

soberNEWS

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The opinions expressed herein are solely those of the authors. They do not reflect those of New York Inter-Group or A.A. as a whole.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EXCHANGE MEETING

Public School 41
116 West 11th Street @ Sixth Avenue
New York, NY 10011
JUNE 7TH
7am

INTER-GROUP DELEGATES' MEETING

Public School 41
116 West 11th Street @ Sixth Avenue
New York, NY 10011
JUNE 7TH
11am

GROUP RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

New York Inter-Group Office
JUNE 10TH
6:30pm

Summer 2014

Happy 79th Birthday Alcoholics Anonymous!

SOBER BIKING NYC

BY ERIC B.

Sometimes maintaining sobriety can be more than attending a meeting in a church basement. Sometimes you can enjoy sobriety and sunshine.

Sober Biking NYC is a new group that offers just that. The group gets together monthly for a pleasant bicycle ride followed by a picnic, music, and fellowship.

The group is the creation of members Madeline R. and Kevin C., former co-chairs for a Beginner's meeting at Fire-side. They decided that, while enjoying leading the meeting, they wanted to have an avenue for more active fellowship. Thus, Sober Biking was born in July 2013.

The group meets the last Saturday of the month. Usually they take a poll of members about where they should ride to. They try to keep the trips at a moderate level to make it accessible for people who don't ride all the time yet exciting enough for those who do. And while it's called Sober Biking, all forms of active transportation (rollerbladers, skateboarders, scooters, very fast runners) are welcome.

So far the group has made journeys out to Astoria Park and up the West Side Highway Bike Path to the George Washington Bridge. Once they arrive at their destination, the group has a picnic and listens to



Wanted:
Phone Volunteers
Call or Come by the
Inter-Group Office
for an Orientation

music (instruments are welcome). They also welcome any active dogs that can make the journey as well. Most importantly, the group engages in fellowship on every trip.

The group took a long break over the winter months but started up again at the end of March. They will be looking at trips to the South Street Seaport and to either Williamsburg or Park Slope. If you want to contact the group, please email them at soberbikingnyc@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

CORRECTIONS & TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

LITERATURE PACKING

New York Inter-Group Office

JUNE 14TH

10am

SPANISH LANGUAGE

CORRECTIONS & TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Spanish Inter-Group Office

2234 First Avenue @ 120th Street

New York, NY 10029

JUNE 14TH

3pm

MANHATTAN AREA FORUM

New York Inter-Group Office

JUNE 17TH

7pm

WESTCHESTER CORRECTIONS & TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Grace Baptist Church

52 South Sixth Avenue

Mount Vernon, NY 10550

JUNE 17TH

7pm

MANHATTAN CORRECTIONS & TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

New York Inter-Group Office

JUNE 19TH

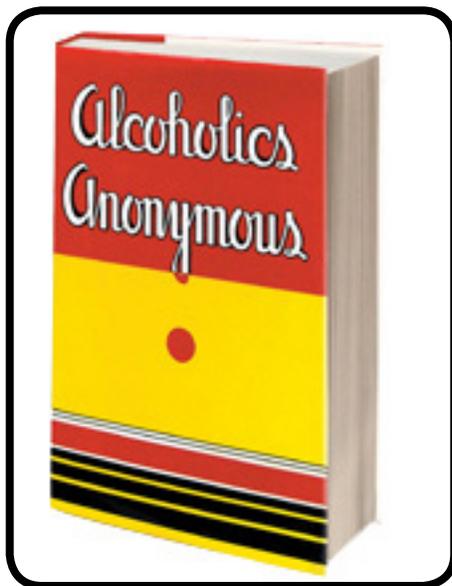
6:30pm

HAPPY 75TH ANNIVERSARY, BIG BOOK!!!

BY GABBY W.

For my recent AA anniversary, I was gifted with the 75th Anniversary edition of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous. It's fabulous, and the perfect anniversary gift idea!

First, there's the sturdy cover and thick pages (which is why it was called the Big Book in the first place). It feels like a really sober thing. It's the first edition, so many of the stories are in it that are no longer found in the versions of the Big Book we use today.



This very special volume can be ordered from World Services by going to their website www.aa.org, price is \$12, but there is a charge for shipping.

