. The newly elected panel will then consider candidates for the Chairs of the Twelve Service Committees. The selected Chairs will be presented for approval at the following Intergroup meeting. Those Chairs will then select their Co-Chairs and form their committees for the next two years. All of this is in accordance with our By Laws. The question is, who will stand for election in December? Which Groups have enough interest to attend the election and be a part of the South Jersey AA structure for the next two years? What about your Group? Do you think that it is a good AA group? Is it a part of the parade or a spectator? What about You? Is this the year that you get involved in something more than showing up. For the next few months, the Service Committees will be featured in this newsletter as well as brief descriptions of the roles of the elected positions. If not your Group, then which Group? If not You, then Who? "I am responsible....."

**Webmaster** needed. After splendid service to South Jersey virtual communications, Mike F has had to move far away. The Web Site, [www.aasj.org](http://www.aasj.org) has seen much growth under Mike and committee and is now in need of Web Savvy AA's to step up and get involved. Janet I. Is maintaining the site until someone is found with the 'right stuff' to take on this very important and specialized service role. Contact the Chair or Vice Chair if interested.

**Assistant Secretary** STILL needed. Intergroup has two secretaries, the Assistant takes the minutes of the Steering Committee and the Secretary reports at the Intergroup meeting and takes any additional minutes. We have not had two people in these spots for many months. If you are interested in filling out the last few months of the panel, contact the Vice Chair or Secretary.

**Newsletter** needs your observations on AA. Every month, we seek your perspective on the Step and Tradition of the month, (Ninth for next month) and any other AA subject. This month we are posing the question. *What makes a Meeting a Good Meeting?* See inside for more details

**Hospitals & Institutions** meets on the last Monday of every month at the Intergroup Office at 7 PM. If your Group wants to get involved in sending speakers into Hospitals, Treatment Centers, Jails or Prisons, send a representative to the meeting to take commitments.

Bookers filled 248 speaking dates at the August meeting, 31 Groups attended. If your Group is recycling speakers on a routine basis, You might want to try the Bookers Exchange. You get new perspectives on sobriety and the chance to send your Group members out to many other groups. The next Bookers Exchange meeting will be November 1st at 8 PM in Audubon

Contact Us  
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## WHAT'S THE POINT?

### Eighth Tradition

***“Alcoholics Anonymous will never have a professional class.”***

So starts Chapter Eight in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* and while it becomes pretty clear that the chapter is talking about money, can't we become Professional in other ways as well? We have, in AA, a principle of Rotation which asks us to move along from service positions after a bit, both to give someone else an opportunity for service and also to avoid developing that Professional Class. However, there is a problem with the principle of Rotation. If there is no one to rotate into a position, then we leave a void and the service works goes undone. Service is Twelfth Step work, no doubt about it and part of Service work is carrying the message of service to another AA, so that you have someone to take your place when you rotate. The paid aspect of Tradition Eight is very important to recall as well. Are we drawing any sort of non salary 'perks' from our service? Our payment in AA service should be of the Spiritual type, shouldn't it? Tradition Eight may not be so simple as it seems. Very often in reading the Traditions, AA's should say, "Are they talking about me?"

#### Newsletter Topics

What makes for a **Good Meeting**? What makes a meeting Not Good? You may have said it somewhere along the road; "That wasn't a very good meeting." Why not? What do you look for in a meeting? Share your thoughts with us in next months newsletter. Submissions by September 14th, please.

### ***“Are There Any Topics?\****

#### **The Eighth Step**

Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.

The Eighth step is a double banger, because *'to a degree we have already done this when taking a moral inventory'*. Now we must go further and note who have we harmed and what exactly do we mean by harm? What do we mean by Amends for that matter? Aren't there some things which just can never be made right? Then too, suppose the harm came in self-defense or retaliation for harms done us, does it still count to go on this list?

Suppose that they didn't know that it was me who did the harm? Suppose that they didn't even notice that they had been harmed, were they still harmed, do I still owe them some sort of amends, Suppose that they don't even care or remember me? For the longest time, I considered that something was wrong, only if I had been caught at it. Do uncaught harms go on this list too?

