

SOBER NEWS

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(The Meeting List included)

Update on the Fourth Edition of the Big Book

The Fourth Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* has been selling like the proverbial hotcakes since the first printing rolled off the presses on November 12th. A complimentary copy was sent to each U.S. and Canada group on G.S.O.'s mailing list as well as copies to Intergroup/Central Offices.

Here are a few of the questions that G.S.O. responded to:

- Q.** How many stories were carried over from the Third Edition?
- A.** Our October/November issue of *Box 4-5-9* indicated that there were 16 stories forwarded from the Third Edition of the Big Book. The blurb on the dust jacket also says 16, since the jackets were printed earlier. When the Fourth Edition arrived at groups, lo and behold, those who were sober and love to count found that there were the following 17 stories forwarded from the Third Edition of the Big Book: Alcoholics Anonymous Number Three, Women Suffer Too, The Vicious Cycle, Another Change, The Man Who Mastered Fear, He Sold Himself Short, The Keys of the Kingdom, Jim's Story, Fear of Fear, The Housewife Who Drank at Home, Physician, Heal Thyself, It Might Have Been Worse, Me An Alcoholic?, Acceptance Was the Answer, Our Southern Friend, Freedom From Bondage, and A.A. Taught Him to Handle Sobriety.
- Q.** Why was the 17th story added?
- A.** The goal of G.S.O.'s Publications Department was for the page count of the Fourth Edition to be similar to the Third Edition. In order to achieve that goal a 17th story was added. This had been discussed by both the trustees' and Conference Literature Committees and authorization was given to the Publications Department to add a 17th story if space permitted. As a result "The Vicious Cycle" was added to the original 16 stories recommended by the Fourth Edition Big Book Subcommittee.
- Q.** Why was there a title change?
- A.** We have also been asked why there was a title change from "Doctor, Alcoholic, Addict" in the Third Edition to "Acceptance Was the Solution" in the Fourth Edition. As reported to the 2000 Conference Literature Committee by the trustees' Literature Committee, the 1998/99 Subcommittee on the Fourth Edition of the Big Book had asked the G.S.O. Publications Department to recommend a new title for this story to better reflect the spiritual content contained in the text.
- Q.** Why does the dust jacket cite that 21 million copies of the first three editions were sold, yet the Preface records 13,148,500?
- A.** Twenty-one million refers to the total distribution of the Big Book in all formats. The figures in the Preface refer to the hardback editions only.
- Q.** Can I still order hardcover first printings of the Fourth Edition?
- A.** The complete inventory of hardcover first printings of the Fourth Edition has been sold. We are now distributing second printings and the third printing has been ordered. For those who keep track of numbers the first printing was 400,000, the second hardcover printing was 200,000, and the anticipated third printing is 200,000.

Reprinted, with permission, from *Box 4-5-9 News and Notes from the General Service Office of A.A., February-March, 2002.*

N.Y. Inter-Group's Meeting List is online at:

www.nyintergroup.org

Stormy Weather

I was about one and one half years sober when I took my first trip in sobriety. It was with twenty people traveling in a car caravan from Davenport, Iowa to Breckenridge, Colorado. I knew only two other people on the trip – my supposed best friend, with whom I'd had a very tense relationship since getting sober, and one of my roommates who today remains a very good friend.

Before I left, my A.A. friend Ray gave me his five-year chip. Ray told me to hold onto that chip and, if I got into trouble, to think of him and know that I would be okay. I took it, not realizing just how much I would need it.

The trip started out well, but when we hit Omaha, we ran smack into a blizzard. We stopped at a run-down motel to sleep for a few hours to let the storm pass. We got two rooms, one for the men and one for the women, so there were about ten people in each room. The next morning, we tried to resume our trip but it took us several hours just to get to the next exit because the blizzard was so bad. We finally made it to Kearney, Nebraska, where there was a big motel on Interstate 80. The place was packed, but luckily we were again able to get two rooms.

After checking in, several of my traveling mates made a comment that since we were obviously going to be stranded for a day or two, the only thing we could do was go to the bar and drink. I was terrified of drinking.

I was standing in the hotel lobby, with the bar welcoming me at one end. That's when I looked around, saw a directory, and suddenly recalled the story of Bill W. in the hotel in Akron so many years ago. I remembered how he'd been gripped by that same fear and started calling churches looking for drunks to help. So I looked up A.A. in the local phone book and made my call. In small towns and cities, A.A. calls often are forwarded to A.A. members' homes after hours. Therefore, I reached a woman at her home. I told her about my situation and explained that I would be fine; I just wanted to connect with someone over the phone. She told me she would pick me up at eight P.M. at the gas station next door to the hotel. I told her that was impossible: we were in the middle of a blizzard, the roads were closed, and I was all the way out by Interstate 80! She insisted she would pick me up. I hung up the phone and made up some story about how I had college friends living in Kearney, who were coming to pick me up. My traveling companions looked at me in disbelief and headed for the bar.

