

Anonymous SJ

March 2010

Another Step, Still One Day At A Time

I have received many comments on the newsletter and thank you(!) I have taken all into consideration. Thank you for your participation! This is, after all, for you. One area that needs attention – some groups are not receiving this newsletter at all. To reach out to all, we need your help. There are certainly enough copies, let's pass them along.

Thanks to Bob for his article this month. The stories are what bind us, and I love reading them. Hope you do too.

We have started a few new additions to the newsletter, ones I am hoping will cause some active participation. You can have your name attached or be anonymous, as you so choose. Read on.....

If you would like to help with this publication, have an article or an idea, feel free to contact me. AND, I hope to see you all at Convention at the end of the month.

newsletter@aasj.org

Judy P

St. Pius X Spiritual Life Center to Close

Citing mounting financial difficulties, the Diocese of Camden announced this week that the St. Pius X Spiritual Life Center in Blackwood will close by June 30, 2010. The Spiritual Life Center has operated with a deficit for several decades. In the last 10 years, the diocese has provided more than \$4 million in subsidy to the Center.

The Center, which has offered days and evenings of recollection, weekend retreats, spiritual direction, meetings and workshops, was established in 1957 by the Salvatorian Fathers. The Diocese of Camden purchased the facility from the Salvatorian Fathers in 1969.

"I am grateful for the dedication of our outstanding staff who have done so much good work and who naturally are disappointed and saddened. I am also grateful for all the wonderful people who have supported the Center over the years and who have grown in their relationship to Jesus Christ through the programs and sharing that have gone on at the Spiritual Life Center," said Father Danella

Committee Report Highlights

Intergroup Chair

Frank recently attended NERASA where, among other things, he was able to get some of the overabundance of our literature meted out. There is a considerable amount of literature in the intergroup office. **Please ask your home groups if they want any pamphlets.** Frank continues to join co chair Beverly in the monthly committee chair meetings.

Co Chair

Beverly is continuing to meet with a committee each month. Last month was the literature committee, where it was learned that we have an excess of stored literature in the store room. This month she met with the H&I chairs, to report that they are doing a great job.

Answering Service

There is a **shift for Saturday mornings from 8-10am that still needs to be covered.** Also needed are volunteers to be placed on the waiting list. One year of sobriety is needed for this position.

Bookers

Next meeting is May 6th at 8pm

H&I

Still have 5 open commitments. Next meeting is March 29.

Social Events

We will have a new updated list of things to do shortly. Larry and his committee are busy getting together a host of events for us.

Unity

Spring Alkathon will be held at Woodbury. The Christmas Alkathon served 258 people, and the New Years served a record 316. The unity committee is also in charge of new intergroup rep orientation.

Please note the volunteer opportunities available for service.

When We Do Service

Some have called me a bleeding deacon. To wit, Repeat after me—*when I do service*

I shall not seek my own way nor get my own way.

I shall not make decisions without the group (pending your ability to know and practice the rest of the stuff on this page).

I shall not spend money unless it is necessary or it is in the furtherance of AA's primary purpose.

I shall know what the group's conscious is and has been before I came along and act accordingly.

I shall not try to make OUR group the "best".

I shall not promote our group as the "best".

I shall not take credit for anything until my sponsor says it's okay.

I will TRY when given or taking a commitment.

I shall pass on OUR service commitments and not hog them to myself,

I will understand and practice teamwork in furtherance of OUR Fellowship.

Service is a chance to practice humility and terminal uniqueness is just that—for an alcoholic. Please stay sober.

- Anonymous

Fellowship Announcements and Things To Do

March 26 - 28 - Cherry Hill will have the 46th annual Southern New Jersey Area 45 General Service Convention. At The Crowne Plaza Hotel - 2349 Marlton Pike (rte. 70) in Cherry Hill. more info <http://www.snjaaconvention.org>.

June 4 - 6 - Third Annual Jersey Shore Big Book Retreat. San Alfonso Retreat House, Long Branch, NJ. For info contact: Marybeth or Jim - 732-282-1974. Reservations Required.

