

# ANONYMOUS SOUTH JERSEY

## SOUTH JERSEY INTERGROUP

March, 2020

### STEP THREE

**“Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God, as we understood him.”**

I think some people make too hard of terms out of this step. We only have to make a decision. Nothing else is asked of us. What am I specifically deciding? To take the remainder of the steps as outlined in the Big Book.

I don't know what I need to be happy. My best thinking got me in trouble, always. It was time for me to stop playing God and turn myself over to Him, at least for the time being. For once, I was willing to do what I was asked to do by following the direction of a sponsor by working on the remaining nine steps. For me, this was keeping it simple. I really do not know what was going to make me happy let alone what was going to keep me sober. I do know that at least 100 men and women found a solution to the malady from which I was suffering. Why not see what happens? Why not try doing what the first 100 did it? How many more people have found sobriety and happiness by doing what those same 100 people did?

I became willing to turn my life over to the Power that was talked about in the Big Book, which is my own personal Higher Power, whom I choose to call God.

Anonymous in Bellmawr



### TRADITION THREE

**“ The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.”**

This simple notion has become such a defining principle of AA that it is even stated in the preamble read before every meeting. It may seem at first as if the Third Tradition has little in the way of a deeper meaning. On the surface, it is little more than a mere description of AA's membership, and it isn't a definition that would take a rocket scientist to figure out. But the 12&12 actually goes a little bit deeper. “This Tradition is

packed with meaning. For A.A. is really saying to every serious drinker, ‘You are an A.A. member if you say so. You can declare yourself in; nobody can keep you out. No matter who you are, no matter how low you've gone, no matter how grave your emotional complications—even your crimes—we still can't deny you A.A. We don't want to keep you out. We aren't a bit afraid you'll harm us, never mind how twisted or violent you may be. We just want to be sure that you get the same great chance for sobriety that we've had. So you're an A.A. member the minute you declare yourself.’”

Many who have been through AA or NA have seen the Third Tradition in action. We have met people who committed crimes that we ourselves may find abhorrent, but what has often amazed us is that these men and women did not strike us as malicious individuals. Had they not had the honesty to tell us of their transgressions, we would never have known about them. They were changed people. Men and women who had hit rock bottom and decided that they wanted to live a better way. What kind of unfeeling monsters would we have to be to deny them access to our halls?

Interestingly enough, the Third Tradition has not always been in place. According to the 12&12, early AA groups refused to admit homosexuals, inmates (of prisons or asylums), homeless people, prostitutes, and anyone else who they felt might hurt the integrity of the program. This intolerance stemmed largely from fear, and this is one of the major reasons that we must embrace the Third Tradition today. The fellowship is AA's single greatest gift to each and every one of us. We should never fear our brothers and sisters under the banner of recovery.

Frank Z, Audubon Monday Night..

**See Page 10 for important information from The General Service Office (G.S.O.) regarding COVID-19 (coronavirus).**

# The Countdown is On!!!

## July 2 - 5, 2020

## Celebrate A.A.'s 85th Anniversary !

The 2020 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held July 2nd to July 5th, 2020 in Detroit, Michigan with the theme "Love and Tolerance is our Code."

A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.'s 85th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning in the Ford Field Stadium. Other meetings, scheduled or informal, will take place throughout the weekend in the COBO Center in downtown Detroit. We know many are excited about the International Convention and eager for detailed information. As the time gets closer, additional information about the Convention and Detroit, our host city, will be provided.

Watch for Convention articles in A.A.'s quarterly news bulletin, Box 4-5-9, which is mailed to the general service representative of every group in the U.S. and Canada listed with G.S.O.

**Online registration is now available.**

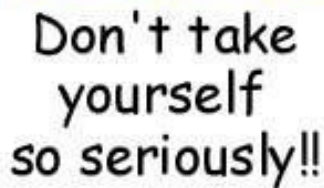
Advance registration for the convention between Sept. 9, 2019 and April 14, 2020 will be \$115.00 (USD) per attendee. Registration after April 15, 2020 will be \$140.00 (USD) per attendee.

Everyone attending must register. Attendance at this special celebration is voluntary, and, as responsible A.A. members, "we pay our own way." The International Convention is paid for by the A.A.s who participate in it.

