



The Beacon

Worcester Area Intergroup Newsletter

Volume 20 issue 9

September 2018

Worcester Area Intergroup

100 Grove St., Suite 314
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-2pm
Friday 10am-2pm
Saturday 9am-2pm
Sunday CLOSED

The Beacon Staff

1/2018 – 12/2018

- Editor: John McI
beacon@aaworcester.org

- Office Manager:
Brandy H.
officemanager@aaworcester.org

The opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to A.A. as a whole, nor does the publication of any article imply an endorsement by either A.A., General Services nor Intergroup. Comments, questions and articles may be directed to *The Beacon*.

All excerpts & Articles reprinted with permission from AAWS and/or *The*

EVENTS!

Game Night and Pot Luck—Friday September 14th

- Pot Luck dinner at 6pm; A.A. Meeting at 7pm, **Board Games at 8pm.**
- Trinity Church, 23 Main St., Northborough.
- Come for all or part of Game Night!
- More info—Emily D. - social@aaworcester.org
- WAI Social Committee Page 7 - digital *Beacon*



Saturday Night Live! with District 25

- **October 13, 4- 9pm, Dinner and Dessert**
- Hogan Campus Center, College of The Holy Cross
- Doors open at 3:30pm, Dinner at 6:30pm
- 4 - 4:30pm - Workshops "Sponsorship" & "The Promises"
- 4:45 - 5:15pm - The History of A.A. before it was A.A.
- 5:30 - 6:15pm - Area Committees Flash Presentation: Speed Dating with the Services Committees
- 7:00 - 7:30pm - Speaker, Rich P., N. East Regional Trustee
- 7:45 - 9:00pm - Dessert and Fun Stuff, including trivia contest with prizes, raffle, and a Count Up, and closing
- More info: contact Sue N. @ 508-769-6150
- Details - See the flyer on page 8 of the digital *Beacon*

A NIGHT OUT

A SOBER NIGHT OF LIVE MUSIC AND DANCING

- Saturday, November 3rd - 5:30 - 10PM
- Doors open at 5:30 music starts at 7pm
- First Church in Sterling, MA - 6 Meetinghouse Hill Rd.
- Live music from local musicians - Jim W and Adam Z
- Donations gratefully accepted (5\$ is suggested)
- **Pot Luck** - Please bring a dish if you wish
- Questions? Call Kevin M 978 -457-0106 or
- Rocky R 978-365-5092 - see flyer in digital *Beacon*, page 9

A.A. History Conference

Sunday October 20, 2018

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 15 Newbury St., Boston
Two Parts - General Topic Areas -

- 'Before the Big Book' (c. 1906 - 1938)
- 'Before the Twelve Traditions' (1939 - 1950)

Free - supported by Districts 12, 13, & 14, & contributing groups
See the event flyer—pg. 13 of the digital *Beacon*.

Step Nine:

"Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others."

I am responsible...

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there.

The Ninth Tradition

"A.A., as such, ought never be organized but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

The words "Let's keep it simple" were the last Bill W. heard from his fellow founder of A.A., shortly before Dr. Bob's death in 1950. Aware that "it" means our recovery program, Bill later wrote, "We need to distinguish sharply between spiritual simplicity and functional simplicity. ...When we get into questions of action by groups, by areas, and by A.A. as a whole, we find that we must to some extent organize to carry the message—or else face chaos. And chaos is not simplicity."

When Tradition Nine speaks of "A.A. as such," it goes to the heart of the A.A. experience, to the "spiritual simplicity" of one alcoholic's saying, silently perhaps, "Help!" and another alcoholic's answering, "I know how you feel. We're here to help you." Such a relationship couldn't be organized. Or could it?

A nonmember familiar with modern business procedures might examine the A.A. practice of sponsorship and see it as a haphazard operation. How about computerizing it? Then an A.A. behind an intergroup desk might say, "So you want help? First, you need the right sponsor. We have personality profiles of all our sponsors fed into our computer. We'll match you up to the best one for you if you'll just fill out this questionnaire. ...Where are you going? Come back!" That would be an attempt to organize "A.A. as such." (Please—nobody get any ideas!) But in "action by groups," we find that we do need some degree of organization. If everybody thinks somebody else is going to make the coffee, what's the result? No coffee! To avoid such a disaster, one or more members agree to be responsible for preparing meeting refreshments. All the way from coffee-brewers to trustees on the General Service Board, those who take part in A.A. service work are assuming responsibility—not taking on authority. (Here, Traditions Two and Nine interlock.) Group officers are responsible to the members of the group; intergroup committees, to the groups in one locality; institutions committees, to A.A. groups in treatment facilities and correctional facilities; area committees, to all groups in their areas; Conference delegates and committees, to all groups in the U.S. and Canada; the General Service Office and Board and the board's committees, to all groups and members everywhere.

