

ANONYMOUS SOUTHJERSEY

SOUTH JERSEY INTERGROUP

MAY 2019

Tradition 5, alive and well at EACYPAA

In 2003, with a mere 13 years sober, I was on the SJCPAA committee. I remember it being fun with an air of a lot more energy and enthusiasm than the Area 45 Annual Convention committee. However, last month at EACYPAA in Atlantic City, the energy was ramped up higher than I have ever seen it. YPAA took Tradition 5 to a whole new level with this year's theme: "Carry the Vision." Over 1,800 "young" people filled the meetings and workshops to standing room only capacity with an enthusiasm usually seen only at a carnival. There were a variety of activities for all to enjoy. To start, they had stickers, stamps & markers if you wanted to personalize your name badge. There was meditation space if you needed a moment of calm at the "Zen Den." The workshops were packed with attendees discussing topics such as dating on the A.A. campus, gossip, spiritual awakening, loss in sobriety, getting sober before reaching legal drinking age and growing up in A.A. to name just a few. They also had 3 dances, a pool party and a food scavenger hunt.



The main meetings were full of excitement and fun not usually seen at the more reserved service conventions.

After all these years, I still feel that same enthusiasm. A.A. saved my life. I feel re-energized when a newly sober woman asks me to take her through the Steps. To witness another's miraculous change is a priceless gift. I am fortunate to be surrounded by friends who are living examples of the Big Book and the Traditions especially Tradition 5 of "carrying THE message to the alcoholic who still suffers." In my daily morning meditation, I set that as my intention and goal for the next 24 hours. I learned from my first sponsor early in my sobriety that attending events such as Service commitments, workshops and conventions reinforces me to remain focused my "primary purpose."

Inside This Issue: ♦ SJI Trivia ♦ Area 45 Events ♦ Opportunities for Service ♦
♦ Announcements and Things to Do ♦

Yes, There is a Difference...

I was at a meeting and a new comer asked if there was a difference between an AA meeting and an AA group. My response caused quite a conversation since I immediately said "YES there is a big difference." I went on to explain that an AA group is registered with our World Service. They receive a group number and are part of our national and international registry. They also receive a group packet outlining all of the benefits available as well as pamphlets and guidelines on how the group should operate. There are guidelines provided for all of the positions such as Treasurer, IG Rep. GSR, DCM, and other great positions that our members can fill to become part of this world-wide fellowship. They are also given our wonderful Traditions which the group is encouraged to follow. One of the pamphlets describes how the 7th tradition should be disbursed, called, "Circles of Love".

One of the persons at the meeting stated that "anyone can start a meeting and that there is no reason to go through all of that". "There are lots of meetings that are not groups". I was surprised at this, since the person had many years of sobriety and was almost discouraging this new person from joining a group and to just attend meetings as they choose.

I went on to tell the new comer that meetings collect money from AA members, however, they do not contribute to AA in order to help the next sick and suffering alcoholic. The money collected goes for other things. They give all the money to the host, whether it be an individual or club or any other entity they choose. They can buy pizza, donuts or have a good ole fashioned keg party if they choose. They are not bound by any group conscious or traditions or guidelines. As a matter of fact, they cannot donate to IG or World Service or District, even if they wanted to, since, we cannot accept money from any outside enterprise.

As an example, if I wanted to collect money for my personal electric bill, I could hold a meeting at my house, ask that SJIG post my meeting in the meeting list, pass the basket and pay my electric bill with all the money collected.

SJIG has about 400 meetings posted in our meeting list. Less than half of them are actual groups. Meetings have no Primary Purpose (Tradition 5). Also, some of the club house meetings are in direct conflict with Tradition 6. They are supporting an outside enterprise. Club houses are "NOT AA".

Now, I need to make it very clear, I support club houses. I am a dues paying member of 2 clubs and have been supporting club houses for over 35 years. We want our club houses to survive. They provide an important service for our fellowship. You can join a club for \$10.00 or \$15.00 a month. They should be supported by members of the club, not by passing the basket during an AA meeting.

I guess when it is all said and done, are some individuals supporting a meeting and assuming they are supporting AA? As a longtime member of AA along with my profound love for the traditions, it concerns me that we allow these meetings and club houses to advertise in our meeting list. To collect money from folks who truly believe that they are supporting AA as a whole and in fact, they are supporting private, nonprofit enterprises. So, learn the traditions, join a group where you can get an AA job, and be sure, when you put your money in the basket, you know where it is going.

In Fellowship,
Eddie "J"
Many Paths to Spirituality (GROUP)



Booker's Committee

When you were new, did you ever wonder what all the crazy terms meant? I know I did. I wondered what is a Homegroup, what is a Sponsor, what is Steering, what is IG, what is H and I, Bookers, and on and on. I was already confused because there were so many things I just didn't understand.

