

SOBER NEWS

NEW YORK INTER-GROUP – FALL 2009

307 Seventh Avenue (28th Street), Room 201, New York, NY 10001-6007

(212) 647-1680; (914) 949-1200; TDD for the deaf: (212) 647-1649; Fax: (212) 647-1648

Website: www.nyintergroup.org (includes Meeting List)

E-mail: sobernews@nyintergroup.org

I am responsible...

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,

I want the hand of A.A. always to be there,

And for that I am responsible.

Return to Service

I question myself at every opportunity when service is needed. I can hear that committee in my head say "I'm sure there is someone who could do a better job." Luckily for me, I have supportive AA friends and a sponsor who reminds me that it's AA service, so I could do the best job.

So again I've taken the leap into what I refer to as real adult service.

I had the privilege to serve on The New York Inter-Group Steering Committee in 2001 and 2002 as our Public Information Committee chair. I still get chills when I talk about what doing that service commitment offered me. Just to see the look of one kid in a school assembly who may have gotten the message, or the teacher, nurse, social worker or guidance counselor who is filled with gratitude that we came to share about AA made the service a source of joy and gratitude for me.

So for the times spent at committee meetings, asking every AA friend for help or making more calls for directions then I ever want to recall, that chill is worth it all.

When the opportunity was offered to consider being the alternate New York Inter-Group Steering Committee chair (talk about real adult service), after my initial self-centered fear passed, I thought "alternate!" Hey, I just finished a two-year commitment as alternate chair of the SENY "doctors' program." Well, I guess it's my time to get this "Standing-by-just-in-case" thing down. As everyone knows who does service, however, there is no "standing by" AA.

After attending two steering committee meetings, I am humbled by the opportunity I have been given: to be a part of something as special as Twelve-Step work at its core, to have personally experienced what my favorite

line from Tradition Four so beautifully states: "We had discovered that there was perfect safety in the process of trial and error" and to be among people who are dedicated to their sobriety and their society.

I know that there is nothing "alternate" about my commitment. As we all know, "If you want to keep it, you have to give it away." This is precisely how it works. This is grace made visible. I am so happy to be back.

Kathleen Mc., Manhattan;

Alternate Chair,

New York Inter-Group Steering Committee

Does Your Home Group Want to Open a Bank Account?



You can learn how an AA group opens a bank account from New York Inter-Group Executive Secretary Sean K. at (212) 647-1680.

The Big Meeting and the Bill W. Dinner: How Do We Get Those Speakers???

We choose the speakers for the Big Meeting and for the Bill W. Dinner by committee, called the Speaker Selection Committee. I have had the pleasure of chairing this committee for the Big Meeting in 2008 and the Bill W. Dinner in 2009. The best aspect of these experiences has been the opportunity to grow up a bit more and to face some of my more annoying character defects. Organization has not been my strong suit. While this is perfectly fine with me, when working with others, the 'do it my way, as long as it gets done' attitude isn't the most considerate way to operate. I have also really enjoyed getting to know so many new friends in recovery. I have formed bonds with Speaker Selection Committee members, as well as friendships with a number of the nominated speakers. Working with meeting chairs, borough representatives and New York Inter-Group Steering Committee members - to schedule meetings and to solve problems - has been both enjoyable and rewarding.

My job as chair of the Speaker Selection Committee was to collect the nomination forms, schedule meetings where the committee will hear the nominees, while keeping track of *everything* during this process. The final, challenging, task of the committee— for both events - is to select, and agree on, the speakers and alternate speakers. I learned to manage these final meetings so that everyone had the opportunity to express an opinion and to contribute to the process. Much work and organization are needed to make, and return, the many necessary phone calls, to schedule, and reschedule meetings where the eighty some nominees can be heard. Mishaps occurred, some, my fault. When none of the three nominees showed up at a particular meeting, it turned out that I had given them the incorrect meeting time. Resolving that was a growth opportunity. Suggestions that I took, for example to make reminder calls to scheduled speakers, helped to minimize these faux pas.