**We hope to see you in Detroit to celebrate the 85th birthday of Alcoholics Anonymous.**

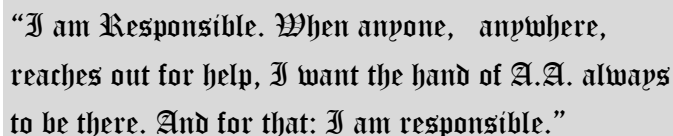


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and Things to Do



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**Hospitals & Institutions**  
**Open Speaking Commitments**  
**Contact Frank or Debbie at [handi@asaj.org](mailto:handi@asaj.org)**  
**To book a speaking commitment.**

**The Next Meeting is March 30, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Intergroup Office.**

Sunday

Maryville Rehab – Men's Unit – 2-3 pm  
April 26  
1903 Grant Avenue, Williamstown, NJ

Monday

Ancora – 7-8 pm  
April 27  
202 Spring Garden Road, Hammonton, NJ

Tuesday

My Father's House – Men – 6:30-7:30 pm  
April 7  
101 N. King Street, Gloucester City, NJ

Wednesday

My Friend's House – 7-8 pm  
April 1, 22, 25  
371 Glassboro Road, Woodbury Heights, NJ

Thursday

Ancora – 7-8 pm  
April 16, 23, 30  
202 Spring Garden Road, Hammonton, NJ

My Father's House – Women – 6:30-7:30 pm  
April 2, 9, 23, 26  
104 N. King Street, Gloucester City, NJ

Lourdes Medical Center – 8-9 pm – April 23, 30  
Rancocas Hospital Mental Health Unit, 218 Sunset  
Road, Rancocas, NJ

Daybreak – MICA – 10:30 am-12 pm  
April 9, 16, 23, 30  
308 White Horse Pike, Atco, NJ (Between Cooper  
Road & Atco Avenue)

“Humility is not  
thinking less of  
yourself, but  
thinking of yourself  
less.”





## BOOKERS REPORT MARCH, 2020

### Editorial Policy

The last Bookers meeting was held on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at our new permanent location of St. Bart's in Cherry Hill, NJ. The meeting was attended by 38 groups and 219 speaking commitments were filled. There was one new group. Thank you to everyone who attended and for helping to fill every commitment needed.

The next Bookers Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 8 PM at St. Bart's, 1989 Route 70, Cherry Hill, NJ. We will be meeting the first Thursday of each quarter.

Bookers commitments are only filled at the Bookers meeting. If you cannot attend, and want to book speakers, please send someone in your place.

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Social Committee Meeting is being held on the 1st Thursday of each month at Wegmans, 2nd floor dining area located at 2 Centerton Road, Mt Laurel, NJ at 7:00 PM. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 2nd at 7:00PM. Why not show up to participate in this fun-making committee? If you're not having fun in AA, it's your fault.

The Founders Day Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Location is the Old Cedar Campground.

The date of Nov 14<sup>th</sup> from 6-10 pm has been confirmed for the Gratitude Dance at Nicolosi's Catering in Woodbury, NJ.

The Social Committee will have a minimum of 1 activity per month.

Anonymous South Jersey is a monthly newsletter published by and for members of South Jersey Alcoholics Anonymous. Opinions expressed herein are NOT to be attributed to AA as a whole, nor does publication of information imply any endorsement by either AA or South Jersey Intergroup. Quotations and artwork from AA literature are printed with permission from AA World Services, Inc., and/or the AA Grapevine, Inc.

Contributions from readers are encouraged—you can write about your experience, strength and hope in general, or you can focus on one of the steps or traditions. You can also write about something that touched you at a meeting, something that bothered you at a meeting, or some service commitment you especially enjoy. Submissions are edited for space and clarity. Contact information is required and anonymity is respected.

Due to space limitations, we are unable to publish flyers for events in this newsletter. However, we are happy to include your gathering in the general list of fellowship announcements.

Please send your submissions to [newsletter@aasj.org](mailto:newsletter@aasj.org).



## THIS MONTH IN AA HISTORY

March 1

1939 — Readers Digest declined to write article on AA.

1941 — Jack Alexander's Saturday Evening Post article was published and membership jumped from 2,000 to 8,000 by year's end.

March 3

1947 — Nell Wing started work at Alcoholic Foundation, 415 Lexington Avenue, NYC.

March 4

1891 — Lois W. was born.

1947 — Nell Wing met Bill W. for the first time

March 7

1940 — Bill and Lois W. visited Philadelphia AA group.

1941 — Boston newspaper reported that any drunk who wanted to get well was more than welcome at the AA meeting at 115 Newbury St., at 8 PM Wednesdays.

March 10

1944 — New York Intergroup was established.

March 15

1941 — First AA group in New Haven, CN, was formed.

