



The Ninth Step

“Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others”

The Ninth Tradition

“A A as such , ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”

Someone recently made a comment about a defect of character (personally I call them issues). They referenced anger and what they did about it. The result was this person learned to keep their mouth shut when angry. The consequences of this choice, not duly noted by the individual, was the body language. Though nothing was coming out of the mouth, the language of the person was loud and clear. Maybe some food for thought, especially when thinking about step nine?

Just wanted to thank all those people who volunteer on our service boards, committees, and at every home group.

We are the fellowship and the fellowship needs “we”.

In service, Judy

Website: www.aasj.org

AA information: toll free 856-920-1212

AA office:856-486-4446

Newsletter: newsletter@aasj.org

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

Committee Highlights

Answering Service: Vacant shifts remain *about* the same as in July - six (6). Three (3) of these are overnight shifts (Mon, Wed, and Fri). Please contact interested AA's to contact us by email (website) or by phone to get the most up-to-date information about open shifts.

With 35 of 56 shifts reporting (incl. the vacant shifts), our volunteers fielded 232 calls during the month. This makes the average number of calls per shift about seven (7), with a low number of nil (0) and a high of twenty-one (21). At present, three (3) shifts are covered by AA groups, as follows:

Archives: There are 8 homegroups celebrating anniversaries: Medford Women's Spiritual Growth, AA Words & Wisdom 13 yrs, F-troop 13 yrs, Hammonton Group 53 yrs, Medford Group 39 yrs, Vineland Nooners 4 yrs, Hainsport Serenity 28 yrs, and Morning Glory with 20 yrs.

Bookers: Next meeting will be November 3, 2011 at 8pm in Audubon.

Literature: The Road Show is looking for more commitments. If you would like to have literature sold at your home group meeting please contact the Road Show. Volunteers are still needed for literature sales at the Intergroup office Saturday 10 AM – 12 PM and Mon and Thurs. evenings 6 – 8 PM. 1 year experience preferred.

Public Information: A request was made for us to be present at a Health and Wellness fair in Dunn's Park, Carney's Point in collaboration with the health department from 11am-2pm. I will make AA pamphlets and meeting list available. Also, Delran High School has requested us to speak to their senior health class.

Treasurer: August proved to be the vacation month. Contributions were down, which accounted for the shortfall this month. All accounts are current. Please continue to put your Group's Name, Meeting Day, City, and GSO # if you know it on your checks.

H & I Open OCTOBER Speaking Commitments

Maryville Men (Franklinville) Sun 2 to 3 pm Oct 30
Maryville Women (Franklinville) Sun 2 to 3 pm Oct 2, 9, 16 & 30
Underwood (Woodbury) Sun 4 to 5 pm Oct 16 & 23
VOA (Camden) Mon 7 to 8 pm Oct 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
JFK Detox (Cherry Hill) Mon 2 to 3pm Oct 10 & 31
Wounded Healer (Pitman) Mon 6 to 7 pm Oct 3, 17, 24 & 31
Maryville Women (Franklinville) 8 to 9 pm Oct 17 & 31
JFK Detox (Cherry Hill) Tues 8 to 9 pm Oct 31
Virtua (Mt. Holly) Tues 830 to 930 pm Oct 18
Maryville Men (Franklinville) Tues 8 to 9 pm Oct 4, 18 & 25
VOA (Camden) Wed 7 to 8 pm Oct 5, 18 & 26
Seabrook Women (Deerfield) Wed 730 to 830 pm Oct 5, 12, 19 & 26
Maryville Women (Franklinville) Wed 8 to 9 pm Oct 5 & 19
Delaware House (Mt. Holly) Wed 1 to 3 pm Oct 5, 12, 19 & 26
Ancora (Hammonton) Thurs 7 to 8 pm Oct 6, 13 & 20
JFK Detox (Cherry Hill) Thurs 8 to 9 pm Oct 13
Lakeland (Blackwood) Fri 7 TO 8 PM Oct 7
VOA (Camden) Fri 7 to 8 pm Oct 7, 14, 21, 28
JFK Psych (Cherry Hill) Fri 7 to 8 pm Oct 14, 21, 28
Seabrook Women (Deerfield) Fri 730 to 830 pm Oct 7, 14, 21
Virtua (Mt. Holly) Sat 830 to 930 pm Oct 15 & 29

Please see the website for all service positions in H&I.

Fellowship Announcements & Things to Do

Tuesday, September 20 - Medford Women's Spiritual Growth Group Anniversary. Medford Friend's Meeting House, 14 Union St., Medford, NJ. One block west of Main St. Food & Fellowship starting at 6:30 PM. Speaker at 7:00 PM. All women are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Sunday, September 25 - Riverton Triboro Group 37th Anniversary. Sacred Heart Church Hall basement. 4th & Linden Streets, Riverton, NJ. 7:00 PM: Food. 8:00 PM: Speaker.