The bottom line: a group of AAs were committed to selecting the most effective speakers that we could find to carry the message of AA. We got practice in helping, asking for help, being patient and appreciating the patience of others. We were able to feel gratitude for the willingness of so many to get involved and to see the task through to completion. After the Big Meeting of 2008, I told myself that in future I would let others undertake this kind of responsibility. I was surprised myself by my willingness to do it all over

again for this year's Bill W. Dinner. In fact, I did not hesitate. From my service for the 2008 Big Meeting, which was a great success, I gained a great deal. I plan to attend these events yearly, making myself available to assist that year's speaker selection chairs from my experience, strength and hope.

John H., Manhattan

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What on Earth is Public Information?

Most of you know that we AAs carry our message into prisons and treatment facilities. In this setting, we share our experience, strength and hope exactly as we would in any AA meeting.

Three public information committees, at New York Inter-Group, General Service Office (GSO) and the General Service Committee/Southeastern New York (SENY) perform a different kind of service, in which we do not focus on our individual stories, but tell people what AA is all about and also what AA is not. This service is called "public information."

New York Inter-Group principally provides speakers at schools, senior centers and community groups who have requested one.

To qualify to represent the Public Information Committee of New York Inter-Group, you are required to attend an orientation session at the New York Inter-Group office at 1 PM on the first or the third Sunday of the month. You will receive an outline, each component of which will be explained in detail.

The need for speakers, especially in Queens, Brooklyn and the Bronx, is great. When I speak to high school students, I am particularly gratified that these young people are learning that help is available, anonymously, in a safe and loving setting which has seen millions of recoveries.

David A., Manhattan;
Chair, New York Inter-Group Public Information
Committee

Celebrate Bill W.'s Anniversary!

November 7, 2009

1 PM – 3 PM: Old Timers' Meeting

6:45 PM – 1:00 AM: Dinner, open meeting and dancing

Tickets needed for the evening event:

\$100.00 at New York Inter-Group

A caller asks:

What Is the International Convention???

IG volunteer: AA, can I help you?

Caller: I have been hearing about the 2010 Alcoholics International Convention. Tell me more about it.

IG volunteer: The 2010 International Convention will be a celebration of AA's seventy-fifth anniversary. This event is held every five years, the last one, in 2005, in Toronto, Canada.

Caller: When is it and where will be?

IG volunteer: It will be held July 1-4, 2010, in San Antonio, Texas.

Caller: How do I sign up to go?

IG volunteer: You can get a registration form, as well as housing information from the General Service Office (GSO) online via e-mail, by fax or by snail mail.

Caller: How much does it cost?

IG volunteer: The registration fee is \$95.00, payable by credit card, check or money order.

Caller: I thought that I didn't have to pay to go an AA event.

IG volunteer: Attendance at an AA convention is voluntary – it is paid for by those AAs who participate in it.

Caller: How do I get a hotel room?

IG volunteer: After you have registered, you will be able to sign up for housing with AA World Service (AAWS) Housing Bureau, established for this event. Rooms will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Rooms available through the Housing Bureau will have specially negotiated convention rates.

Caller: Where do I go if I have more questions?

IG volunteer: Keep watching www.aa.org, where you will see a clickable icon: 75 Years San Antonio – 2010 International Convention. There are at present four links to varying areas of information, for example, registration and San Antonio hotels. Additional information will be added as necessary.

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NY Inter-Group belongs to you:

Has your group considered inviting speakers from New York Inter-Group to lead your meeting? You'll hear a great story; a little about how the volunteers at New York Inter-Group make life-saving connections with the still-suffering alcoholic; and what kind of service opportunities are available at New York Inter-Group. For more information or to schedule New York Inter-Group speakers to come to your group, please contact Sean K. at the New York Inter-Group office at (212) 647-1680; or Dorothy D., Group Relations Committee Chair, at (212) 683-3779.