In an average business corporation, the board has final power to determine company plans and policy. Our board of trustees serves in a custodial capacity; trustees vote at the Conference—but as individuals, with one vote apiece. In industry, branch offices jump when the home office speaks. Our G.S.O. is just a clearinghouse of A.A. information, offering suggestions based on experiences reported to it by groups.

And yet, with so small a degree of organization, A.A. miraculously does work! One reason may be that Tradition Five applies to each A.A. committee and board as directly as it does to each A.A. group. By cleaving to this "one primary purpose" in all its activities, the Fellowship retains "spiritual simplicity." To diffuse that purpose, to embroil A.A. in issues apart from its true concern, would create dangerous complications....

From **The TWELVE TRADITIONS** Illustrated—Copyright© 1971 A.A. World Services.

Save the Date!!**55th Annual Massachusetts A.A. State Convention**

Hosted by Areas 30 & 31, with Al-Anon and Alateen participation
Friday November 9th thru Sunday November 11th - 2018
 Sheraton Framingham Hotel and Conference Center

For more info or to participate please contact:
 Mark N. Chair (860) 559-0814
 Sue W. Treasurer (978) 223-3803
 Email: mastateconvention@aamass.org

Join us for a weekend of fellowship and fun!!
 See the flyer on page 12 of the digital *Beacon*



Deadline....
for information to go into the October issue of *The Beacon* is September 15, 2018. Please send to:

Worcester Area Intergroup
 100 Grove St., Suite 314
 Worcester, MA 01605
 or e-mail to:
Beacon@aaworcester.org

Planning a special event? Let us know about it!
 E-mail event information or flyers (PDF) to: Beacon@aaworces

"The temporary or seeming good can often be the deadly enemy of the permanent best."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., January 1955

"Why Alcoholics Anonymous is Anonymous", *The Language of the Heart*

Meeting List Changes

FORMAT CHANGE

Marlboro Saturday Helping Hand - has changed from an Open Speaker Meeting to an Open Speaker/Discussion Meeting.

Charlton Daybreaker —Wednesday: is no longer a Step meeting...it is now ODN SH

Charlton - Night Owl - is no longer a YP meeting...it is now ODN SH

Friends OF Bill W- Friday, Worcester - is now OBBD

MOVED

ANOTHER DAY SOBER—**Quinebaug, CT** Wed. now in Rectory basement. Same time

GROTON — **MONDAY NIGHT GROTON** "Steps to Recovery" group has relocated to the fire station, 185 Lost Lake Drive in Groton at 7:30pm.

TIME CHANGE

HUDSON THURSDAY NIGHT STRAIGHT SHOOTERS — OSp - Riverside Gun Club, 16 Wilkins St.— 7:30-8:30 PM

NEW

SPIRITUAL SISTERS —Monday, First Parish of Bolton, 673 Main St. Bolton; 7-8:30pm —NEW GROUP Women`s OBB12

EARLY BIRD—**FITCHBURG-** 7:30am - First Parish Ch 923 Main St. OD, Monday-Friday

FRIDAY NOON BIG BOOK NORTHBORO - 12- 1pm Trinity Church, 23 Main St. OBB

GROUPS NEEDING SUPPORT

Worcester Wednesday Big Book Step Study needs support 7:00p-8:30pm the First Congregational Church 1070 Pleasant Street Worcester

GROUP ANNIVERSARIES

Bolton Spiritual Sisters anniversary will be held on Monday September 10th, 2018. Food at 6pm. Meeting at 7pm - the First Parish of Bolton 673 Main St. Bolton, MA

Worcester There Is Hope - Saturday, Sept. 15, 6-8pm Ascension Hall, Vernon St.

Athol Original 68`Th Anniversary Dinner -Tuesday, September 18, 925 Main St., Athol, MA - at the CCD hall - see flyer on page 10 of the digital *Beacon*

Help the HALTline!! Also see Page 5

The HALTline needs help with the following uncovered time slots:

Sunday: 10AM - Noon

Thursday: 7-8AM

Friday: 6-8PM

Open Holiday time slots (WAI Office is closed on these dates):

November 22nd 10-8p - Thanksgiving

December 26th 4-8p - Christmas

New Year's, January 1 - 2-8PM

Contact the HALTline—haltline@aaworcester.org to offer your service.