Today, I'd like to tell you just what "Bookers" is all about. The actual name of the committee is the "Bookers Exchange". Many people confuse Bookers and H and I (Hospitals and Institutions). The difference is that H and I supplies speakers to hospitals and institutions, while Bookers supplies speakers to other AA meetings.

We meet 4 times a year, the second week of the month, in February, May, August and November. At each meeting, your group would send a Bookers representative, and there they can book speakers for your group to share their experience, strength and hope with your group, for the next 3 months. This is great if you have a speaker/discussion meeting and feel as if you have heard everyone's message several times. You can even have speakers come in to your Literature meeting and share about the literature you've read.

Keeping in mind that this is a Bookers Exchange, you can not only book speakers to come to your group, you can also take speaking commitments to speak at other groups. This is a great way for the members of your group to do service which helps everyone. While we are not a substitute for all your home group meetings, we can provide an occasional speaker to add some diversity to your group.

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Even if you don't want speakers to come to your meeting, you can send a representative to just book speaking commitments at other groups. Without the help of these groups, we would not be able to fill the 250 – 300 speaking commitments that we fill at every "Bookers Exchange".

Everyone is welcome to attend our auction style meeting. Our next Bookers meeting will be held on May 8, 8 PM at St. Bart's, 1989 Route 70, Cherry Hill, NJ. We hope to see you there!

Beverly and Traci

Bookers Committee

Trivia Corner



What was the age difference in years between Bill W. and Dr. Bob?

Last Month's Answer:

Physician Heal Thyself



Answering Service Shifts: We currently have six open shifts and need your help to spread the word that service commitments are available for the following shifts. Please make announcements at the meetings you attend and have anyone interested contact us: **Sunday O/N (overnight) from 10PM-8AM, Weds from 6-8PM, Friday O/N from 10PM-8AM, and Saturday O/N from 10PM-8AM**

12-step list: Please continue to remind everyone that more volunteers are needed for the 12-step list. We have a sign-up sheet available for anyone wishing to take a copy to their home groups. Please contact the Answering service committee for more details. If you know anyone who would like to be of service, please have them contact us at answeringservice@aasj.org.

Public Information: We have 4 programs scheduled at local high schools for members to talk in health classes and carry the message. We have also been invited to programs scheduled in evenings at local high schools to provide literature and meet with participants at Hidden In Plain Sight (a program run by the local police departments to educate parents and teens on alcohol and drug abuse). If anyone wishes to do service please contact Public Information at publicinfo@aasj.org.

From your Area 45 Delegate:

Your group's input is requested at the Area 45 Mini-Conference on May 4th 2019. Registration begins 8:30am, Mini-Conference from 9:00am – 12:00pm. Light breakfast provided. Carlslake Community Center, 209 Crosswicks Rd. Bordentown, NJ 08505

The 2019 General Service Conference Agenda Items be discussed at the miniconference. Come and learn about what's new and happening in Alcoholics Anonymous and issues affecting our fellowship as a whole. Everyone can vote. All AA members are welcome and encouraged to come. Come and share your opinion with our Delegate Rose before she attends the General Service Conference in New York and votes on our behalf. Your vote and opinions count and are very important! Please come share them! Hope to see you all there!

From GSO Corrections Correspondence Service:

Volunteers are needed to correspond with fellow A.A. members inside correctional facilities, particularly A.A. Men. Currently there are 200 male inmates waiting for an outside A.A. member to write to them. (Female A.A. members in prison can get linked right away, thanks to all the female volunteers who have signed up.) We need your help to alleviate this problem. Mail Call means everything for those incarcerated. One on one sharing – one A.A. member to another – helps both the insider as well as the outsider.

CCS is not a traditional pen pal service or automatic sponsorship service. This service offers the opportunity for A.A. members on the inside and the outside to share experience, strength and hope with each other via postal correspondence. G.S.O. only makes the initial connection, which is a random match between inmates with a drinking problem and outside members of the same gender who live in another region or province away from the correctional facility. The CCS program does not assign sponsors, but a sponsorship relationship may develop after the initial contact is made.

Sign up by completing the form on the Corrections Correspondence pamphlet (F-26) or by contacting Area45corrections@gmail.com.

Hospitals & Institutions:

SPEAKING COMMITMENTS

Hospitals and Institutions (H&I) is looking for speakers to visit the following facilities:

Please contact Frank or Debbie at handi@aaaj.org if you are able to take one of these commitments.

