

The Beacon

Worcester Area Intergroup

Volume 5, Issue 2

Tradition Two

Tradition Two:

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

From The traditions Checklist:

1. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?
2. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibility?
3. Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?
4. Do I have to save face in

group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?

5. Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?

6. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

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Group Anniversaries

If your Group would like to announce their Anniversary in The Beacon, please call the Intergroup Office during their normal business hours.

Worcester Young Peoples Group will celebrate their anniversary on Feb. 18th, 2003. 7-8pm will be food, fellowship and fun. 8-9pm will be a 2 speaker meeting.

Inside this issue:

<i>Joint Treatment News</i>	2
<i>Bookie Board</i>	3
<i>Service Meetings</i>	4
<i>Letting My Sponsor Sponsor Me</i>	5
<i>Steering Committee</i>	6
<i>Timeline</i>	6
<i>IAAWC</i>	7

H.A.L.T.line is looking for volunteers to answer the phone from their homes when the office is closed. We currently have several hours open that need to be filled!! If you can help, even an hour a week please call Paul P. at (508) 752-9000.

Treatment Facilities needs groups to fill the new commitments that are coming up. Please see the article in this issue for more information.

Corrections Facilities is looking for people to get involved.

Public Information is looking for more people to get active with their committee.

Several of our Intergroup and District Committees are in need of help. Worcester Area Intergroup is trying to eliminate the need to have 'committees of one'. If you have one day a month you could devote to helping out on a Committee, please ask your Intergroup Delegate, GSR or call the Intergroup Office for more information.

Deadline....

.....for information to go into the March issue of The Beacon is February 14th, 2003.

Information can be sent to:

**Worcester Area Intergroup
100 Grove St., Suite 309
Worcester, MA 01605**

or e-mailed to:

BRANDYLH1@yahoo.com
(please use the word "beacon" in the subject line)



Step 2:

Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Worcester Area Intergroup
100 Grove St., Suite 309
Worcester, MA 01605
(508) 752-9000
(508) 752-0755 (fax)

www.aaworcester.org

Office Hours:

Monday 10am-2pm
Tuesday 10am-8pm
Wednesday 10am-8pm
Thursday 10am-8pm
Friday 10am-2pm
Saturday 9am-2pm
Sunday CLOSED

Joint Treatment Facility committee

****Request for information****

If your group currently has a commitment with any of the following treatment facilities ** please have your bookie contact the NEW treatment facility chair. we are trying to update our records for: Group contact Names & phone numbers & to find out when your commitment ends. I look forward to working with your group to help spread the message of recovery from Alcoholism. JTF-Chair Ellen McQ 508-752-9000 Treatment Facilities: ADCARE, Community Health Link, Spectrum Detox or residential, UMass 8th floor, Westboro state Hospital & Worcester Youth Guidance.

Joint treatment Facility committee

*****Request for information*****

If your Group is interested in taking a standing commitment with any of these treatment Facilities please have your bookie call the committee Liaisons. Ad Care - Maureen A 508-752-9000 Community Health Link - Ellen McQ 508-752-9000 U Mass Hospital - Elizabeth M. 508-752-9000 Worcester youth Guidance - Ellen McQ 508-752-9000 Westboro State Hospital - Janet L. 508-752-9000 Spectrum residential - Michael G. 508-752-9000

we are looking for help in spreading the message of recovery from Alcoholism. If you would like to attend our meetings we meet the 3rd Saturday of every month at Worcester Area Intergroup 10:00 am.