Give back what was freely given to you...

The WAI Treatment committee asks for your help to fill badly needed commitments in treatment centers in the Worcester area.

A list of treatment locations and commitment calendars can be found here:

<http://aaworcester.org/Committees/Treatment%20Facilities/treatment.html> (see flyer, page 14, digital *Beacon*)



FROM THE EDITOR

NEVER MISS AN ISSUE!

Get a color version of The Beacon emailed to you—send an email to:

Beacon@aaworcester.org with SUBSCRIBE as the subject line.

The Faithful Fivers Club—

AA members who donate \$5 or more a month on a regular basis to Worcester Area Intergroup!

Thanks to new members Bill S., Ferne S., Kevin K., and Fred F.

See form on the right to join...

WAI also accepts Anniversary Donations! It is suggested \$1 or \$2 for each year of Sobriety! See Page 2 for submission form or pick up donation envelopes at the WAI

This, too, shall pass.

True Twelfth Step Work—HELP the HALTline!

What the HALTline is:

One alcoholic talking to another alcoholic --- Isn't that what A.A. is all about?

You Might:

- Give meeting time and location information.
- Talk and/or listen to a sober alcoholic in danger of picking up a drink.
- Talk and/or listen to a sober alcoholic who is visiting the area.
- Talk to a "drunk". You may be the link in a chain that could save their life.
- Refer callers to the Intergroup Office—inform them of the office hours.

What the HALTline is not:

- The Halt Line is not a taxi service...
- It is not a referral service...We are not a counseling service...
- We do not give medical advice or opinions.

What you need to be a volunteer:

One year of sobriety is suggested because the first year needs focus on recovery before such service; Touch-tone phone service; Meeting lists (we suggest District 26 and Worcester Area). These are available free of charge from Worcester Area Intergroup and are available on the Website "www.aaworcester.org," and 2 or more hours of time during the week that you will be available to answer calls. You need not have to answer as A.A.—you can simply answer and when asked say you are "Answering for Worcester Area Intergroup, How can I help you?"

What will happen:

For your scheduled time, calls are forwarded from the Intergroup Office to the phone number you provide. This is done at no expense to you.

Ready to help?

If you have time available and willing to volunteer -preferably in 2 hour or longer shifts—**Contact Brandy H. at haltline@aaworcester.org for more info.** See a list of open HALTline time slots on page 3

Worcester Area Intergroup Faithful Fiver Form

The Faith Fiver idea came about when we remembered that we wasted much more than five dollars each month during our drinking days.

"When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat, we give a token that we are grateful for our blessing and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer." Bill W, Language of the Heart

YES, I want to help continue to carry our life-saving message of hope.

My contribution of \$_____ (once) Annual(\$60); Quarterly(\$15); Monthly(\$5)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone number (in case of questions): _____

Make check payable to: Worcester Area Intergroup; mail to WAI address on page 8

Service Meeting Schedule

Intergroup Steering Committee* - 100 Grove St. 2nd Floor, Room 206 Worcester, 6:00pm

Intergroup Delegates* - 100 Grove St. 2nd Floor, Room 206, Worcester, MA 7:00 pm

**The Intergroup meetings occur the second THURSDAY of each month.*

****Until further notice, Steering Committee and Intergroup Delegates Meetings will be held in room 206 (2nd floor) at 100 Grove St. instead of room 401 ****

District 25 General Service Committee—St. Joan of Arc Church, Lincoln Street Worcester, MA—meets first Tuesday of the month 7:30 pm

District 26 General Service Committee—Madonna of the Holy Rosary Church Hall, 118 Theresa St., Fitchburg, MA meets first Thursday of the month 7:00pm
AA members welcome—please come join us!

AREA 30 Eastern Mass. General Service Committee — Grace Vision Church
80 Mt. Auburn Watertown 4th Wednesday 8:00pm

Intergroup Officers & Committee Chairpersons (as of 8/20/18)