Sunday

Maryville Men's – Williamstown NJ May 19 2-3pm
1903 Grant Ave, Williamstown NJ

Inspira Psych Unit – Woodbury NJ May 5, 26 4-5pm
509 N Broad St, Woodbury NJ

Monday

Kingsway Recovery – Mullica Hill NJ May 27 7-8pm
124 Bridgeton Park, Mullica Hill NJ

Maryville Women's – Williamstown NJ May 27 8-9pm
1903 Grant Ave, Williamstown NJ

Tuesday

Virtua Psych Unit – Mt. Holly NJ May 14 8:30-9:30pm
175 Madison Ave, Mt. Holly NJ

Maryville Women's – Williamstown NJ May 7, 21 8-9pm
1903 Grant Ave, Williamstown NJ

Delaware House – Westampton NJ May 21 2-3pm 21
Ikea Drive, Westampton NJ

Wednesday

Jefferson MICA Unit – Cherry Hill NJ May 1, 29 12-1pm
2201 Chapel Ave W, Cherry Hill NJ

Unity Place I – Cherry Hill NJ May 1, 22, 29 12:40-1:30pm
1 Keystone Ave, Cherry Hill NJ

Solstice Counseling – Pemberton NJ May 29 12-1pm 300
Birmingham Road, Pemberton NJ

Northbrook Behavioral Health – Blackwood NJ May 22 8-9pm
425 Woodbury-Turnersville Rd, Blackwood NJ

Thursday

Ancora – Hammonton NJ May 16, 23, 30 7-8pm 202
Spring Garden Rd, Hammonton NJ

Lourdes Psych Unit – Willingboro NJ May 30 8-9pm 218
Sunset Rd, Willingboro NJ

Unity Place II – Hammonton NJ May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 10-11am
121 S. White Horse Pike, Hammonton, NJ

Pinelands Recovery (old building) – Medford NJ May 30 7-8pm
287 Old Marlton Pike, Medford NJ

Pinelands Recovery (new building) – Medford NJ May 16, 23 7-8pm
283 Old Marlton Pike, Medford NJ

Daybreak – MICA – Atco NJ May 16, 30 10:30am-12pm
368 White Horse Pike, Atco NJ

Friday

Seabrook Women – Bridgeton NJ May 31 7:30-8:30pm
133 Polk Ln, Bridgeton NJ

Maryville Women's – Williamstown NJ May 31 7-8pm
1903 Grant Ave, Williamstown NJ

Maryville Post House – Pemberton NJ May 3, 10, 17, 31 8-9pm
610 Browns Mills Road, Pemberton NJ

Saturday

Maryville Women's – Williamstown NJ May 4 7-8pm
1903 Grant Ave, Williamstown NJ

Inspira Psych Unit – Woodbury NJ May 18 4-5pm 509 N
Broad St, Woodbury NJ

Maryville Men's – Williamstown NJ May 4, 25 7-8pm
1903 Grant Ave, Williamstown NJ

Cooper Psych – Camden NJ May 4, 25 10:30-11:30am 1
Cooper Plaza, Camden NJ

Announcements & Things to do

Thursday, April 25th – YMOM (Young Men Of Moorestown) 8th Anniversary, Food & fellowship at 7:00PM - Meeting at 8:00 First Baptist Church 19 West Main Street, Moorestown. Enter through side door on left.

Thursday April 25th – Audubon (formerly Oaklyn) How It Works will celebrate their 32nd year at 7:00 PM Calvin Hall, 118 W. Merchant St. Audubon

April 26 - April 28 - Annual Spiritual Retreat for 2019 in Vineland, New Jersey. This year marks year number 12 for our retreat (a magical number!). Appropriately, our theme this year will be, Step 12 - A Spiritual Awakening". As always, our Retreat is being held on the weekend following Easter. More info call: Martin Perrotta - 856-313-9531

Saturday May 4 - Area 45 mini-conference which will be held at the Carlslake Community Center in Bordentown from 9 – 12. Light breakfast will be served and registration opens at 8:30am. Come out to help our Delegate prepare for the GSO Conference in late May.

Sunday, May 19th - Area 45 Spring Assembly, registration begins 8:30am, DCM/GSR Orientation 8:45am, Assembly 10:00am; Committee Meeting to follow. Elmer Grange Hall, Elmer NJ

This Month in A.A. History

May 12, 1935 – (Mothers' Day) - Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith met for the first time in Akron, Ohio, at the home of Henrietta Seiberling.

May 31, 1938 - Bill and other AA's began writing the Big Book

May 6, 1946 - The long form of the "Twelve Traditions" was published in the AA Grapevine.

May 29, 1980 - "Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers," AAWS biography of AA co-founder and a history of early Mid-west AA, was published.

(Brought to you by your Archives Committee)

Have YOU
talked with
a newcomer
this week ?