Sober News is Online, Too

Sober News can be viewed online, at nyintergroup.org. Click on the *newsletter/Calendar of events* link. You will need a pdf.-file reader to open *Sober News* online.

Has being an inter-group delegate enhanced your sobriety? Share your **SOBER NEWS with us by mail, E-mail or fax, shown at the top of page one of this issue.**

Give Inter-Group the Scoop

Is your group planning a special meeting, an alkathon or a group anniversary celebration? **Are there holidays when your meeting will be closed?** New York Inter-Group needs to know so we can **spread the word**. Looking for a special event? **Call New York Inter-Group for the scoop!**

Celebrate with New York Inter-Group's Anniversary Club!

Here's how:

Send your name, address and anniversary month to New York Inter-Group. During your anniversary month, you'll get a **congratulations!** card from New York Inter-Group. At that time, you may send a 7th-Tradition donation in gratitude for the gift of sobriety. A suggested guideline is one dollar for every year you have been sober. (Or, you could use the wreckage of your past to help carry the message by sending this amount for every year you drank!) (AA General Service Conference guidelines specify that an individual is permitted to donate an annual maximum of three thousand dollars.)

NEW YORK INTER-GROUP CALENDAR OF EVENTS, SEP, OCT, NOV, 2009

Office Telephone & Call Forwarding Volunteer Orientation, New York Inter-Group office, 307 7th Ave, @ 27th & 28th Sts, Rm 201, Manh, 10001. Orientations are held Mon between 9 A.M. & 1:30 P.M. Wed, Thu & Fri between 6 P.M. & 9 P.M. & Sat between 1:30 P.M. & 6 P.M. No appointment is necessary for those time periods. If you are unable to attend one of the listed times, contact a NY Inter-Group staff member at (212) 647-1680 to arrange a convenient orientation time. One-year of continuous sobriety is required to answer telephones at NY Inter-Group.

September 13th : 2009 Bill W. Dinner Planning Committee Meeting. @ New York Inter-Group Office, 307 7th Ave, @ 27th & 28th Sts, Rm 201, Manh, 10001. Meeting will begin at 1:00pm.

September 17th : Manhattan Corrections and Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting. 6:30 P.M., @ N.Y. Inter-Group, 307 7th Ave, Rm 201, @ 27th & 28th Sts, Manh, 10001. 3rd Thu ea, month, same time/location.

September 17th : Queens Corrections and Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting. 7 P.M., Christ Congregational church 85-27 91st St, @ 85th Road Church Hall on Grnd Fl Woodhaven 11421. 3rd Thu ea. month, same time/loc.

September 18th : Bronx Corrections and Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting. 7:00 P.M., @ St. Nicholas of Tolentine, @ Fordham Rd & Andrews Ave, University Heights group meeting place, Bronx, 10468 Meets on the 3rd Fri each month, same time/location.

September 19th : Westchester Area Forum. 9:30 A.M., First Baptist Church, in the Wilson House, Bryant Ave & North St, enter parking lot on Bryant Ave, White Plains, N.Y. 10605. Meets on the 3rd Sat every other month, same time & location.

September 19th : Bronx Area Forum. 11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M., Bedford Park Congregational Church, 3008 Bainbridge Ave, Gunhill grp mtg place, Bx, 10458. Meets on the 3rd Sat every other month, same time/loc.

September 19th : Queens Area Forum. 4:00 P.M., Good Shepherd Meth., 30-44 Crescent St, enter by 30th Rd. 3rd Sat every other month, same time/loc.

September 21st : Telephone Volunteers Committee Meeting. 6:30 P.M., New York Inter-Group Office, 307 7th Ave, (@ 27th & 28th Sts), Rm 201, Manh, 10001. (Meeting will be held every other month; call the New York Inter-Group Office for date & time.)