At the scheduled time, I climbed over a fifteen-foot-high snow drift to get to the gas station parking lot. Sure enough, a truck with a snow plow pulled into the gas station, carrying three sober alcoholics. We pushed our way into town and unlocked the church; then the four of us had a two-hour A.A. meeting. Each of them had less time than I did. (I was the old timer with a year and a half!)

The good A.A.'s of Kearney, Nebraska – and Ray's chip – really saved me that snowy day, and I will always be grateful to them.

Val C., Into Action Manhattan Group

Reprinted with permission from *The A.A. Grapevine*, January 2002.

Editor's note: *The A.A. Grapevine Our Meeting in Print* is available at the Inter-Group office; single editions, \$1.50. One, two and three-year subscriptions are available at \$15, \$28.25 and \$41 from: The Grapevine Grand Central Station Box 1980 New York, New York 10163. Telephone: (212) 870-3400. Website: www.aagrapevine.org

Inter-Group 2002 Events

The Bill W. Dinner Table Lottery, Wednesday, June 19, 2002, 6:00 PM at the N.Y. Marriott Marquis Hotel.

The Big Meeting, Sunday, June 30, 2002, 1:00 PM at the N.Y. Marriott Marquis Hotel. Free.

The Institutions Committee Literature Fund Dinner, Saturday, July 27, 2002 at Antun's, Queens Village. \$55.

The Bill W. Dinner, Saturday, October 26, 2002 at the N.Y. Marriott Marquis Hotel. \$90.

Twelfth-Step Service: Bridging the Gap

During 2001 Inter-Group's phone volunteers arranged 35 local A.A. contacts for newcomers prior to their discharge from hospital treatment. Bridging the Gap refers to the period of time between discharge from treatment and getting established in a A.A. group near the newcomers home.

Group officers and Twelfth-Step contacts, whose names, addresses and phone numbers are registered with Inter-Group, are eligible to serve as Bridging the Gap contacts.

Website Activity: www.nyintergroup.org

Period covered: December 12, 2001 to January 1, 2002

Hits: 47,566.
 Total users: 2,638.
 Average hit per user: 18.03.
 Average users per day: 131.90.
 Each user has visited approximately 2.7 times.
 Total time spent by all users: 11 days, 21 hours, 40 minutes, 54 seconds.
 Average time spent by a single user: 5 minutes, 30 seconds.
 Most popular day: Monday (represented by 27.29% of hits). Editor's note: New Year's Eve 2001 was on a Monday.

Most popular time of day: 8:00 PM.
 Most requested pages: Meeting List, 10,222 hits.

N.Y. Inter-Group's website, including The Meeting List, is also accessible by link from the website maintained by the A.A. General Service Office at www.aa.org. And, N.Y. Inter-Group's website links to the General Service Office website (click "Information about alcoholism and A.A."). If you've never visited the G.S.O. website, try it – there's a lot of interesting A.A. information. And, the site is very well done.

The A.A. Grapevine Our Meeting in Print, also maintains a website at: www.aagrapevine.org

Twelfth-Step Service: Public Information

Inter-Group's Public Information Committees tell the A.A. story to non-A.A. groups. Members with one year of continuous sobriety receive orientation in speaking about alcoholism and Alcoholics Anonymous. Public Information Committee speakers do not qualify as they would at an A.A. meeting. Each of the five New York City Boroughs and Westchester County have Public Information Committees.

Most of the P.I. speaking commitments are in schools although in recent years the number of Senior Citizens' Centers requesting speakers has increased. Members interested in participating in Public Information Committee service can download a P.I. Volunteer Questionnaire from our website. Mail completed questionnaires to the Inter-Group office. Members who do not have internet access are encouraged to phone an Inter-Group staff member to request that a form be mailed to them.

The following is a summary of the Public Information service activity for the calendar year 2001:

| <u>Area</u> | <u>Number of Speaking Commitments</u> | <u>Number Attending</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bronx | 33 | 1,063 |
| Brooklyn | 30 | 604 |
| Manhattan | 61 | 1,872 |
| Queens | 16 | 522 |
| Staten Island | 5 | 135 |
| Westchester County | <u>8</u> | <u>168</u> |
| Total | 153 | 4,364 |

Twelfth-Step Service: Phone Volunteers

During 2001 Inter-Group Phone Volunteers arranged 183 Twelfth-Step calls for newcomers who phoned for A.A. help. The following summarizes the Twelfth-Step calls by Borough/Area:

| <u>Area</u> | <u>Number of Twelfth-Step Calls</u> | <u>Area</u> | <u>Number of Twelfth-Step Calls</u> |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bronx | 29 | Staten Island | 15 |
| Brooklyn | 25 | Westchester | 35 |
| Manhattan | 45 | Other | 9 |
| Queens | 25 | | |

NEW YORK INTER-GROUP Calendar of Events, March/April, 2002

Mar. 6 & 21 Office Telephone and Call Forwarding and Volunteer Orientation, 6 P.M., N.Y. Inter-Group office,
 Apr. 3 & 18 307 7th Avenue, (28th Street), Room 201, Manhattan 10001. Orientations are held 1st Wednesday

each month, any Thursday night between 6 P.M. and 10 P.M. and any Saturday afternoon between 1:30 P.M. and 6 P.M., same time and location. No appointment necessary. One-year continuous sobriety required.