Sunday, September 25 - CAIG UNITY Breakfast - Flanders Hotel, 719 E. 11th St, Ocean City, NJ. 609.399.1000 NJ 08226
Speaker TBA, Tix: \$23. Must Pre-Register: CAIG / UNITY COM, P.O. Box 905, Pleasantville NJ 08232, 609-641-8855.

Friday, September 30 - Sunday, October 2 - Matt Talbot #34 retreat at St. Joseph in the Hills, Malvern, PA. \$100.00 deposit.
Contact Dave MacD at (856) 358-2952 for registration info.

Saturday, October 1 - Swedesboro Weekend Special Group 6th Anniversary, 9:30 AM: Speaker, 10:30 AM: Brunch. Bethesda United Methodist Church off Kings Hwy @ bank to Railroad Ave.

Saturday, October 8 - Sea Ilse City Group 29th Anniversary. United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, JFK Blvd. & Park Ave. Sea Ilse City, NJ. 7:30 PM: Eat - 8:30 PM: Speaker: Margie P. with 36 years.

Monday, October 10 - Ashland Men's Anniversary. Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 33 E. Evesham Rd. Voorhees, NJ. 7:00 PM. Food & 2 Speakers.

Saturday, October 15 - Day of Sharing. Area 45, Central Jersey Intergroup, Cape Atlantic Intergroup and, South Jersey Intergroup All Unite Together. 8:30am to noon. Carslake Community Center, 209 Crosswicks Street, Bordentown, NJ. Come join us for a morning of a fun and informative exchange of information, Roundtable discussions, A.A. Jeopardy, Breakfast.

Saturday, October 22 - Morning Glory Anniversary. 9:00 - 11:00 AM. Haddonfield United Methodist Church, 29 Warwick Rd. at Kings Highway.

November 4 - 6 - HMB 2011 Convention (Hudson- Mohawk- Berkshire). Ramada Conference Center Fishkill, 542 Route 9, Fishkill, NY 12524. Registration: \$27.00. Hotel reservations must be made by October 4. For more info contact: Lori W. 518-337-1923 / Deb D. 845-331-4213

Tuesday, November 8 - The Maple Shade Group will be celebrating it's 49th Anniversary, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, S. Forklanding Road and Helen St., Maple Shade. Eating meeting. Starts promptly at 7:00. As always, a mystery guest speaker

Saturday, November 12 - Gratitude Dinner & Dance sponsored by SJ Intergroup. Nicolosi's, 1 Hessian Ave., Woodbury, NJ. 6:30 - 11:00 PM. \$20.00/pp. Tickets available. Contact: Brian C - 609.932.0477 or Mike Lore - 856.779.1830.

Editorial:

On the 9th Step. . .

"Made direct amends to such people wherever possible except when to do so would injure them or others."

Like others of the Steps, Number Nine is closely related to Number Three --"to turn our will and our lives over to God *as we understood Him.*" If we have accomplished this step to any measurable degree, we have attained at least a small measure of humility and a realization of our dependence on Him.

Having prepared a list of all people we have harmed and brought ourselves to the point where we are *willing* to make amends to them, our Ninth Step is one calling for positive *action*. There is a world of difference between being *willing* to do a thing and actually *doing* it. How many times in the pre-A.A. state have we said "I am sorry, I won't do it again" and felt that that constituted complete amends.

A sincere apology, with a true explanation to the person harmed, of what we believe to be the reason for our past actions can quite frequently readjust personal relations --but the A.A. realizes that this cannot take care of the ones we have really hurt and invariably these are the ones we should and do love most.

Most of us had at least a few years of real pathological drinking behind us when we first learned of the Twelve Steps. Those terrible years are the ones that become repulsive to us as we progress in our new-found life program for order and happiness--years in which our every action was influenced by alcoholic thinking, with all its implications. It naturally follows that whatever our state in life may be, those close to us bore the brunt of our outrageous behaviour. How can one make amends to a dear wife, son or daughter or parent who through no fault of their own truly suffered physically and financially and more important, mentally, the humiliation and embarrassment of going through life with a drunkard? A simple "I am sorry; it won't happen again" is not enough. It is not enough for us and it is not enough for the aggrieved person.

Direct amends, by all means, is a must, in restoring physical property to the rightful owner, paying debts willingly within our ability to do so and retracting the lie that hurt a reputation; but the real amends are made in scrutinizing our day-in and day-out conduct and keeping that conduct "on the beam." The loved ones whom we have hurt don't want their "pound of flesh." Whether they are still in daily contact with us or not, amends are best made to them by restoring the love and confidence and respect they once had for us by the *action* of right living. With that thought clearly in our minds that "first drink" is an improbability, even an impossibility and the well-rounded, good life we all yearn for becomes readily visible to us.

Bill H

Forest Hills, NY

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