Bookie Board

Auburn Group (*Wednesdays 7:30-9pm*)

Tony B. (508) 752-9000

Aurora Group (*6:45pm-8pm*)

Deborah L. (508) 752-9000 leave message

Brookfield Sunday Morning (*Sun. 10am*)

Leon F. (508) 752-9000

Crozier (*Mondays 8-9:30pm*)

Brenda L. (508) 752-9000

Douglas Maintenance and Repair (*Thurs. 7-8pm*)

Pat O. (508) 752-9000

Dudley Day At A Time (*Thursdays 8:30-10pm*)

Kerry T. (508) 752-9000

Four Corners (Worcester): (*Wed. 8:00pm*)

John Y. (508) 752-9000

Groton Easy Duz It (*Tuesday 7:30pm*)

Joe F. (508) 752-9000

Leominster Original (*Mon 7:45-9:00pm*)

Ann P. (508) 752-9000

Millbury Traditions (*Saturdays 7:30pm-8:30pm*)

Carol (508) 752-9000

Spencer Fellowship (*Mon. 7:30pm*)

Anna R. (508) 752-9000

Stow Sunday: (*Sun. 11:00 am*)

Tom S. (508) 752-9000

Top of The Hill (*Wed. 8pm*)

Jeanne M. (508) 752-9000

Upton Capertown: (*Sat. 1:30pm*)

John H. (508) 752-9000

Webster Triton (*Sundays 7:30-9:00pm*)

Gail D. (508) 752-9000

Whitinsville GOYA (*Thurs. 8:00-9:30pm*)

Erin O. (508) 752-9000

Worcester Young People (*Tues. 7:30pm*)

Mike S. (508) 752-9000

Responsibility Declaration

I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

Upcoming

April 10-13, 2003 – EACYPA 1 – Hyatt Regency Cambridge. Contact Joe M. for more info (508) 752-9000.

ONLINE....

**Worcester Area Inter-
group**

<http://www.aaworcestert.org>

Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Office

<http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org>

Grapevine

<http://www.aagrapevine.org>



Service Meetings

INTERGROUP / DISTRICT 25

Steering Committee

St. Joan of Arc Church
570 Lincoln St.

Worcester

2nd Thursday

6:15pm

Intergroup Delegates

St. Joan of Arc Church
570 Lincoln St.

Worcester

2nd Thursday

7:00pm

Public Information

Intergroup Office

100 Grove St. # 309

Worcester

2nd Monday

7:00pm

Joint Treatment

Intergroup Office

100 Grove St. # 309

Worcester

3rd Saturday 10am

Joint Corrections

Intergroup Office

100 Grove St. # 309

Worcester

TBA

Social Committee

Intergroup Office

100 Grove St. # 309

Worcester

TBA

Beacon Committee

Intergroup Office

100 Grove St. # 309

Worcester

TBA

District 25 (GSR's)

St. Joan of Arc Church

570 Lincoln St.

Worcester

1st Tuesday

7:30pm

District 26 (GSR's)

Local 60 Union Hall

Mechanic St.

Leominster

1st Thursday

7-9pm

AREA 30

Eastern Mass. General Service Committee

St. John's

80 Mt. Auburn

Watertown

4th Wednesday

8:00pm

Grapevine Committee

Boston Central Service

368 Congress St. Lower Level

Boston

4th Sunday

1:00pm-3:00pm

CPC Committee

Boston Central Service

368 Congress St. Lower Level

Boston

2nd Thursday

7:00pm

Letting My Sponsor Sponsor Me

While I always thought he was a pretty bright guy, since I began actually *taking* the suggestions he gives me, (instead of just noting that they make good sense), my sponsor has mysteriously become *brilliant*. I asked him to sponsor me about 18 months ago when I realized though I still kept contact with the man that had taken me through the steps, I hadn't used him as a sponsor in a couple of years. I felt like I was a bit of a loose cannon, and was getting scared about the probability that my ego might balloon (more) without having someone to whom I was accountable.

So I asked a man I'll call Ralph, because I don't know anyone named Ralph. Why Ralph? Well, he was my tenth step pal, so he knew all my personal stuff anyway. I figured it would be an easy transition. I also respected him, and the program he worked. I admired the way he handled himself in the real world. He really did practice these principles in *all* his affairs, not just in a church basement for an hour. Ralph also had a sponsor, and was willing to be held accountable. I knew he was in pursuit of the truth because of all we had already shared. Because of the many tenth steps we had done together, I also knew he was human, and made mistakes regularly as I do.