June 4 - 6 - Circle of Hope Roundup. Reading-Berks Intergroup, Perkins Auditorium, Penn State University - Berks Campus, Tulpehocken Rd., Reading, PA. www.circleofhoperoundup.com **NEW**

June 11 - 13 - South Jersey takes Akron - come join us in Akron, Ohio to celebrate AA's birthday - where it all started. \$ 375/ person covers round trip transportation with breakfast and lunch the first day - registration - accommodations at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Akron - gift - great convention. Send monies to SJFDTC 222 Hanover Rd. West Deptford, Nj 08086 for more info call Wayne @ 856-534-0104.

The Lois Wilson Story "WHEN LOVE IS NOT ENOUGH"
TO AIR ON CBS NETWORK SUNDAY, APRIL 25 AT 9 PM EST

South Jersey Takes Akron

20th Annual Founder's Day Trip to Akron, Ohio

June 11, 12, & 13, 2010

75th Founders Day Weekend

The Birthplace of AA

TOTAL Price

\$375.00 (Suggested Payment Plan) No Refund after April 30, 2010

\$125.00 Deposit due by November 15, 2009
\$125.00 Second payment due by February 15, 2010
\$125.00 Final payment due by April 15, 2010

Please send all monies to: SJFDTC

222 Hanover Road
West Deptford, NJ 08086

If you have any changes or any new items that you feel would benefit our fellowship, please let me know, so we can get it out to the people. Wayne: 856-534-0104 or wcp714@verizon.net

The New AA Dictionary

I have noticed that we are starting to developed a new vocabulary in the rooms. Here are just two of the words I have heard and want to pass along. Let's see how many we can add to the list!

Sponsorage—noun—collective group consisting of a sponsor and his/her sponsees (Lisa, POP)

Surrendity—(sp?)- the act of surrendering to achieve serenity—Red Lion

E mail YOUR additions to newsletter@aasj.org

Gratitude List

It's been raining for days. We have had a record snowfall this winter. We have been stuck inside for what might seem like ages! What to do?

Let's start our communal gratitude list. Pick the main ingredient, the top of your list gratitude item and send it to me. Let's see how long we can make our list!

Filling in this month.....I am grateful for

My health

The Fellowship

Reminder: this list should also include things we are grateful for when life is going well...

YOUR TURN—CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OUR FELLOWSHIP

A Higher Power's Will

Step 2 to Step 11

I have been thinking a lot lately about God's will for me. The heating oil was delivered just in time or I left the house too late to be involved in a bad car accident and, these events were God's will. Maybe, maybe not. A speaker recently mentioned the 11th step phrase "pray for knowledge of God's will for me...". That hit me. How do we know what is and what is not?

Early in sobriety, I gave up my self will and turned things over to something else; in my case a God. Over the years I learned in the rooms that my God's direction is toward love and service. You guys taught me that. So I tried to follow it, such as being unselfish and practicing sacrifice until it does not seem like sacrifice. And, I tried not to take too much credit when I had done something for another (I give myself credit but try not to let others know). With that background, I developed a sense about events and my higher power's will for me. Most things that happened were not anyone's will—just life. I now believe that the good things are God's will with chances for me (us) to show love and appreciation. And, the bad things give me (us) God's will to heal and help. But God is always there to lend a hand and allow me a positive angle.

Once I had a relationship with a higher power I had to learn to stay in touch. In touch mentally through the day using prayer or just thinking about what my higher power is wanting me to do. Is doing for me. Often, just being grateful for something. Flipping the switch from judging to understanding. Today, I get a higher power's message from things people say and events as they reveal themselves. All perceived through the lens of love and service. This allows a higher power to work in my life. Of course, it works if I let it be God and not me.

I did not think too much about how to do this at first, I just believed and let it happen. I was transformed by the AA program. When I was recently laid off from my job of many years it was God's will. I did not see it right away through all the self pity, self righteousness and resentment. But God gave me a break. I had enough to live and still had some work or could find work. I was healthy enough to work. The inspiration and understanding that came from the rooms was incredible—God moments. And I thank my higher power, not for sparing me, but for the gifts I had been given, the ones I have and the ones I still need to deliver for God.

Bob....Red Lion