

July 2026

Vol. 54 - No. 03



SUFFOLK INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION

Bulletin

**“The joy of living is the reward for staying
sober one day at a time.”**



Visit us at
suffolkny-aa.org
tel : (631) 654-1150

SIA Business Meeting

Held last Tuesday of every month

July 28th, starting 8:00 p.m.

New Rep Orientation 7:00 p.m.



IN PERSON

True North Church
1101 Lakeland Ave
Bohemia, NY 11716



VIRTUALLY

Zoom ID	941 2170 5886
Passcode	service
Tel Dial-In	(929) 205-6099



WE ARE RESPONSIBLE

Share-A-Thon Planning Committee

This year we are celebrating **50 years** of the Share-A-Thon here in Suffolk County.

Be of service and **join the planning committee** starting in May.

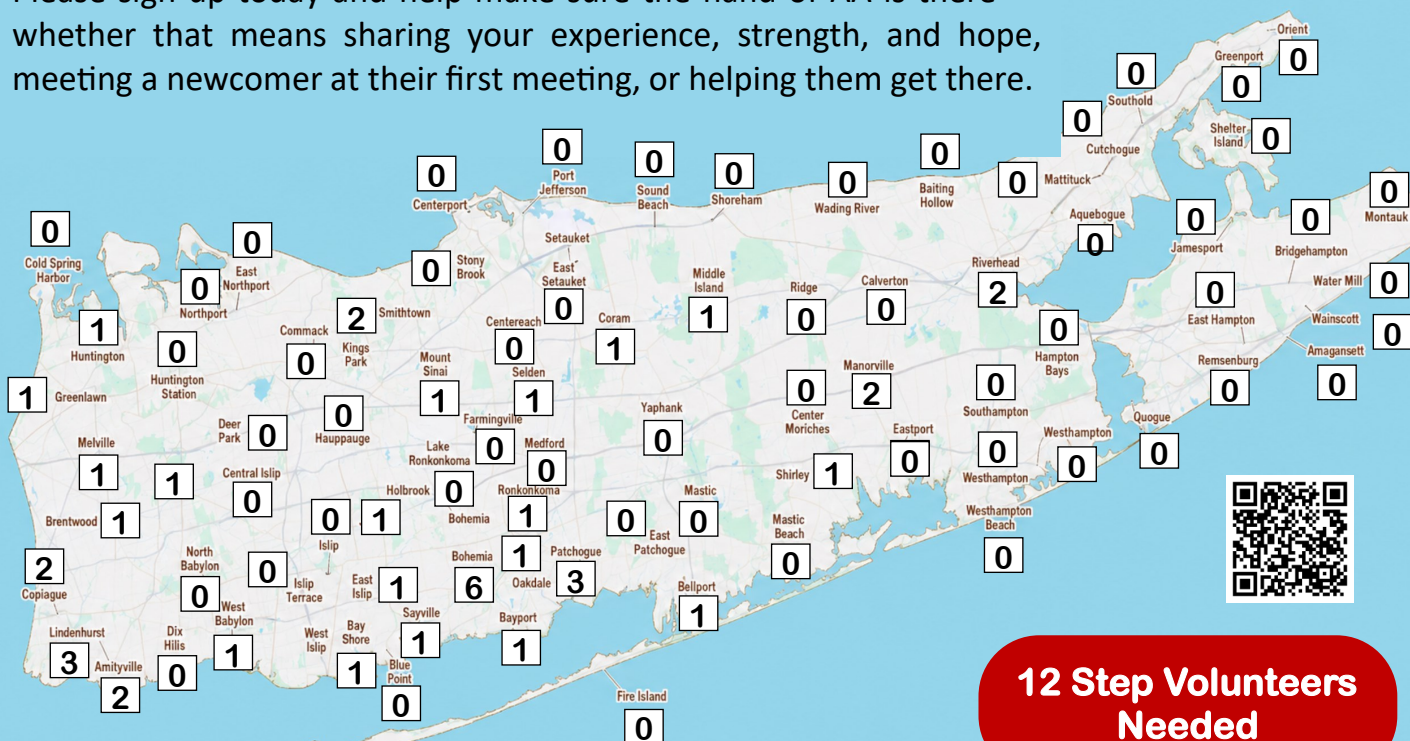
Last Tuesday of the month at **7:00 pm** — **virtually and in person** immediately before the SIA Meeting. **See details above.**



Pre-pandemic, more than 1,000 AA members were signed up as 12-Step Volunteers.