Individual copies may be purchased at the N Y Inter-Group Office at 307 Seventh Ave, between West 27 and 28th Streets, Suite 201, New York, NY 10001 for \$14 a copy. (Check www.nyintergroup.org for literature sales hours.)

Don't miss out on having this very special volume in your library.



COME CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF A.A.

BY GABBY W.

The Big Meeting, the official celebration of the 79th Birthday of Alcoholics Anonymous, will be held on Sunday, June 22nd, from 1-3 p.m. at the New York Hilton Hotel, located at 1335 Avenue of the Americas, between 53rd and 54th Streets, New York, NY 10019. The meeting takes place in the Grand Ballroom on the 3rd Floor.

Anyone who has been to the Big Meeting knows how special it truly is. The ballroom is filled with so much gratitude and love it practically overflows onto the street.

It begins with the Serenity Prayer. Then, a recording of A.A. Co-Founder, Bill W.'s voiced is played, in which he reads a passage from the Big Book chapter, "How It Works." I got chills the first time I heard it. There are three speakers, followed by the Sober Countdown.

The entire meeting will be interpreted for the Deaf. Also, there will be simultaneous translation from English to Spanish. Doors will open at noon and literature will be sold.

**Listen, Dine, and
Dance to Support
Corrections and
Treatment
Facilities!**

By Gabby W.

Okay, readers: for those of you who might not be aware, the members of the Corrections and Treatment Facilities Committee, or CTFC for short, work tirelessly and long to bring the message into jails, detoxes, rehabs, and such.

Every year, CTFC holds a dinner/



dance fundraising event to benefit the committee's literature fund. These are earmarked donations from members and groups that allow the CTFC to purchase literature for the sick and suffering alcoholics behind bars, or in any of the various hospitals and treatment facilities in our area.

The event will take place on Saturday, July 26, 2014 at Antun's Restaurant, located at 96-43 Springfield Boulevard, Queens Village, NY 11429. For more info, please contact the New York Inter-Group office, or email CTFC@nyintergroup.org.

This event is tons of fun; I've gone several times.. Here's what to expect: there will be one speaker who first heard the message in a Correction or treatment facility. There's a buffet (translation: all you can eat) dinner, followed by dancing to a DJ.

Tickets cost \$85 and there are 10 seats to a table. They can be purchased individually, or you can reserve an entire table for you and all your sober friends. Tickets are on sale now at the New York Inter-Group Office.

Now, here's a note for those people who might think that Queens Village

is too far a trek, even for an event like this one. The truth is, it's actually quite easy to get to. Directions and travel information may be found on the New York Inter-Group website, but here it is, in a nutshell.

Take the LIRR, Hempstead branch from Penn Station or Brooklyn to Queens Village. *Antun's is across the street.* Or take the F train to the last stop, 179th Street, and then take the Q 36 or Q 1 bus Jamaica Avenue/Springfield Boulevard, and walk one block south. See you there.

UPCOMING EVENTS

STATEN ISLAND AREA FORUM

Immanuel Lutheran Church
2018 Richmond Avenue
Btwn. Rockland Avenue & Signs
Road
Staten Island, NY 10314
JUNE 19TH
7:30pm

BIG MEETING

New York Hilton Hotel
Grand Ballroom, Third Floor
1335 Avenue of the Americas
Btwn 53rd & 54th Streets
New York, NY 10019
JUNE 22ND
1pm

GROUP RELATIONS

COMMITTEE MEETING

New York Inter-Group Office
JULY 8TH
6:30pm

2014 BILL W DINNER

TABLE LOTTERY

New York Hilton Hotel
1334 Avenue of the Americas
Btwn 53rd & 54th Streets
New York, NY 10019
JULY 9TH
7pm

TELEPHONE VOLUNTEERS

COMMITTEE MEETING

New York Inter-Group Office
JULY 10TH
6:30pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

CORRECTIONS & TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE LITERATURE PACKING

New York Inter-Group Office

JULY 12TH

10am

SPANISH LANGUAGE

CORRECTIONS & TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE MTG.