March 16

1940 — Alcoholic Foundation and Works Publishing moved from Newark to 30 Vesey St. in lower Manhattan.

March 21

1881 — Dr. Bob's wife, Anne, was born.

1966 — Ebby T., whom Bill W. called his sponsor, died sober.

March 22

1951 — William Duncan Silkworth, MD, died at Towns Hospital. He helped more than 40,000 alcoholics during his lifetime.

1984 — Clarence S., "Home Brewmeister," died at 81.

March 23

1936 — Bill & Lois W. visited Fitz M., "Our Southern Friend," in Maryland.

March 25

1898 — Jim B. ("The Vicious Cycle") was born.

March 31

1947 — 1st AA group formed in London, England.

Other March happenings with no specific date:

1936 — AA had 10 members staying sober. At end of 1936 AA had 15 members.

1940 — Mort J. arrived in LA from Denver and helped faltering group; started custom of reading Chapter 5 Big Book at Cecil group.

1941 — 1st Prison AA Group was formed at San Quentin.

1941 — Second printing of Big Book appeared.

1949 — Dr. Bob considers idea of AA conference premature.

**Southern New Jersey Area 45**  
**55th Annual General Service Convention**

March 27-29, 2020

The Hotel ML, 915 NJ-73

Mt Laurel, NJ 08054

*On-line Registration is now open!*

*The fee this year is \$40 for all speakers, meetings and workshops.*

*Meal plan options are also available.*

**Friday Night:**

Ice Cream Social (Guests welcome!)

Casual Buffet Dinner and Open Mic

Evening Speaker at 8:00 pm

**Saturday Night:**

"Shamrocks & Shenanigans" Themed Banquet

8:00 Speaker Meeting & Sobriety Countdown

DJ & Dancing with Masquerade Ball

*!! Contest for best Costume with prizes !!*

Karaoke, Photo Booth and lots of fun fellowship

**Sunday Morning:**

Spiritual Speaker Meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Great Speakers/Marathon Meetings/Skits/Workshops and so much more!

Hoodies, Coffee Mugs and Speaker CDs will be sold at the Convention.

Walk in Registration will be open (Cash or Credit ONLY).



# Announcements and Things To Do

## **ANSWERING SERVICE NEEDS YOU.... IF NOT YOU, THEN WHO?????**

03/21/2020  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
AASJ Social Committee  
Hike at Historic Smithville Park  
Smith's Woods Entrance  
Eastampton Twp. Burlington

## **TWELFTH STEP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.....**

Volunteers are needed for the 12-step list. Areas we need most help: Audubon, Haddon Heights, Haddonfield, Berlin, Camden, Gibbsboro, Hammonton, Mount Laurel and Salem. There are signup sheets available for anyone wishing to take a copy to their home groups. If you know anyone who would like to be of service, please have them contact us at [answeringservice@aasj.org](mailto:answeringservice@aasj.org) or invite us to speak at your home group.

03/21/2020  
1:00 pm - 5:30 pm  
Spring Into: Step 3  
St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Cherry Hill NJ

04/25/30 - 'Voorhees Women of Grace  
26th Anniversary.  
The Hope Church, Cooper Rd. and Centennial Blvd.  
Voorhees NJ.  
Directly behind 'The Meeting Place'. Dinner from 6-7  
followed by 2 speakers from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Gentlemen are Welcome!

## **GET INVOLVED**

03/05/2020  
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Social Committee Meeting  
Intergroup Office, Pennsauken NJ

03/26/2020 - 03/29/2020  
EACYPAA XVIII  
Westin Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA

03/27/2020 - 03/29/2020  
Area 45 55th General Service Convention  
The Hotel ML, Mt. Laurel NJ

03/06/2020  
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
Archives Committee Meeting  
Intergroup Office, Pennsauken NJ

03/27/2020 - 03/29/2020  
Area 45, 55th Annual General Service Convention  
Hotel ML, Mount Laurel NJ

03/06/2020  
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Sunlight of the Spirit 6th Anniversary Meeting  
Cultivate Church, Voorhees NJ

04/02/2020  
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
Archives Committee Meeting  
Intergroup Office, Pennsauken NJ

03/14/2020  
2:00 pm - 4:30 pm  
It's Your Meeting / Business Meeting Workshop  
482 Social Hall, Pennsauken NJ

04/15/2020  
8:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Intergroup Meeting  
St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church,  
Cherry Hill NJ

03/18/2020  
8:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Intergroup Meeting  
St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Cherry Hill NJ