Today, we have fewer than 50 listed.

Please sign up today and help make sure the hand of AA is there — whether that means sharing your experience, strength, and hope, meeting a newcomer at their first meeting, or helping them get there.



Literature Sales and Sales Tax

Suffolk Intergroup is beginning an important discussion about literature sales and New York State sales tax. This may feel like a new issue for many of us, especially because Intergroup has not traditionally collected sales tax on literature sold through the office. For some, the first reaction may be: *“Why are we bringing this up now?”*

That is a fair question! The simple answer is that we are trying to come into better alignment with New York State tax law in a thoughtful, proactive, and transparent way.

Over the last five years, Suffolk Intergroup has sold approximately \$150,000 in literature, averaging about \$30,000 per year. For many years — possibly dating back to Intergroup’s founding — we have not collected or reported New York State sales tax on those sales. That practice appears to have grown out of a **common and understandable assumption**: that because AA is a spiritual fellowship, and because Suffolk Intergroup is a nonprofit organization, we were not required to collect sales tax.

After much discussion and review, we have come to understand that this long-standing assumption is incorrect.

The issue is not whether Suffolk Intergroup is nonprofit, or whether our federal 501(c)(3) status is in good standing. The issue is whether our literature sales are subject to New York State sales tax.

Suffolk Intergroup has consulted with trusted servants from neighboring intergroups, CPAs, and tax professionals familiar with New York State sales tax matters, and has been advised to treat literature sales as subject to sales tax unless a specific exemption applies.

In New York, nonprofit status does not mean every sale is exempt from sales tax. Literature is physical property, and physical goods are generally taxable unless a specific exemption applies or the buyer provides a valid sales tax exemption certificate.

The purpose of this discussion is not to find fault with past practices. Many small nonprofits and service bodies operate for years under assumptions that later need to be corrected. The question we would like to ask is: now that we are aware of the issue, what is the responsible way forward?

At this point, the groups are being asked to consider three possible paths forward:

1. File a voluntary disclosure with New York State and address the issue formally.
2. Register to collect sales tax going forward and begin collecting now.
3. Do nothing and hope the issue never comes up.

It is important to note that Option 1 includes Option 2. If the Inter-

Continued on page 6

July Calendar

July 2 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Treatment / Bridging The Gap
Outreach Subcommittee (virtual)

July 3 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Third Legacy
12 Traditions Workshop (virtual)

July 6 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Schools Committee Meeting
(virtual)

July 7 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Bylaws Committee Meeting
(hybrid)

July 10 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Treatment Facilities Committee
Meeting (virtual and SIA Office)

July 14 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Web Committee Meeting
(virtual)

July 14 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Archives Committee Meeting
(virtual)

July 16 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Treatment / Bridging The Gap
Outreach Subcommittee (virtual)

July 17 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Suffolk General Service Meeting
(hybrid: virtual + Emanuel
Lutheran Church Patchogue NY)

July 19 @ 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
LICYPAA Annual Luau
(Robert Moses Park, field #2)

July 28 @ 6:30 pm - 7:40 pm
SIA Treatment Facilities
Committee Meeting (virtual and
True North Church)

July 28 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
New Intergroup Rep Orientation
(virtual + True North)

Share-A-Thon Committee Mtg
(virtual + True North)

July 28 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
SIA Business Meeting
(virtual + True North)

Around the A.A. Campus

Group Updates

****NEW** Meditation Station**

New group in Riverhead called Meditation Station meets every Saturday morning at 7:00 AM at the Long Island Buddhist Meditation Center 5268 Sound Avenue. Great way to start the day. Come join them. (See photo below).