Like all of the Steps, the Eighth is not so much about other people as it is about ourselves. We have to make things right and to do that we have to put the problem down in front of us in graphic (written) terms, otherwise it will vanish from our consciousness or be dissolved by rationalization. The reverse Golden Rule is a good way of measuring harm. If someone did this to me, would it have been wrong?

The Step is more than making a list though as it asks us to become willing to make the amends, which requires some measure of change on our parts as well as a plan to actually make the amends called for, be it an apology, admission of wrong doing or financial restoration of some kind. The Eighth doesn't say Do It!, It says get ready to do something and that something is talked about in the Ninth Step.

\*This is a monthly feature and we welcome your topics and comments

## Deacon's Corner

How Did AA ever Work before Cell Phones? When did we all get so important that the world cannot exist without access to us for even the one hour in which we attend meetings? What ever happened in the days before cell phones, Yes, there were actually days when people did not have a phone in their pocket which would start playing the theme from Rocky while someone was sharing at a meeting.

Despite requests at the beginning of every meeting to silence phones, almost every meeting is attended by the **most important AA in the world**, who must not be out of touch or some major disaster will befall us all and for some reason that phone must be audible to everyone, often twice!

Stranger still are the AA's who must take the call during the meeting!

Things go on without us for the hour or so we attended meetings, Children continued to grow, the world turns and we are able to do what we came to the meeting to do, seek sobriety and help another alcoholic.

Sorry to tell you this, phone people, but you just aren't as important as you think that you are. Check your voice mail after the meeting and give everyone else a break.

Here's a thought though; with all that phone availability, why is it that only a handful of South Jersey AA's have their names on the Twelfth Step list! Does the term Twelve Step Program suggest anything to you? So far the 12th Step list has less than One Hundred people signed up and in South Jersey, there are probably Five Thousand AA's , where are the other 98%? Taking calls at meetings perhaps!

### Eighth Step:

Pat S.

Collingswood Lifeline

What a feat this seemed to be when I first looked at it. The key to this is the willingness, just as in all the other steps. I read the other day in the Daily Reflections book for month 8, *"The main thing to see in this step was to become willing to do whatever it takes to make these amends."* So we start with a list. Just a list.

I have learned through my experience with others to always start a step with a prayer and I did when working this one as well. So I started my list with an open mind and willingness. I worked with my sponsor on this list to be sure I had the right people on the list. It is a great unloading of my guilty conscience just to write this list. How freeing it is when we become willing.

A little faith, a little prayer and some help of my friends goes a long way.  
One day at a time.

The Eighth Step is one that's an ongoing tradition that can never be fulfilled.  
No one can remember every one that they hurt. Frank S

# Around The Fellowship

The Following are events for AA's. Some are not AA events and you should follow the group conscience when making any announcements.

**Sept 5 Sat** Pizza, Pins & Pepsi Bowling at Deptford Lanes, off Delsea Dr. 6:45 PM. \$9 for two hours of fun with other AA's and Pizza! Just show up, ask at Desk for Pizza, Pins & Pepsi.

**Sept 7 Mon** LABOR DAY ALCATHON– Woodbury Christ Episcopal Ch 62 Delaware St 8 AM– 8 PM

**Sept 11-13** Matt Talbot Retreat Malvern PA.

**Sept 12 Sat** Morning Glory 18th Anniversary 9-11 AM Light Breakfast & Speakers. Haddonfield UMC 29 Warwick Rd.

**Sept 12th Sat**– A New Beginning Luncheon Noon, Woodcrest Country Club 300 E. Evesham Rd Cherry Hill Tickets \$40 pp

**Sept 12 Sat** Absecon Area 45 Grapefest Absecon Presby Ch 208 New Jersey Ave

**Sept 12 Sat** 10AM -12PM The South Jersey Coalition Celebrates Addiction Recovery 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Recovery Walk Haddon Lakes Park At The Dell

**Sept 14 Mon** Hainesport Serenity 26th Anniversary 8 PM

**Sept 15 Tue** Medford Women's Spiritual Growth Group 27th year anniversary. Food from 6:30 - 7:30, speaker 7:30 - 8:30. Friends Meeting House, Union St., Medford.