Spanish Inter-Group Office

2234 First Avenue @ 120th Street

New York, NY 10029

JULY 12TH

3pm

WESTCHESTER CORRECTIONS & TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Grace baptisit Church

52 South Sixth Avenue

Mount Vernon, NY 10550

JULY 15TH

7pm

WESTCHESTER AREA FORUM

First Baptisit Church

456 North Street @ Bryant Avenue

White Plains, NY 10605

JULY 19TH

9:30am

BROOKLYN AREA FORUM

First Unitarian Congregational

121 Pierrepont Street

Brooklyn, NY 11201

JULY 19TH

2pm

Not even the fresh dayspring sunlight could erase the wintery chill from the air, as representatives from A.A. groups throughout the five boroughs and Westchester came together on that frigid Saturday morning of March 1, 2014 for the Quarterly Delegates Meeting.

At around 11am, the current Chairperson of New York Inter-Group's Steering Committee, Bill B. opened the meeting with a Moment of Silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer. Then, it was straight down to business.

In his Treasurer's Report, Parker P. noted that group donations in January 2014 were up 12%, as compared to last year; and that the total contributions for the same period were up 18%. He then reminded the delegates that the Anniversary Club still needed support. Parker also encouraged participation in the Faithful Fivers (see ad on page 5).

One final note: Parker announced that his term as Treasurer would be ending as of June 2014. Anyone interested in the position should contact the Inter-Group office. A minimum of three years continuous sobriety required. Parker will stay on for up to a year, in order to help with the transition.

After reading the minutes from the December meeting, Bill updated the delegates on the status of elections for new Steering Committee Chair and Secretary for the term beginning on June 30, 2014. According to Bill, there were two candidates for each position, both of whom were to be presented and voted on at the June Delegates Meeting. A motion was made by a delegate to extend nominations for these positions until March 9th; however, the motion was defeated by a slim majority vote.

The Delegates Debrief

By Michael B.

Next, the Area Representative made their reports. Elyssa B., from Queens, announced the group anniversary parties for the Gardens Group of Forest Hills on March 2nd; and for the Flushing Group, who on March 18th will celebrate seventy-one years. Tom T., from Staten Island, reported that he had used the Gratitude Month issue of Sober News to drum up delegate attendance at the last Area Forum, and overall group participation.

Karl B., from the Bronx, reminded everyone that the Bronx will be hosting the 2014 Bill W. Dinner. He then introduced Jonathan B. and Lorraine C., the current co-chairs of the Bill W. Dinner Planning Committee, who announced this year's theme: T.H.I.N.K. (Thank Heaven I Now Know).

Lorraine went on to say that the dates of the Speaker Auditions, held in each borough, had yet to be determined; although all audi-

Continued on Next Page

Join the Club: The Anniversary Club

Celebrate your Sober Anniversary by joining New York Inter-Group's Anniversary Club. A voluntary contribution of \$1 or \$2 for each year of sobriety is suggested. Please contact New York Inter-Group Office for more details.

The Delegates **Debrief**

Continued From Page 4

tions will take place on a Saturday. Jonathan added that the Table Lottery will be held at 7pm on Wednesday, July 9th, at the New York Hilton Hotel. As for the event itself, Jonathan confirmed that the date for the 2014 Bill W. Dinner had been set for November 1st.

Saara L., from Brooklyn, apologized for the last-minute cancellation of the area forum that was supposed to be held in January. She stated that the search was on for an alternate Brooklyn Area Representative, so that such cancellation could be avoided in the future.

Chip G., from Manhattan, announced that he would be rotating out as of June 30, 2014. He said that nominees for his replacement will be discussed and voted on at the next two area forums, to be held on April 15th and June 15th. Chip also announced that Manhattan is hosting the 2014 Big Meeting, in celebration of A.A.'s seventy-ninth anniversary, on June 22nd at the New York Hilton Hotel.

After that, Liz, the Group Relations Committee chairperson asked for volunteers to help update the meeting book. Next, she asked the delegates to ratify five new A.A. groups. Then, Liz announced that

she also will be rotating out in June. Chassie, the Corrections and Treatment Facilities chairperson appealed to the delegates for help in filling three service positions: Bronx, Co-Chair; Queens Co-Chair; and Spanish Co-Chair. She also talked about the upcoming CTFC Conference on April 26th, and the CTFC Dinner-Dance at Antun's restaurant on July 26th.