La Salida

La Salida, a Spanish language meeting in Bay Shore has switched things around. It no longer meets on Saturday, but has moved its Closed Discussion to Sunday at 7:30 PM. But its 7:00 PM Friday Open remains the same. You can find them at St. Lukes 3 Lawrence Lane

Miracles Happen in Southhampton

Miracles Happen reports its Monday 6:00 PM meeting is a Closed Beginners, except the last Monday which is Open. Its Tuesday 6:00 PM Step remains the same. All this happens in the church basement of St. John's Episcopal 100 South Main Street.

Other changes in Southhampton

First Things First has added two new meetings to its schedule: a Tuesday Daily Reflections and a Thursday Literature. These meet at 6:00 AM and only run for 45 minutes. The regularly scheduled seven-day-a-week 7:30 AM meetings continue as usual. Where? The Veterans Memorial Hall on 25 Pond Lane.

Meeting place name change reported

The church **East Northport Serenity** meets at is now called Community Covenant Church. Looks like no changes for the group—which will still meet Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 7:00 PM. Find them at 203 Cedar Road

Oops Dept

We got the address of **Cutchogue Step** wrong in the June Bulletin. The correct address: Church of God in Christ 15625 Country Road 48. The group meets Tuesdays at 7:00 PM.

Voices of Women

Another change. Women's Namastay Sober of Bohemia has changed its name to Voices of Women. Meetings are held at St. John Nepomucene 1140 Locust Avenue—Saturday (10:30 AM) and Wednesday (5:45 PM). Whatever the name, always a good meeting for the ladies.

Brentwood Gratitude

From June 15 to September 8, Brentwood Gratitude will be meeting in the parking lot of the East Brentwood Middle School 70 Hilltop Drive. You can find them every Wednesday and Friday at 6:00 PM. All are advised to bring their own coffee.

Amityville Beach

Amityville Beach is back for the warmer months at the James Caples Park at the end of South Bayview Avenue. The schedule is Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 PM. Come November 1, it's back to the VFW at 300 Broadway.



Meditation Station

The Joy of Living Group History

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
31 Rider Avenue
Patchogue, NY
11772



"We commenced to make many fast friends and a fellowship has grown up among us of which it is a wonderful thing to feel a part. The joy of living we really have, even under pressure and difficulty." Alcoholics Anonymous page 15.

Ashley, Anna, Lauren and Kaitlyn are like family. These four are sisters in sobriety, bound together by their AA connection. Once, while having dinner, the subject of Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in general came up and in the course of all this, the germ of an idea emerged. Wouldn't it be cool if they were to start a group together? It seemed impossible that anything could draw them even closer, but if anything could, this might do the trick. They never gave up on the idea. It may have taken three months, but they finally made that dream come true.

The Joy of Living met for the first time on Friday May 3, 2024 at 7:30 PM. Its location is a familiar one for AAs in Patchogue— St. Paul's on Rider Avenue. Many meetings have met there over the years. 11 AAs showed up—an impressive number for a first meeting. Among those 11 were two people who had just seen the listing on the app and decided to go to the meeting. Both were flabbergasted to find out the group was indeed a new meeting - for everyone there. Thanks to the diligent behind the scenes work by two Intergroup members, the listing had only been posted the day before.

Group conscience determined that meetings will focus solely on Grapevine literature. Dennis from Sunrise Sobriety was the first speaker and plucked a reading from one of the Grapevine books. The topic was on the subject of gifts. The format is to go in round robin fashion, allowing everyone an opportunity to share. And what a gift it was to be part of a meeting with such intimate sharing. It was also a gift to see several young people, who will be spared the nightmare of many more years of drinking.

Ashley - who provided the background information for this history - related how the group's name came to be. She had recently gotten two new sponsees and was going through the Big Book with them. For a couple of weeks in a row, they read "Bill's Story." The part about "joy of living" resonated for Ashley. She thought using that as the group name would be a great reminder for newcomers, as well as people with time, that life in recovery can be joyful. It was apparent that many at the meeting were already experiencing that.