In retrospect, I chose him partly because of ego. He was my tenth step friend, we finished our 5th steps around the same time, and frankly, my *ego had* ballooned to the point where I just couldn't find anyone deserving of the privilege of sponsoring me. So, I figured Ralph who was, in my estimation, my *equal*, was the best I could find.

I traveled another year down the path, telling myself I had a sponsor because I called Ralph every week and asked for suggestions. Yet, I continued to handle certain things myself. I did my best to listen at times, but always in the back of my mind was this desire to keep my image as a guy that has it figured out, a guy that might have difficulties, but is clearly connected with God and in no trouble. Subconsciously, it was still important for me to look good to some degree in my sponsor and friend's eyes.

A couple months ago, I was finally desperate enough to be humble. I had just finished reading a mini-fourth step, (or extended tenth step, call it what you will) that I had written. Humbled, I confessed what I had learned about my drive to impress him, to look good and to be a "guru", in spite of protestations that I never wanted that. I subconsciously believed that knowledge of the book, courting public opinion, and sounding good at meetings was the way to a healthy sobriety. Mind you, I had been duly warned about this and was on the watch, but had somehow slipped by my own security system in the dark of night. This inane notion needed to be smashed.

My struggles of the last month have been as a result of not trusting God in certain areas, in essence, remaining agnostic those areas. After a breakup with someone I really wanted to be with, I have been unable to trust God completely in the arena of relationships. I also haven't been able to trust God with my creative life. I kept coming back to believing I had to retrieve the past, there just wasn't going to be an opportunity ahead to *feel* what I had felt.

Humbled at last, and willing to listen, I called Ralph. He asked me point blank if I believed what it said on pg. 100. It was his favorite passage in the entire book [Alcoholics Anonymous](#).

"You and the new man must walk in the path of spiritual progress. If you persist _____, remarkable things will happen. When we look back, we realize that the things which came to us when we put ourselves in God's hands were better than anything we could have planned."

"When we look back," he repeated, "we realize that the things which came to us when we put ourselves in God's hands were better than anything we could have planned."

He paused, but before I could blurt out a pat answer or another quote, he said, "Do you believe that?"

"Yes," I answered, caught off guard for the moment.

"Do you believe it *intellectually*? Or do you *really* believe it...in your *gut*?"

"I really believe it."

"Why?"

He was pressing me. Ralph is a very subdued cat; he doesn't force an issue too often. I knew he meant business.

I prayed for second, and a few things tumbled out. First, I never thought I could stop drinking, not even for a day, and looking back, I hadn't really even *thought* about drinking for *years*. On top of that, I had seen and helped men recover from alcoholism that had truly appeared to be hopeless, doomed. Most importantly, I hadn't been able to predict what it would feel like to be *recovered*, because I had never felt at peace before, not really. There had been temporary oblivion while intoxicated, but no real serenity. I had since experienced in many times. You can't really explain what a spiritual awakening feels like to someone that hasn't had one. I couldn't possibly have predicted what it would feel like.

"What about the gambling?" Ralph asked.

That had escaped me completely. I hadn't gambled in five years. The strangest thing, that was. I still can't really explain it. After gambling since I was **nine** years old and almost every day since I started the football pool in junior high school, I had suddenly lost interest all together at about a year of sobriety. I was making book at the time (which I had been doing since I was about nineteen years old), and gave it up in the middle of football season. If that isn't an act of God, I don't what is. It was just *removed*.

"Oh yeah," I said.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Steering Committee & Committee Chairpersons

Chairperson – Brandy H.

Alternate Chair – Bob D.

Secretary – Tom B.

Treasurer – Kimball M.

Alternate Treasurer – Glen S.

Trustees – Enzo H., Darlene V., Billy S., Ellen Mc.

Office Manager - John H.

Treatment Facilities – Ellen Mc.