Dorothy D., the Telephone Volunteers Committee chairperson appealed to the delegates for help manning the phones, either at the office or call-forwarding from a home or cellphone. Lyle, the Bylaws Committee chairperson, gave a report on the progress of updating Inter-Group's bylaws. He then responded to several questions that delegates had submitted to him in writing.

Parker P. led a discussion on whether or not Inter-Group should sell anniversary coins. He gave a breakdown of the initial costs and potential revenue involved. He reminded the delegates that—even though they are not A.A. Conference-Approved—several area Inter-Groups throughout the country currently sell coins and other items. So why shouldn't we? Parker also reminded them that coins would not be sold without the groups' consent.

Finally, at around 2pm, Bill called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and approved. After which, he closed the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

Faithful Fivers

NYIG's 7th Tradition Gratitude Plan

Express your gratitude for sobriety and the fellowship. Make a voluntary contribution of \$5 (or more) every month. For details, please contact the New York Inter-Group office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BRONX AREA FORUM

Western United Methodist Church
2547 East Tremont Avenue
Btwn. Silver Street & Lurting
Avenue
Bronx, NY 10461

JULY 19TH

2:30pm

QUEENS AREA FORUM

Queens Share-A-Thon Location
Our Savior Lutheran School
64-33 Woodhaven Blvd @ 64th
Drive
Rego Park, NY 11374

JULY 19TH

4pm

CORRECTIONS & TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE ANNUAL DINNER DANCE LIT- ERATURE FUND BENEFIT

Antun's Restaurant
96-43 Springfield Boulevard
Queens Village, NY 11429

JULY 26TH

8pm

CORRECTIONS & TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE LITERATURE PACKING

New York Inter-Group Office

AUGUST 9TH

10am

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPANISH LANGUAGE CORRECTIONS & TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE MTG.

Spanish Inter-Group Office
2234 First Avenue @ 120th Street
New York, NY 10029

AUGUST 9TH

3pm

GROUP RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

New York Inter-Group Office

AUGUST 12TH

6:30pm

WESTCHESTER BOOKING MEETING

Memorial United Methodist Church
250 Bryant Avenue
Btwn. North & Mamaroneck Aves
White Plains, NY 10605

AUGUST 16TH

6:30am

MANHATTAN AREA FORUM

New York Inter-Group Office

AUGUST 19TH

7pm

STATEN ISLAND AREA FORUM

Immanuel Lutheran Church
2018 Richmond Avenue
Btwn. Rockland Avenue & Signs
Road
Staten Island, NY 10314

AUGUST 21ST

7:30pm

***sober* NOTES**

Dear Sober News,

It has been brought to my attention, on more than one occasion, about the lack of warmth and hospitality at the New York Inter-Group office.

I appreciate ALL of the work the volunteers (phone, mailings, general care of the office), truly! However, when someone enters the office, whether from out of town, looking for literature, asking for help—there is a cool breeze flowing through the office. Can we try to be friendly to our friends and visitors alike?

Let's all try to mind our manners, and one of the golden rules of A.A. "A handshake and a smile" go a long way.

Let's always remember to extend a warm hand out to the suffering alcoholic crossing the threshold of the office, telephone lines, or email.

I would strongly recommend Customer Service Relations when conducting the Telephone Volunteers Orientation!

Treat others as we would like to be treated, A safe and friendly refuge to the Inter-Group office can be a godsend from the hustle and bustle of the New York streets.

Thank you for your service!

Amylynn K.
Inter-Group Delegate
Big Book Pioneer,
Staten Island, NY

***sober*NEWS wants YOU!**

Your stories
Your group histories
Your letters
Your artwork

STORY SUBMISSIONS:

We're looking for 250- to 500-word articles. Topics include:

YOUNG AND SOBER
SOBER FOR THE HOLIDAYS
CHAT WITH AN OLD-TIMER
HISTORY OF YOUR
HOME GROUP

ART SUBMISSIONS:

Please note that all artwork must be submitted as digital files (jpgs).

SUBMISSIONS VIA EMAIL:

sobernews@nyintergroup.org.
Please send as attachments only.
Also please indicate if you wish to have your name and home group printed.

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Production: Michael B.
Chairperson: Liz J.