September 26th : Brooklyn Corrections and Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting. 1:00 P.M., 103 Quincy St (basement), between Franklin & Classon Aves, Daily Reflection Workshop meeting place, Brooklyn, 11238. The meeting is held on the last Sat of the month; same time & location.

September 26th : Brooklyn Area Forum. 2:00 P.M., Queen of All Saints Church, 300 Vanderbilt Ave, betw Lafayette & Dekalb Ave, Bklyn, 11205. Army Plaza group mtg place. 3rd Sat every other month, same time/loc.

September 28th : Staten Island Corrections and Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting. 7:00 P.M., How Club 552 Port Richmond Ave., SI, 10302. 4th Mon ea month, same time/loc. Orientation 6:30pm, meeting 7:00pm.

October 10th : Corrections and Treatment Facilities Literature Packing. 10 A.M., New York Inter-Group Office, 307 7th Ave, @ 27th & 28th Sts, Rm 201, Manh., 10001. Literature packing is done on the 2nd Sat of each month, same time and location. **Newcomers always welcome!**

October 10th : Spanish Language Corrections and Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting. 3:00 P.M., Oficina Central Hispania de A.A., 2234 1st Ave @ 120th St, Manh, 10029. 2nd Sat ea, month, same time/loc.

October 13th : Westchester Corrections and Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting. 7:30 P.M., @ Immaculate Conception Church, 199 North Bway, 2nd floor, Tarrytown Pocantico Hills; group mtg place, @ College Ave, Rte 9, Sleepy Hollow 10591. 2nd Tue ea. month same time/loc.

October 15th : Staten Island Area Forum. Immanuel Lutheran Church 2018 Richmond Ave Between. Rockland Ave & Signs Rd. SI, N.Y. 10314. Mtg every other month, same time/location.

October 15th : Manhattan Corrections and Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting. 6:30 P.M., NY Inter-Group Office, 307 7th Ave, Rm 201, @ 27th & 28th Sts, Manh, 10001. Meets the 3rd Thu each month, same time/loc.

October 15th : Queens Corrections and Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting. 7 P.M., Christ Congregational 85-27 91st St, @ 85th Road Church Hall on Ground Fl Woodhaven, 11421. 3rd Thu ea. month, same time/loc.

October 16th : Bronx Corrections and Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting. 7:00 P.M., St. Nicholas of Tolentine, @ Fordham Rd & Andrews Ave, Univ Hghts grp mtg place Bx, 10468 3rd Fri ea month, same time/loc..

October 26th : Staten Island Corrections and Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting. 7:00 P.M., How Club 552 Port Richmond Ave, SI, N.Y. 10302. Meets the 4th Mon each month, same time/location. Orientation 6:30; mtg 7pm.

October 31st : Brooklyn Corrections & Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting. 1 P.M., 103 Quincy St, betw Franklin & Classon Ave, Daily Reflect Wkshp grp mtg place, Bklyn, 11238. Last Sat ea. month, same time/loc.

Oct TBA: Manhattan Area Forum. New York Inter-Group Office, 307 7th Ave, @ 27th & 28th Sts, Rm 201, Manh., 10001. Meets every other month, same time/location. Call the NY Inter-Group for date of next meeting.

Oct TBA: 2009 Bill W. Dinner Planning Committee Meetings: @ New York Hilton Hotel, 1335 Ave of the Americas, Meet in center of lobby. Call NY Inter-Group office for any further information.

November 7th : 2009 Bill W. Dinner Afternoon Program, Old Timers' Meeting. 1:00P.M-3:00P.M @ New York Hilton Hotel 1335 Ave of the Americas, Manh., 10019, between 53rd & 54th Sts, in the Beekman Parlor & Sutton North suites, 2nd Floor.

November 7th : 2009 Bill W. Dinner. Doors Open At 6:45pm, Dinner is served promptly at 7:00pm @ New York Hilton Hotel 1335 Ave of the Americas, Manh. 10019, between 53rd & 54th Sts, in the Grand Ballroom, 3rd fl.