**Sept 18-20** Intergroup Camping Trip Goshen Pond, Shamong (near Atsion Lake) \$10, kids free.

**Sept 20-Sun** Cape Atlantic IG 3rd Annual Unity Breakfast 9 AM Breakfast 10 AM Meeting Grand Hotel Cape May NJ \$24 pp

## Maryville Women's Meeting : Sunday '2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. has the following dates available

	for 1 host and 2 speakers
Sept 6, Sept 13, Sept 20, Sept 27,	Oct 11, Oct 18, Oct 25,
Nov 8, Nov 15, Nov 22,	Dec 13, Dec 20, and Dec 27

## Maryville Women's Meeting Monday 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. has the following dates available for 1 host and 2 speakers

Sept 7, Sept 21, Sept 28,	Oct 5, Oct 19, Oct 26,
Nov 2, Nov 16, Nov 23,	Dec 7, Dec 21, and Dec 28

*Please contact Priscilla S. at (856) 649-6844 or priscilla\_semmens@yahoo.com. Please do not contact Joe K. as he will direct you to contact myself, Thanks!*

TIME=Things I Must Earn, SPONSOR=Senior Person Offering Newcomer Support On Recovery

SLIP=Sobriety Losing It's Priority, GOD = Group Of Drunks, YET=You're Eligible Too

## ELECTION 2009

Our Intergroup By Laws call for an election of Officers on every Odd Numbered year. Elected officers can only serve one term in a position, but may seek another position within Intergroup.

Any AA meeting the prerequisite criteria may submit their names for nomination for the elected offices or another person may submit their names, but they must be available to accept the nomination.

The following are the positions to be filled:

Intergroup Chairperson  
Intergroup Vice Chairperson  
Treasurer  
Assistant Treasurer\*  
Reporting Secretary  
Recording Secretary (or Asst Sect)  
Trustee

\*The Assistant Secretary is not currently an elected position, but changes to the By Laws currently being considered may change that by election time

There are currently Twelve Committees

Archives:	Collects, Stores and Presents information about South Jersey History
Answering Service:	Trains, Schedules and administers Volunteers to answer AA phone lines and maintains the Twelve Step lists for use by AA phone volunteers.
Bookers:	Holds quarterly meetings were interested groups exchange speakers
Budget & Finance:	Serves as Financial Oversight for Intergroup
Hospitals & Institutions:	Coordinates Scheduled speakers for various restricted meetings such as prisons and other closed facilities. Holds monthly meetings.
Literature:	Orders, Stocks and sells GSC literature, Trains and schedules sales volunteers
Meeting List:	Collects changes to meeting information and arranges for printing of new lists
Newsletter:	Collects news items and member submissions, writes items, publishes and distributes monthly news and information newsletter
Public Information:	Maintains contact with outside media sources, arranges for AA presentations upon request of any non AA agency. Provides literature on AA to outside agencies
Social Events:	Conceives, plans and promotes ongoing Social Events for AA's
Unity:	Promotes service and knowledge of Traditions among South Jersey Groups. Arranges for annual Alcahons. Briefs new Intergroup Representatives.
Website	: Maintains and improves Intergroup website

Committee Heads are not elected directly by the Group representatives, but are presented to the Intergroup body after being selected (from any willing candidates) by the new Steering Committee at their first meeting. The Committee heads or Chairs may then select a Co Chair and form a committee.

## Newsletter Feedback

### Are You There?

It's been over a year since we started the new monthly format. We really need your help as we come down the home stretch of this Steering Committee. Please tell us what you think and share some information with us, so that we can continue to serve the South Jersey Fellowship in getting news, information and entertainment to you.

Where did you find this Newsletter? \_\_\_\_\_

Was it on the literature table or did someone give it to you? \_\_\_\_\_

Was the Newsletter this months issue? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you read the whole issue? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your opinion?

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Is there anything that you would like to see more information about? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, What?

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Have you considered getting involved in any Intergroup service? \_\_\_\_\_

If you want to get involved, show up or send along your name and we will contact you/

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Thanks. Send this back to us via your Intergroup Rep, or by mail at Newsletter, SJ Intergroup P.O. Box 2514, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

The Newsletter Staff (all one of us)