

Hot News

October 2010



SOUTH JERSEY INTERGROUP

Anonymous SJ

The Tenth Step

“Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.”

The Tenth Tradition

“Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.”

Ed Note: AA’s in Service

Since last month, we have seen the weather become cooler, the leaves on the trees are starting to fall, the pumpkins are ready for the picking and there are apple pies being baked in many ovens. MMMM. Fall is a wonderful time of year, not too hot and not too cold,. It’s a great time t get comfortable.

I am reminded of how uncomfortable I can get when I follow step 10 in my daily life and do not finish the step—make amends promptly when I am wrong. Wrong to me means angry, mean, thoughtless, or just indifferent. I feel it in my conscience, and it’s like a nagging headache till I rectify the situation. Sound silly? Perhaps, but if I am short with someone due to my own problems and pressures, I have done that person a wrong. The best part is we both feel better when I simply apologize.

Enough from me—I want to hear from all of you. Send your thoughts, articles and anything you want to share to newsletter @aasj.org.

We are the fellowship and the fellowship needs ‘we’.

In service, Judy

South Jersey AA Contact information

Website: www.aasj.org

AA information: toll free 856-920-1212

AA office: 856-486-4446

Newsletter: newsletter@aasj.org

“When anyone anywhere, reaches our t for help, I want the hand of AA to be there. For that I am responsible.”

Steering Committee Meeting Highlights

Intergroup Chair: Frank will be at the Day of Sharing on 10/16. Full report to follow next month.

Answering Service: With 19 shifts reporting, they fielded 185 calls in Sept. Answercom received 86 calls.

There us a 2 hour open shift on Wed from 2-4 pm. Additional back up is also needed. If you are interested, one year's sobriety is all that is required.

Archives: Continuing to work on group histories. Make sure your group's is sent in.

Bookers: Next meeting is 11/4 at 8 pm in Audubon.

Budget & Finance: proposed budget handed out in Sept will be voted on in Dec. Committee is in need of a co-chair.

H&I: 16 groups filled 52 of the 85 commitments for Sept/Oct. Two commitments need to be filled ASAP—Delaware Valley (Pennsauken) Womens Thurs 12:30-1:30pm 10/28, and Seabrook Women (Bridgrton) Fri 7:30-8:30 10/29. Next meeting is Monday 10/25, 7:00 pm at the Intergroup Office.

Literature: Road Show is going along quite well; there was a road show meeting outlining instructions for all volunteers. Volunteers are still needed to help out. There is also a new Road Show cabinet in the IG office. Literature is looking for volunteers for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights in the Intergroup office.

Meeting List: There are new meeting lists now available.

Newsletter: The monthly newsletter is now available on the aasj.org website. Thanks to Dan the website man and his helper Andy for this success.

Social Events: There is a Gratitude Dinner/Dance on November 12,2010 T Nicolosi Catering. Tickets are \$25.00 each and can be bought in advance. The DJ is booked.....

Unity: This committee is busy planning on cooking for the Day of Sharing. Also in the works are Alkathons for Thanks giving, Christmas and New Years. These events will run 24 hours, starting at 6 pm on the eve of the holiday and going till 6 pm on the day of the holiday. Volunteers are encouraged to help.

Trustees: There is a nominee for the vacant Trustee position who will be introduced at the October Intergroup meeting.

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SOUTH MARYLAND ROUNDUP

THE WOODSTOCK OF AA

March 18-20, 2011, Holiday Inn Solomons Conference Center & Marina, Solomons MD

First Southern Maryland Roundup. \$30 Registration fee per person. All workshops, speakers, dance and fellowship opportunities are included in the registration fee. Tickets for the buffet dinner with speakers will be sold separately. Hotel patrons have easy access to boating, exploring, and enjoying breath taking sunsets and cool breezes.

Accommodations are extra, and are being reserved at \$104, so reserve by 2/18/2011.

See www.southernmarylandroundup.org for information, including flyer and registration form.

Fellowship Announcements and Things To Do

Friday, October 22 - Friday Night Sobriety 25th Group Anniversary. Food at 7:00 PM, Speaker (Stella J) at 8:00. Absecon Presbyterian Church, 208 New Jersey Ave, Absecon.

October 22 - 24 - 33rd Annual Downingtown Young Peoples Conference "Gratitude in Action" Camp Innabah, 712 Pughtown Rd., Pughtown, PA 19475. Info: www.dypcaa.org or Dave W. 484.928.0628.