Correctional Facilities – Roosevelt S. (Alternate)

H.A.L.T.line – Paul P.

Social Committee – Natasha H. 

Public Information – John H.

Beacon Editor – Brandy H.

Liaison to District 25 – Kate F.

Liaison to Area 30 – Brandy H.

Alcathon Committee – Billy S.

If you need to speak to any of these people, you can leave a message at the Intergroup Office, 752-9000, and the staff will be happy to ask them to return your call.



I remembered how I never looked for or planned to meet the woman I now missed terribly. God had just kind of thrown us together. Sadness, yes, but also many beautiful moments I never believed could happen for me, feeling I thought I was too damaged to experience. I hadn't planned that, and in spite of the

painful breakup, I wouldn't change a second of what happened. I grew like a weed being with her, and helped her on her path, as well. I had never met a woman like her, and thank God today that I did. "Jeez," I then recalled, "I never looked for most of the good things that have happened to me."

Ralph didn't have to say the first part (God either is, or He isn't), "what is your choice to be?"

I said, "Thanks, Ralph, I think I get it," and hung up the phone. Amazing...he hadn't given me one opinion, hadn't told me to *do* anything. He had a way of simply asking questions that always seemed to lead me to truths I knew, but had just misplaced.

I briefly played over my options: A) the familiar pain B) the unknown, uncharted (and for some reason, still sometimes scary) territory of God's will

Surveying the claw marks on my self-will, I hit my knees, "God? PLEASE help me to see your will for me, and give me the Power to carry it out."

I'm getting the feeling that it's almost time to get excited again.

June 2002 to May 2003

February 13, 2003 – Nominations Committee appointed

March 13, 2003 – Nominations made for all officers and Committee chairpersons

April 10, 2003 – Elections and appointments

May 8, 2003 – New signature cards for bank account signed; Budgets proposed and voted on



**IAAWC 2003
Seattle**

**IAAWC
39th International AA
Women's Conference
Seattle, Washington
February 13-16, 2003**

**The Language of the Heart
will be Spoken Here**

Meet AA women from all over the world, share sobriety, hear national speakers, and participate in workshops while having fun and enjoying the wonderful fellowship.

Experience our great Pacific Northwest hospitality!

To obtain a registration form for the 2003 conference, please visit our website address www.iwc2003.org or send a self-addressed stamped legal-size envelope to the address below.

Registration Questions?

Sandy D. 508 752-9000
Gini T. ... IWC2003@hotmail.com
Lannette B. 508 752-9000

Mailing Address

39th IWC
PO Box 50493
Bellevue WA 98015

**DoubleTree Hotel
Seattle Airport**

18740 Pacific Highway S.
Seattle WA 98188
508 752-9000
Ask for IWC Rate!

Please join us in **Seattle** for a great weekend!

The Beacon Subscription Form

Get The Beacon delivered right to your home!!

Please print neatly!

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Please bring this form, along with \$5.00 for a one year subscription to the Intergroup Office, or mail to:

Worcester Area Intergroup

100 Grove Street Suite 309

Worcester, MA 01605

ATTN: Beacon

Checks may be made payable to: Worcester Area Intergroup

12 Step Volunteer Application

Name (First name and last initial): _____

Telephone Number: _____

Towns you will accept calls from: _____

Hours that you are available: _____

I wish to help: Males Only Females Only Both

Ages I am willing to work with: Teens 20 to 30 30 to 40 40 to 50 50 to 60 Over 60

Other (Please specify) _____

I am willing to: (please circle all that apply)

Talk to a person on the phone Go to a persons home to talk *

Give rides to AA Meetings Give rides to Detox *

Meet someone at a meeting Other (please specify) _____

*It is suggested that a person NOT go on a twelfth step call alone to help an alcoholic who is still suffering. Also you should NOT drive a wet drunk to a treatment facility (detox) without having another A.A. member with you. If you circled either of these items, please be sure that you have another member of A.A. that is willing to go along with you.