



THE ALTERNATIVE

INTERGROUP NEWSLETTER FOR THE READING AREA- February, 2002

S.O.S.

Help is urgently needed to CARRY THE MESSAGE, to the men and women confined in Berk's County Prison. It is my understanding that only one member has been consistent in chairing the women's meetings. Her dedication is greatly appreciated. However it is unfair for her to carry the burden of responsibility alone. Also, there has, to my knowledge, been no one carrying the message in to the men's prison. I don't know about you, but in my past drinking career, I should have been a resident, rather than a visitor.

Since being nominated, and approved for this position, I have spent a great deal of time and effort working with prison officials to restructure and streamline the clearance process. I have received my visitor's ID, and you will be seeing me from time to time chairing the men's meetings. It is my hope to find enough volunteers, to insure that one person would have to chair a meeting once a month. The load gets lighter when more people carry it. Bill said it all in the story of Bill W. "I was not too well at the time, and was plagued by waves of self pity and resentment. This sometimes nearly drove me back to drink, but I soon found that when other measures failed, working with another alcoholic would save the day!!" (Alcoholics Anonymous, pg. 15)

If you are a newcomer, get with an old-timer, and tag along to see what it's all about. If you have applied for clearance, but have not completed the process, please call me. If you have done this service work in the past, or currently have a clearance, please call me.

Remember, 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.

Sincerely,

Roy B. (Men's Prison Chair)

(610)682-0005

DBLTRAUMASURVIVR@aol.com

Editor's Note- - -

Roy has been working very hard to put this together. He can use help with donations of books and pamphlets, as well as more volunteers, for anyone wishing to get involved. .

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AA. Love is friendship that goes to any length. It is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving. It is loyalty through good times as well as bad. It settles for less than perfection and makes allowances for human weakness.

AA. Love is content with the present. It hopes for the future, and doesn't brood over the past. It's the day in and day out chronicles of irritations, problems, compromises, small disappointments, big victories and common goals.

-Anonymous-

Happy Valentine's Day

What Do You Think?

In the last 2 months, The Alternative has printed the web address of the NAIGSO (Native American Indian General Service Office). Because they have not yet been recognized as a GSO, there was an objection concerning our printing of their address. One of the criteria for being seated at WSO is that there only be one GSO per country, or geographical location, unless there is more than one primary language spoken, and the U.S.A. already has a GSO. An effort has been made to determine if the NAIGSO is in fact a group of individuals. I have contacted different alcoholics from all around AA to get their opinions, and their impressions of the websight in question. Not counting the original objection, out of twenty-five responses, there has been a concern voiced by one other individual. The remaining responses were positive, and approving of both NAIGSO's standing as AA's, and of our listing their websight in our newsletter and on our own websight.

In making contact with the GM of NAIGSO, I received the following answers to the same questions I would ask any of our new groups. 1) Is membership in your groups restricted to Native people? ans....NO. 2) Do you admit anyone to be members regardless of their race, color, or background? ans....YES. 3) Do your meetings have secretaries, treasurers, chairpersons? ans....YES. 4) Do you follow the traditions? ans....YES. 5) Do you make contributions to the various service entities? ans....YES. I have the letter that I received, should anyone wish to read it.

What I am asking everyone to do, is take a look at their websight if you have a computer, and give us your impressions by e-mailing me, or by having your intergroup representative pass on to us your thoughts. This is your newsletter, and our websight is yours, so the decision as to whether or not to list their websight is also yours. Only you, the groups can make that decision.

Let me know what you think, and I will make a decision on it. I will make the decision, but I will decide to make it a case you can all see, and let us know what you think. The web address is <www.naigso.org>. I might add that this became a question, when a question was raised. It is my responsibility to take this matter to the groups. I am, but, your trusted servant.

In Service,

Jimmie C.

The current version of the newsletter is available at www.naigso.org.

"Humor"

A man drinks a shot of whiskey every night before bed. After years of this the wife wants him to quit, so she gets 2 shot glasses, filling 1 with water the other with whiskey. She gets him to the table with the glasses and has his bait box there too. She says "I want you to see this." She puts a worm in the water, it swims around. She puts a worm in the whiskey and the worm dies. She says "so what do you have to say about this experiment?" He says "If I DRINK WHISKEY I WON'T GET WORMS!"

"People who don't understand this disease look at us as handicapped. However, you don't see them giving us our own special parking places at the Mall."

Anyone celebrating an A.A. Anniversary, and would like it printed in the Alternative, please contact Jimmie C., with the details. Make sure you notify me in plenty of time.

Contact Jimmie C. for more information about the events listed in *The Alternative*, including copies of the flyers and accompanying letters if any.