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>email address</u>	<u>Bold = new</u>
Chairperson	Nicole L.	chair@aaworcester.org	
Alt. Chair	Emily D.	altchair@aaworcester.org	
Secretary	Wendy S.	secretary@aaworcester.org	
Alt. Secretary	OPEN	altsecretary@aaworcester.org	
Treasurer	Lisa R.	treasurer@aaworcester.org	
Alt. Treasurer	Jim B.	altrtreasurer@aaworcester.org	
Trustee	Fred F.	trustee1@aaworcester.org	
Trustee	Sean K.	trustee2@aaworcester.org	
Trustee	Bill S.	trustee3@aaworcester.org	
Trustee	Steve O.	trustee4@aaworcester.org	
Office Manager	Brandy H.	officemanager@aaworcester.org	
Alcathon (WAI)	Jim B.	alcathon@aaworcester.org	
Beacon Editor	John McI	beacon@aaworcester.org	
Treatment Facilities	Robert M.	treatment@aaworcester.org	
Corrections	Steve O.	corrections@aaworcester.org	
HALTline	Brandy H.	haltline@aaworcester.org	
Liaison to District 25	OPEN		
Liaison to District 26	Fred F.		
Liaison to Area 30	Ellen McQ.		
Public Information	Bill S.	pichair@aaworcester.org	
Social Committee	Emily D.	social@aaworcester.org	
Webmaster	John H.	webmaster@aaworcester.org	
Bookie Exchange	Bill S. & Fred F.	bookieexchange@aaworcester.org	

"An old-timer spoke about the danger of becoming complacent and explained the need for the Steps in her life. 'The way I see it,' she said, 'I might have gotten the monkey off my back, but the circus is still in town.'"

"Ham on Wry," New York, New York, September 2005, AA Grapevine

The Beacon—Subscription Form

Please fill out form, enclose your payment, and mail to: Worcester Area Intergroup

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Subscriptions to The Beacon are \$10.00 per year to defray the cost of production and postage. Additional donations from members are gratefully accepted.

Worcester Area Intergroup is a non-profit organization, dependent on members' contributions. Please

Mail All completed forms and payments to:
Worcester Area Intergroup 100 Grove St., Suite 314 Worcester, MA 01605
 Attn: The Beacon

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 (please circle *all* that apply): 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

I am willing to (please circle):

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 make 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 available and willing to go along with you.*

Anniversary Donation

Name: _____

City/Home Group: _____

Sobriety Date: _____ Amt. Enclosed: _____

Mail to: **Worcester Area Intergroup**. All Anniversaries submitted will be published the month following submission. Please contact the newsletter Editor at beacon@aaworcester.org if an Anniversary has not been published for two months following submission.

Worcester Area Intergroup Social Committee Introduces Game Night!

Friday September

14th

6pm — Pot Luck

Dinner

7pm - AA Meeting

8pm - Game On!!



Will be held at Trinity Church of Northborough
23 Main Street, Northborough MA

Come for all or part of game night!

If you join us for the pot luck please consider bringing an item to share.
For more information please contact Emily D. by email
hnewyear2@gmail.com



DISTRICT 25



Saturday Night Live

FREE EVENT!

OCTOBER 13TH 2018 4PM - 9PM DINNER AND DESSERT

HOGAN CAMPUS CENTER / COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS

3:30 **Doors Open - Register at the Door**

6:30 - 7:00 **Dinner**

4:00 - 4:30 **Two Panels:**

7:00 - 7:30 **Speaker**

"The Promises" (Step 9, pgs 82-83 BB)

Rich P., Northeast Regional Trustee

"Sponsorship"

7:45 - 9:00 **Dessert and Fun Stuff:**

4:45 - 5:15 **Presentation by the Area 30 Archivist, Joe U.**

- Group Trivia Contest with Prizes

"The history of AA before it was AA"

- Raffle

5:30 - 6:15 **Area Committees Flash Presentations**

- Sobriety Count-Up

"Speed Dating with the Service Committees"

- Closing

Any Questions, contact Sue N. at (508) 769-6150



CLINTON – “CENTRAL PARK” FRIDAY NIGHT GROUP PRESENTS

A NIGHT OUT

A SOBER NIGHT OF LIVE MUSIC AND DANCING

FREE ADMISSION

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 3RD 5:30 – 10PM

@

**First Church in Sterling
6 Meetinghouse Hill Rd, Sterling, MA**

Live music from local musicians - Jim W and Adam Z

DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

(5\$ suggested, to help defray the costs of literature and medallions)

POT LUCK – (PLEASE BRING A DISH - IF YOU WISH)