04/19/2020 - 04/20/2020  
10:30 am - 12:30 pm NJYPAA  
Monthly Business Meeting  
Bradley Beach Recreation Center  
Bradley Beach NJ



## ABOUT SOUTH JERSEY INTERGROUP

South Jersey Intergroup is a body made up of representatives from home groups of AA. Our business meeting is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. at

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church (St. Bart's)  
1989 Rt 70 E (Marlton Pike East), Cherry Hill, NJ

The purposes of Intergroup are to coordinate carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the still suffering alcoholic as well as charitable and educational. Its activities may include, among others:

The maintenance of a central office to act as a clearing-house for A.A. in South Jersey;

To assist in providing A.A. contacts;

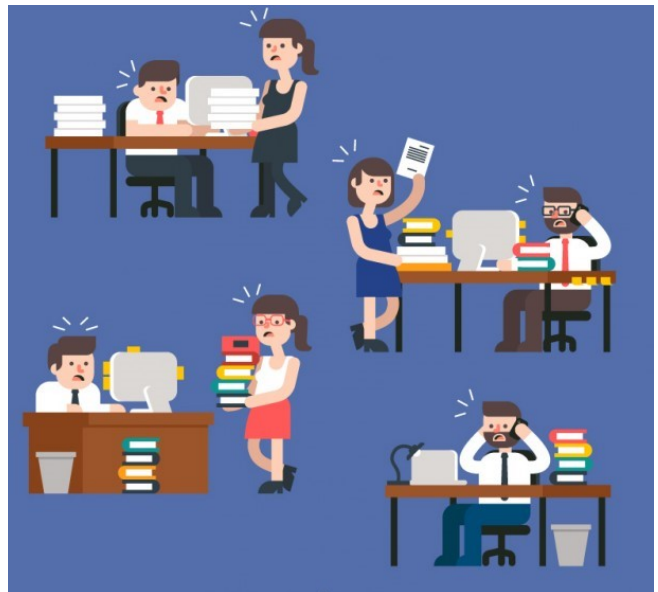
To be of general help in the development of the A.A. program;

To assist in the effective cooperation between Member Groups.

### Contacting us

Our office is located at 5090 Central Hwy Suite 3, Pennsauken, NJ. Contact information for the office is listed below. If you want to contact a committee directly, use the links on the [aasj.org](http://aasj.org) website.

South Jersey Intergroup  
P.O. Box 2514 Cherry Hill, NJ 08034  
Office: 856-486-4446  
Email: [Info@aasj.org](mailto:Info@aasj.org)  
24/7 Hotline  
Local: 856-486-4444



Please direct all  
communications to:  
P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
Fax: (212) 870-3003

The General Service Office (G.S.O.) has been receiving inquiries about how groups should respond to the COVID-19 (coronavirus). Groups and members are concerned about health and safety issues, and are looking for guidance on how to address this question.

The General Service Office is a repository of shared group experience and functions as a resource center for A.A. members and groups who are looking for the shared experience of the Fellowship. Providing guidance on health issues is outside the scope of the A.A. sharing that G.S.O. offers. However, we might suggest contacting your national, state/provincial and local health authorities for appropriate information.

We do have some general experience to share regarding how some groups and members have begun to address this issue. Our collected experience suggests that talking about these issues before they arise can help a group be prepared to address them in a sensible and helpful manner and allow the group to continue keeping the focus on our common welfare and primary purpose.

Some groups have discussed making changes to customs at their meetings. Some examples have included: avoiding shaking hands and handholding; making sure meeting hospitality tables are sanitary; or suspending food hospitality for the time being. Regardless of group decisions, each individual is responsible for their own health decisions.

Some groups have considered contingency plans in case the group is temporarily unable to meet in person. Plans have included: creating contact lists and keeping in touch by phone, email or social media; meeting by phone or online. Providing members information for the *A.A. Online Intergroup* ([www.aa-intergroup.org](http://www.aa-intergroup.org)) may serve as an additional helpful resource. If a group isn't holding its regular meetings, they may want to communicate this to local A.A. resources, such as the district, area and intergroup or central office.

G.S.O. has received inquiries about the A.A. events it coordinates throughout the year. Visit [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) for up-to-date information regarding G.S.O./A.A.W.S. coordinated events. Please be assured that the health and safety of attendees is a priority. G.S.O. is closely monitoring relevant health advisories regarding COVID-19 (coronavirus).

We hope this limited sharing is helpful.