October 22 - 23 - Suncoast Roundup. St. Pete Beach, FL. Small, friendly and quaint resort right on the beach. You can register via www.suncoastroundup.org and pay using Paypal.

Monday, October 25 - Audubon Last Mile 18th Anniversary. 7:00 PM - Desserts, 7:30- 8:30 PM Speaker: Linda P from California. United Methodist Church, 314 W. Graisbury Ave., Audubon.

October 29 - 31- 2010 Northeast Woman to Woman 22nd Conference. Hyatt Regency, 2 Albany St., New Brunswick, NJ 08981. <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/womantowoman2010> . 2 blocks from Amtrak/NJ station. Registration: \$35 until 10/1, \$40 after. Info: Marie I - 908-296-3917, new2w2010@yahoo.com

Friday, November 12 - Gratitude Dinner/Dance. South Jersey Intergroup sponsored event. Nicolosi Catering, 1 Hessian Rd., West Deptford Twp. \$25 per person. 7:30 PM - 11:00 PM dinner at 8 PM. More info call Brian: 609-280-6298.

Friday, November 19 - Threshold Group 34th Anniversary. 7:00 - 9:00 PM. AA & Alanon speakers. Virtua Memorial Hospital, 175 Madison Ave., Mt. Holly, NJ 08060. Food donations welcome. **NEW**

November 19 - 22 - 4th Annual Cape Atlantic Intergroup "Waves of Sobriety" Roundup. The Grand Hotel, Cape May, NJ. More Information call Laurie W: 609- 837- 2359 or visit www.caigrp.org

November 25 - 28 - 44th Annual Las Vegas Roundup. Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada. Information: www.lasvegasroundup.org

The Tenth Step

The Tenth Step has been an instrumental part of my sobriety since my first trip through the Steps. At first, I used to review my day at bedtime, as I read in the Big Book. However, being a manager, I had many opportunities during the workday to "step on toes" and be all into myself, my needs and wants. I soon found that if I did my Tenth Step before I left work, and made immediate amends with my fellow workers, the following day was much less likely to be a one-on-one challenge.

My fellow workers spared me no slack when I just repeated the same behaviors the following day. This was key to getting out of myself and becoming aware of the many ways that my actions affected others. It was a learning curve that led to personal growth toward a much more "friendly" me.

Today, I actually pause and think before putting my mouth in motion. Those who knew me when are apt to agree that I've "come a long way" in being mindful of others. This is the growth we experience if we work toward it. While all of our steps have their place in my sobriety, it's the Twelfth, Eleventh, and Tenth that I utilize every day to keep me, as my Sponsor says "right size".

They are the "maintenance Steps" that we use to hone our spiritual program as we grow into knowledge of His true will for us and for our future well-being.

Thanks for letting me share.

Andy

My First Prison Commitment

My sponsor always took me with him wherever he went. After I had been sober about six months, he decided it was time for me to go to my first prison. Since I had become sober outside of Philadelphia, the prison was to be the Bucks County Prison.

After passing through what seemed to be about a hundred gates and check points (sally ports), we finally arrived at the meeting room. It was a cafeteria with metal ashtrays (we could all smoke back then) bolted to the table. I was still shaking from the experience of passing through all those doors echoing down the hall as they slammed closed. While I tried to figure out how they emptied all those ashtrays, I asked my sponsor, “who's speaking?” “You are,” he grinned.

“But I've never been in a prison or even jail before,” I protested. “What would I say; I have no prison experience.”

“That's OK,” he said, “they already know about being in prison. They want to know how you stay sober one day at a time outside the walls. How do you manage to stay sober when you pass by bars every day? How do you deal with your children? What about your wife or girlfriend?”

As the “hardened criminals” filed in and sat down I noted that most looked just like any other A.A. members except for the uniforms. I took a breath and told my story with my best six-month experience of sobriety. All the questions they had dealt with staying sober on the outside and relationships with women and children.

That was in 1982. To this day, that's still the only kind of questions I normally get. My sponsor's words constantly come back to me: “They already know how to be in prison.” My job is to carry **MY** experience, strength, and hope.

In 1985, my wife and I moved to South Jersey and have been doing the Friday night meeting at Southern State Correctional Facility ever since. The slamming doors are no longer as foreboding nor as scary as they once were. Each time we leave they provide us with an extreme sense of gratitude as they close behind us. We have freedom today as a result of working the A.A. program one day at a time. The prison reminds us of what it would be like to not have that freedom.

by Dave MacD, Magnolia Saturday Night

Ed Note—My apologies for this late submission, should have been part of the service issue last month. Thanks, Dave