Drinks will be supplied - coffee, tea and water

Doors open at 5:30, music starts at 7pm

Questions? Call Kevin M 978 -457-0106 or
Rocky R 978-365-5092

Athol Original 68'Th Anniversary Dinner

Tuesday, September 18'th

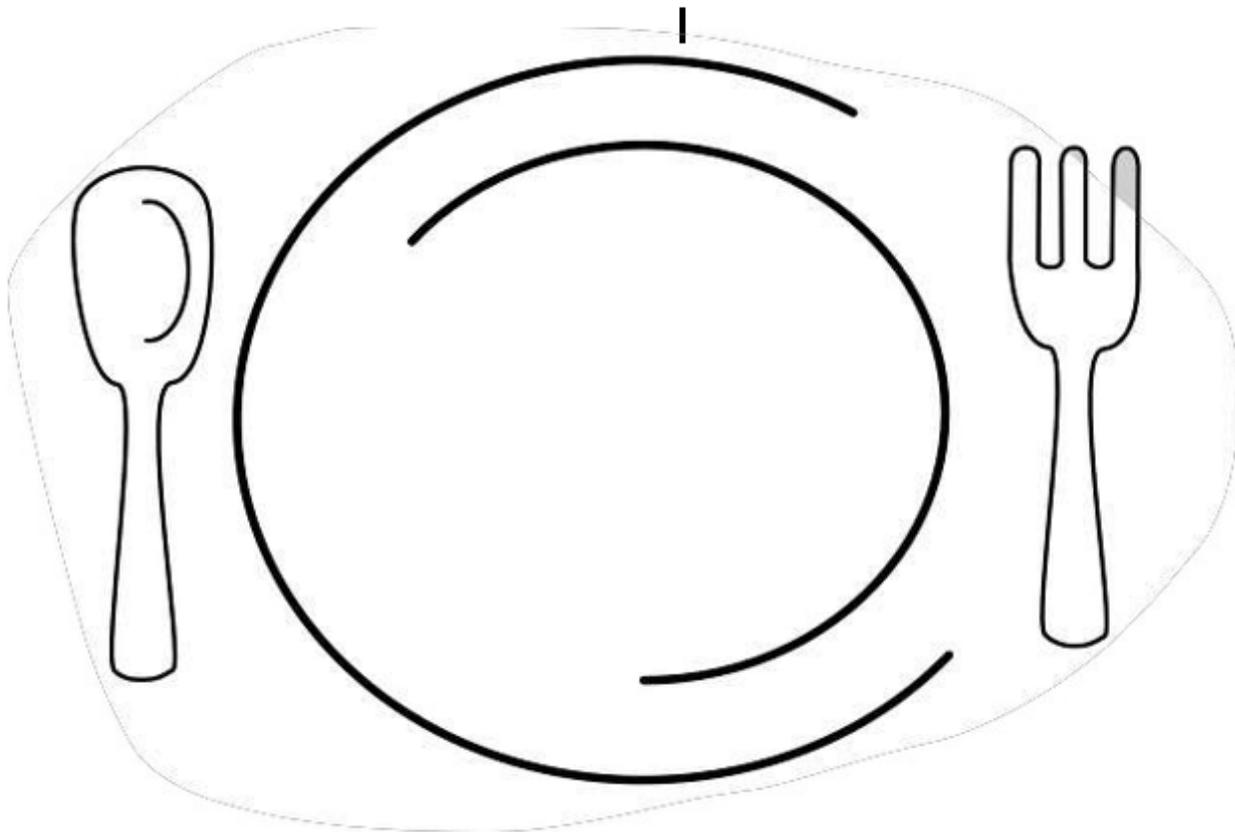
925 Main Street, Athol, MA.

Come share fellowship and dinner with us!

Coffee at 6:00, Dinner at 6:30, Speakers at 8:00

Potluck, feel free to bring a dish!

The dinner is at the CCD hall accessible from Main Street.





**WOMAN TO WOMAN
NEW ENGLAND
October 12, 13, 14, 2018**



BOXBORO REGENCY HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

242 Adams Place, Boxborough, MA 01719

Hotel Reservation Call: 978-263-8701

Must mention Woman to Woman New England Conference

Hotel Website Link: <https://us01.iqwebbook.com/BRMA227/>

Go to Rate Options Tab and enter W2W code

Room rate \$105.00/night double occupancy...free parking

Must register by September 12, 2018 for guaranteed rate and availability

Join our closed Facebook Group: **The Road to Freedom**
For Sneak Preview Posts about the 2018 W2W Conference.