NERAASA 2002 ELEVENTH ANNUAL NORTHEAST REGIONAL ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS SERVICE

ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 22, 23 AND 24, 2002, PITTSBURGH, PA.

"SHARING OUR STEPS, TRADITIONS AND CONCEPTS" (2002 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE THEME) CONTACT ARLENE H., CHAIRPERSON AT 724-745-1985, OR E-MAIL: ARMH49@AOL.COM

"Humor"

An Alcoholic's Reasoning..... A herd of buffalo can move only as fast as the slowest buffalo and, when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular culling of the weakest members.

In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as its slowest brains cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, as we all know, kills off brain cells. Naturally, the alcohol attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first, as a result, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, constantly making the brain a faster and more efficient machine.....

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The next meeting for the 17th annual RAAAC (Reading Area Alcoholics Anonymous Conference) is on February 17, 2002. All are welcome. To be held at Easy Does It on Walnut St. with a Super Buffet. Please attend.

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Groups in Attendance: Time To Start Living, Boyertown, Alpha, Books and People, Lifeline, Nolde Forest, Robesonia, Tomalo Con Calma, Turning Pt., Walnut St., Morgantown, Leesport, Kutztown, Birdsboro, Districts 33, 66, & 67, as well as the Websight Manager. WELCOME to Scott from Books and People (His first time in attendance)

MANY THANKS!! to the following groups for their contributions to the General Fund: Walnut St., ES&H, Advent Men's Group, Leesport Group, Women's Living Sober, Wilshire Fellowship Group, WIRES, Walnut St. (again). THANKS!!! also to Wilshire Fellowship Group for their contribution to the Activity Fund. GREAT GOING!!!

Anyone having any ideas for other events besides the Intergroup Picnic, Please pass them on to Lori R., or any of the Intergroup Officers. Thanks!!

I have schedules and contact numbers for meetings out of the Reading area, call Bonnie!!!!!! Some of this information includes out-of-state and overseas meetings.

*****Reading Intergroup has no outside affiliations. We exist as a central office to serve Alcoholics Anonymous groups in the Reading area*****

www.ReadingIntergroup.Org

Come look at our websight. It has the latest information, meeting schedules, service commitments, The Alternative, and much more. Visit our site, and please sign the guestbook, and give the websight manager your impressions and thoughts. He is doing a wonderful job, and has helped us have one of the best websights around. It only takes a moment, and he would appreciate your comments.

WEBSITES&email

Akron Intergroup-website: www.akronaa.org

A.B.E. Intergroup-website:www.aaly.org

Connecticut AA- website: www.ct-aa.org

East Bay Intergroup, Inc. (Oakland, CA)-

website: www.eastbayaa.org

Fresno-website: ww.fresnoaa.org

email: fresnoaa@psnw.com

GSO(General Service Office)-website: www.alcoholics-anonymous.org

GSO Archives-email: archives@aa.org

The Grapevine-website: www.aagrapevine.org

Houston Intergroup-website:www.aahouston.org

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous of Ireland-

email: ala@indigo.ie

Maine AA- website: www.maineetoday.koz.com/maine/aa

Minneapolis Intergroup-website:www.aaminneapolis.org

www.aaphoenix.org

www.district38-aa.org (Pottstown and vicinity)

SEPIA-website: www.sepernaa.org

Reading Intergroup

Bonnie C.: JTBSFRIEND@aol.com

Jimmie C.: Dblwinrjimmie@aol.com

Stan S.: ssoudt@aol.com

Greg Mc.: flint337@hotmail.com

Jay K.: TKUPI@aol.com

Traci D.: Soberwench@aol.com

Ron S.: rualright111@yahoo.com

Glenn L.: ezduzitglenn@msn.com

You can get applications to help with the meetings at the men's prison from Terry M., 610-944-3167, or e-mail: tmaa93@ptd.net. Jimmie C. has applications as well. Completed applications go to *Bridging the Gap*, P.O. Box 301, Blandon, PA 19510. Thank you for your help! We are getting a good response, thank you from us, and from those incarcerated.

Mike L. is head of the Public Information Committee for District 33. Contact him at 610-926-4753, or ALPHALEH@aol.com

Intergroup will begin planning this summer's picnic soon. If you are interested in helping out with the planning committee, please notify an Intergroup officer, and volunteer your time(it doesn't take much). We need to start early to insure that we get the park we want, reserved. Reservations for Camp Joy fill up very fast, so we must start planning as soon as possible. There is plenty to do. Thanks!!

Ann L. is the Grapevine Rep. for District 66, contact her at 610-589-5955

Institutional Commitments for February, 2002

CHILDREN'S HOME

Sundays at 7:30p.m.

3-Leesport

10-Time To Start Living

17-Alpha

24-Walnut St.