November 10th : Group Relations Committee Meeting. 6:30 P.M., New York Inter-Group, 307 7th Ave, @ 27th & 28th Sts, Rm 201, Manh., 10001.

November 10th : Westchester Corrections and Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting. 7: 30 P.M., @ Immaculate Conception Church, 199 North Broadway, 2nd floor, Tarrytown Pocantico Hills; group meeting place. @ College Ave, Route 9. Sleepy Hollow, N.Y. 10591. Meeting is held on the 2nd Tue each month same time/location.)

November 14th : Corrections and Treatment Facilities Literature Packing. 10 A.M., @ N.Y. Inter-Group Office, 307 7th Ave, @ 27th & 28th Sts, Rm 201, Manh, 10001. Literature packing is done on the 2nd Sat of each month, same time/loc. **Newcomers always welcome.**

November 14th : Spanish Language Corrections and Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting. 3:00 P.M., Spanish Intergroup Office, Oficina Central Hispania de A.A., 2234 First Ave @ 120th St Manh., 10029, Meeting is held on the 2nd Sat each month, same time/location.

November 19th : Manhattan Corrections and Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting. 6:30 P.M., @ N.Y. Inter-Group, 307 7th Ave, Rm 201, @ 27th & 28th Sts, Manh., 10001. 3rd Thu ea. month, same time/loc.

November 19th : Queens Corrections and Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting. 7 P.M., Christ Congregational church 85-27 91st St, @ 85th Rd Church Hall on Ground Floor Woodhaven, NY 11421. Meets the 3rd Thu each month, same time/location.

November 20th : Bronx Corrections and Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting. 7:00 P.M., @ St. Nicholas of Tolentine, @ Fordham Rd & Andrews Ave, University Heights group mtg place, Bx, 10468 Meets the 3rd Fri each month, same time and/location.

November 21st : Westchester Booking Meeting. 6:30 A.M Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, between North & Mamaroneck Aves, White Plains, N.Y. 10605. Next date and time will be announced.

November 21st : Westchester Area Forum. 9:30 A.M., First Baptist Church, the Wilson House, Bryant Ave & North St, enter parking lot on Bryant Ave, White Plains, 10605. Meets the 3rd Sat every other month, same time/location.

November 21st : Bronx Area Forum. 11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M., Bedford Park Congregational Church, 3008 Bainbridge Ave, Gunhill grp mtg place, Bx, 10458. Meeting is held on the 3rd Sat every other month, same time/location.

November 21st : Brooklyn Area Forum. 2:00 P.M., Queen of All Saints Ch., 300 Vanderbilt Ave, betw. Lafayette & Dekalb Aves, Bklyn, 11205, Army Pl group mtg place. 3rd Sat every other month, same time/location.

November 21st : Queens Area Forum. 4:00 P.M., Good Shepherd Methodist Church, 30-44 Crescent Street Astoria, NY 11102 Enter on 30th Rd, bsmt. Meets 3rd Sat every other month, same time/location.

November 23rd : Staten Island Corrections and Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting. 7:00 P.M., How Club 552 Port Richmond Ave, SI, 10302. Meets the 4th Mon ea. month, same time/loc. Orientation 6:30. Mtg 7pm.

November 28th : Brooklyn Corrections and Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting. 1:00 P.M., 103 Quincy St, Between Franklin & Classon Ave, Basement, Daily Reflection Workshop group meeting place, Bklyn, 11238. Meets last Sat each month, same time/location.

Nov TBA: Telephone Volunteers Committee Meetings: New York Inter-Group Office, 307 7th Ave, (@ 27th & 28th Sts), Rm 201, Manh., 10001. Meets every other month; call NY Inter-Group for date & time.

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Are your name and number on file at New York Inter-Group for Twelfth-Step calls?