Register Online At:

www.womantowomannewengland.org

Mail Registration Form To:

Woman to Woman New England

P.O. Box 259

Bellingham, MA 02019

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

Woman to Woman New England

Name:	
Address:	
City:	
State:	
Zip:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Walk-in Cash Only	Amount	Paid
Conference Registration Fee:	\$50.00	\$ _____
After August 31, 2018	\$60.00	\$ _____
Pre-order T-Shirt		
S__ M__ L__ XL__		
2X__ 3X__	\$20.00	\$ _____
<i>Scholarship Donation</i>	\$ _____	\$ _____
MEALS:		
Saturday Breakfast Buffet	\$24.00	\$ _____
Saturday Lunch Buffet	\$28.00	\$ _____
Saturday Night Banquet		
____Chicken ____Haddock	\$40.00	\$ _____
Sunday Breakfast Buffet	\$24.00	\$ _____
Package Deal Includes:	\$150.00	\$ _____
Registration & ALL meals a		
\$16.00 savings (doesn't include t-shirt)		
Package Deal after 8/31/18	\$160.00	\$ _____
A \$6.00 savings		
Total Enclosed		\$ _____

NO REFUNDS AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2018

*the convention is coming * the convention is coming*



Save the Date!

55th Annual Massachusetts State A.A. Convention



Hosted by Areas 30 & 31



with Al-Anon & Alateen participation

**Friday, November 9th thru
Sunday November 11th, 2018**

Join us for a Weekend of Fellowship and Fun!



Sheraton Framingham Hotel and Conference Center
1657 Worcester Road (Just off the Mass Pike)
Route 9 - Framingham, MA



For more information, or to participate, please contact:

Mark N., Chair (860) 559-0814

Sue W., Treasurer (978) 223-3803

or email: mastateconvention@aaemass.org

Planning Meetings are held at the hotel, 7:30pm:

Last Tuesdays – January 30th, March 27th, May 29th, July 31st,
September 25th, and October 30, 2018

Save the Date!

*the convention is coming * the convention is coming*

*let's be ready! the convention is coming * the convention is coming*

*let's be ready! the convention is coming * the convention is coming*

AA History Conference, Boston MA

Sunday, October 7th, 2018 : 1 pm - 6 pm

at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 15 Newbury St.*, (Back Bay) Boston, MA

A Free Event Supported by Districts 12,13, 14 and Contributing AA Members and Groups

Two Parts: General Topic Areas

A. 'Before the Big Book' (c.1906-1938)

B. 'Before the Twelve Traditions' (1939-1950)



William G. Wilson



Dr. Robert H. Smith

THE EMMANUELISTS



REV. SAMUEL MCCOMB



REV. ELWOOD WORCESTER



COURTENAY BAYLOR

Scheduled Talks By:

Rev. Susan Ackley (M.Div, M.Phil)

Bill D. (Boston)

Shakey Mike G. (PA)

Bill N. (Past Trustee, NYC)

Robert Charles Powell (MD, PhD)

Anne Marie S.-G. (PA)

... and a *MYSTERY* Guest Speaker !

w/ Light Snack Provided, Mid-Afternoon.

* Handicap Accessible, in Parish Hall.

OPEN COMMITMENTS TO TREATMENT FACILITIES ANNOUNCEMENT

INTERGROUP TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

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

Remember that the primary purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous is to stay sober and to help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. There are far too many people in very early sobriety at Treatment Facilities that are not hearing the message that we are responsible for carrying. With that said the WAI Treatment Facilities Committee is pleased to announce some changes to help fill Open Commitment spots but we need your help.

Please visit the WAI website at www.aaworcester.org and click on the Treatment Facilities Committee link in the lower right corner of the home page. There you will find calendars by facility to view open dates that we need your help filling. Once you find a date that you can help fill please contact the facility's Team Leader. Their emails are as follows:

- 1) Adcare@aaworcester.org – for all commitments to Adcare Hospital
- 2) CHL@aaworcester.org – for all commitments to Community Healthlink
- 3) Spectrum@aaworcester.org – for all male units at Spectrum Health Systems
- 4) MYRCHL@aaworcester.org – for all commitments to the youth program of CHL
- 5) Washburn@aaworcester.org – for all commitments to Washburn House
- 6) Willows@aaworcester.org – for all female units at Spectrum Health Systems

There are hundreds of open spots for just these 6 facilities we are working with. We need help and you can provide that for us in the following ways:

- 1) Having your Group take a Standing Commitment
- 2) Having a group of friends take a Standing Commitment
- 3) Having you and some friends fill an open spot until a Standing Commitment can be found

So please do what you can and if you have general questions you can always contact us at Treatment@aaworcester.org.

Thank you for your service,
WAI Treatment Facilities Committee