ST. JOE'S SMH UNIT

Mondays at 7p.m.

4-Turning Pt.

11-Robeson Rd.

18-Jimmie C.

25-Walnut St.

WERNERSVILLE

Tuesdays at 7p.m.

5-Time To Start Living

12-Leesport

19-Time To Start Living

26-Boyerstown

WERNERSVILLE

Thursdays at 11a.m.

7-Time To Start Living

14-OPEN

21-OPEN

28-Turning Pt.

READING DETOX

Thursdays at 8p.m.

7-Morgantown

14-Walnut St.

21-Nolde Forest

28-Walnut St.

CHILCHAT

Thursdays at 8p.m.

7-Nolde Forest

14-Boyerstown

21-Morgantown

28-Turning Pt.

Please notify anyone at intergroup if you cannot make your commitment!! If you take one for your group, make sure the person agreeing to go has a substitute if they can't make it. If you would like to go to the St. Joe's meeting, contact Melanie at the hospital first to see if there are any AA's there. 610-378-2092. If you are interested in particulars about Chil Chat, contact the Alcoholism Clinic Director for inpatient, at 610-673-2332, Ext. 2497. When sending group members to commitments, it's great to double up. Send a newer AND an older member, and everyone will benefit.

Volunteers are desperately needed to help conduct the women's prison meetings. Come if you can. In this newsletter, PLEASE we need your help!

Please support the new AA group, the new group, on Wednesday nights at Hope Lutheran Church, at front & Greenwich Streets, in Reading. This is an open discussion meeting.

Any groups having an anniversary, or another AA announcement, please contact Jimmie C., to have it printed in the Alternative.

Please send any articles, stories, recovery jokes or cartoons to the Alternative. Tell us part of your story, or something funny from your life in AA. We are always looking for contributions to print in our newsletter. It can be a rewarding experience. Please make your submission before the next Alternative goes to print. THANKS!!

Please contact Glenn(Archives), if you have some old group information and some old stories of meetings in the Reading area. His phone # is, 610-404-4738

Nikki P. is the Area 59 Grapevine Representative. Contact her at 610-562-0507 or email Grapelady33@aol.com

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND INTERGROUP MEETINGS. Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month, at 7:30pm, at the UGI building on route 10, just up the road from Queen City Diner. Please come out and show your support. See your group's representative for Intergroup meeting minutes.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2002.

Call Jimmie C. for numbers for District contacts. We have 3 districts in our area: 33, 66 and 67. Everyone is welcome there as well.

Chairperson: Jimmie C. 610-944-5043 Alternate Chair: Jay K. 610-376-6343
Secretary: Traci D. 610-404-8923 Treasurer: Bonnie C. 610-478-7049
Hotline: "Flip" S. 610-378-4740 Schedules: Traci D. 610-404-8923
Alternative: Jimmie C. 610-944-5043 Books & Literature: Ron S. 610-779-3927
Women's Prison: Chris H. 610-371-0102 Men's Prison: Roy B. 610-682-0005
Archives: Glenn L. 610-404-4738 Institutions: Stan S. 610-375-1441
Unity: Lori R. 610-942-0685 Spanish Liaison: Angel R. 610-372-2438
District 33 Liaison: Jimmie C. 610-944-5043 --Tomalo Con Calma: 610-685-2260
Websight: info@readingintergroup.org

We would like to see more Reading Area groups listed in the Eastern United States directory, a confidential publication. This is very useful for traveling A.A.'s. GSO depends upon the GSRs from the individual groups to supply them with the information, and will only issue corrections from the GSRs. Bonnie has that directory for reference, as well as the Western directory and the Canadian directory.

Telephone#s of other Intergroups in Area 59:

ABE: 610-882-0558 Lebanon: 717-274-1649
Harrisburg: 717-234-5390 SEPIA: 215-923-7900
Northeastern PA: 570-654-0488 or 800-924-0560
Intergroupal Hispania De PA: 215-229-3800
Cumberland Valley (in Carlisle): 717-243-5195
Lancaster: 717-394-3238
York: 717-854-4617

Please pass this message along: the majority of calls to our answering service have been for information. Most of this information is on the schedules & the website, and in the *Alternative*. We would appreciate if you would check these sources first, then your donations will go that much further!

Anyone out there have an address, telephone, email, or website of another intergroup that someone may be interested in? Please let Jimmie C. Know.

If you have some spare time, and would like to help with one of our committees, please let someone at Intergroup know. Your help would be appreciated.

The Men's Prison meeting needs help. If you have clearance already, go for it! Please contact Roy B., the new chairman for men's prison with Reading Intergroup, at 610-682-0005, for more information. Share your experience, strength and hope

Cell 434-333-0360