- Mar. 6 Westchester Area Institutions Committee Meeting, 7 P.M., First Baptist Church, South Highland Avenue, Route 9, Corner of Church Street, Ossining 10562. Meeting is held 1st Wednesday each month same time and location.
- Mar. 9 Exchange Meeting, 7:30 A.M., Public School 41, Sixth Avenue & 11th Street, Manhattan 10011. Meeting is held 2nd Saturday in March, June, September and December same time and location.
- Mar. 9 Institutions Information/Orientation Workshop, 9 A.M., Public School 41, Sixth Avenue & 11th Street, Manhattan 10011. Meeting is held 2nd Saturday in March, June, September and December same time and location.
- Mar. 9 Inter-Group Delegates' and Group Officers Workshop, 10 A.M., Public School 41, Sixth Avenue & 11th Street, Manhattan 10011. Meeting is held 2nd Saturday in March, June, September and December same time and location.
- Mar. 9 Public Information Orientation Workshop, 11 A.M., Public School 41, Sixth Avenue & 11th Street, Manhattan 10011. Meeting is held 2nd Saturday in March, June, September and December, same time and location.
- Mar. 9 Inter-Group Delegates' Meeting, 12 Noon Public School 41, Sixth Avenue & 11th Street Manhattan 10011. Meeting is held 2nd Saturday in March, June, September and December same time and location.
- Mar. 9 & 23 Spanish Language Institutions Committee Meeting, 7 P.M., Spanish Intergroup Office. (Oficina Apr. 13 & 27 Central Hispana de A.A.), 237 East 115th Street, Manhattan 10029. Meeting is held 2nd and 4th Saturday each month, same time and location.
- Mar. 11 Institutions Literature Packing, 10 A.M., N.Y. Inter-Group Office, 307 7th Avenue, (28th Street Apr. 8 Room 201, Manhattan 10001. Literature packing is done on the 2nd Monday of each month, same time and location. Newcomers always welcome.
- Mar. 12. Queens Area Institutions Committee Meeting, 7 P.M., Our Lady of the Cenacle School Cafeteria, Apr. 9 87-25 136th Street, Hillside Avenue and Van Wyck Expressway, Richmond Hill 11418. Meeting is held the 2nd Tuesday each month, same time and location.
- Mar. 15 Bronx Area Institutions Committee Meeting, 8 P.M., St. Phillip Neri School Cafeteria, 3031 Grand Apr. 19 Concourse, @ 201st Street 10468. Meeting is held the 3rd Friday each month, same time and location.
- March 15 Queens Area Forum, 7:30 P.M., Old St. James Annex Church, 86-02 Broadway (@ 51st Ave.), opposite Elmhurst Library. (Elmhurst Group meeting place). Elmhurst 11373. Meeting held 3rd Friday every other month, same time and location.
- March 16 Bronx Area Forum, 11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M., Bedford Park Congregational Church 3008 Bainbridge Avenue @ East 201st Street 10458. Gunhill group meeting place. Meeting is held 3rd Saturday every other month, same time and location.
- Mar. 21 Manhattan Area Institutions Committee Meeting, 6:30 P.M., N.Y. Inter-Group Office, 307 Apr. 18 7th Avenue, Room 201, (Between 27th & 28th Streets), Manhattan 10001. Meeting is held 3rd Thursday each month, same time and location.
- Mar. 25 Staten Island Area Institutions Committee Meeting, 7:30 P.M., Staten Island University Hospital, Apr. 22 475 Seaview Avenue, 4th floor Conference room, 10305. Meeting is held 4th Monday each month, same time and location.
- Mar. 30 Brooklyn Area Institutions Committee Meeting, 1 P.M., St. Peter Claver Church, 29 Claver Place, Apr. 27 (Jefferson Avenue 11238.) Meeting is held last Saturday each month, same time and location except July and August.
- Apr. 11 Manhattan Area Forum, 7 P.M., N.Y. Inter-Group Office, 307 7th Ave., (28th Street), Room 201, Manhattan 10001.
- Apr. 20 Staten Island Area Forum, 11:00 A.M., Traditions House, 6581 Hylan Boulevard, (Church side), (enter at Cunningham Road gate). Staten Island 10312. Meeting held 3rd Saturday every other month, same time and location.
- Apr. 20 Brooklyn Area Forum, 11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M., Our Lady of Refuge Church, 2020 Foster Avenue @ East 21st Street 11210. (Refuge group meeting place.) Meeting held 3rd Saturday every other month, same time and location.

Please support your Area's monthly Institution Committee meeting. All committees need help taking meetings to institutions. There are suffering alcoholics in institutions waiting for A.A. members to carry the message to them.