S.I.A. Archives Committee

SIA Committee Meeting Schedule

Archives (virtual)
2nd Tuesday 7:00 pm

BTG (virtual + SIA Office)
2nd Friday 6:00 pm

BTG Outreach (virtual)
1st & 3rd Friday 6:00 pm

ByLaws (SIA Office)
1st Tuesday 7:00 pm

Schools (virtual)
1st Monday 7:00 pm

Share-A-Thon
(virtual + True North)
last Tuesday 7:00 pm

Treatment (virtual + True North)
last Tuesday 6:30 pm

Web (virtual)
2nd Tuesday 6:00 pm

SIA Business Meeting
(virtual + True North)
last Tuesday 8:00 pm

SIA Virtual Meeting Space



Zoom ID 941 2170 5886
Passcode service

Last Updated May 4, 2023

(Continued from page 3)

group files a voluntary disclosure to address the past, we would also need to begin collecting and remitting sales tax going forward.

Each option carries risks and consequences. That is why this deserves careful group discussion, not a rushed decision. It is also why the upcoming vote is expected to be handled with substantial unanimity in mind.

If the body decides to move forward with collecting sales tax, Intergroup would need to set up a practical process. This would include registering with New York State, adjusting our accounting practices, and possibly adopting a point-of-sale system to simplify record keeping. We would also need to decide whether to show the tax separately at checkout or include it in the listed price.

Please know that this is not about raising money for Intergroup. Sales tax is passed along to New York State. The goal is simply to handle literature sales in a way that complies with tax law and protects Intergroup and future trusted servants.

No one is excited about adding sales tax to literature sales. It may feel uncomfortable, inconvenient, or even unnecessary at first. But AA teaches us to practice honesty, responsibility, and accountability in all our affairs. When we become aware of an obligation, legal or ethical, the responsible path is to face it directly and decide together how best to proceed.

This is an opportunity for Suffolk Intergroup to get its house in better order. We can do that calmly, carefully, and in the spirit of unity.

- Suffolk Intergroup Association

New Life by Pinky S.

Once strangers, now family
The new life I have begun
This is just the beginning
Our battle is never done

With AA books and friends of all sorts
The meaningful stories, both long and short
AA has taught me time after time
there is more to life besides beer, liquor,
and wine

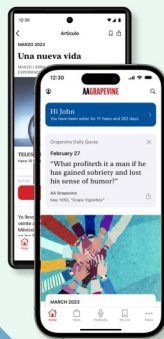
We can add on that list dry goods too
before these rooms, we had not a clue
Life is much more than we thought
it's not full of hate or some resentment we
caught

It is smiles, tears, prayers, and all are happy
Bellies full of cookies, cake, tea, and coffee
The books, the stories, the sayings, and meetings
the people inside and a person for greetings

The life lessons we learn and steps we have done
makes us realize we and our lives are number 1
We can now fulfill our dreams and conquer our fears
Living one day at a time equals happiness for years



AVAILABLE NOW!



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App Store

GET IT ON
Google Play

**THE NEW
GRAPEVINE
& LA VINA
APPS!**

- Read or listen to every issue
- Search our vast GV/LV Archives
- Keep track of your sobriety and spiritual practices
- Listen to our podcast
- Share AA stories and area events with friends
- Find meetings and connect to aa.org

EASY TO USE!
Take GV & LV wherever you go!

For more information visit:
www.aagrapevine.org/apps

NITE TIME

Needs Your Support!

Come join us and help keep this meeting strong.

THURSDAY

7:30 PM – 8:30 PM EDT

IN-PERSON
 STEP STUDY

*ABSI last Thu

The Pit

United Methodist Church
107 E Main St, Bay Shore, NY 11706, USA

BAY SHORE

(at 2nd Av - ent on West side)

Welcome to The Pit!

Strength. Hope. Fellowship. You Belong Here.

Sales Tax FAQ

Why haven't we collected sales tax before?

Most likely because we assumed that nonprofit status, AA's spiritual purpose, or long-standing practice meant sales tax did not apply. That assumption is understandable, but we now know that it is incorrect.

Doesn't being a nonprofit exempt us from sales tax?

Not automatically. Nonprofit status and sales tax exemption are related but not the same thing. A nonprofit is exempt from paying sales tax, but not from collecting sales tax.

Does AA's spiritual purpose give us a pass?

Spiritually, AA is not a business in the ordinary sense. But when we sell physical items, New York State may still treat those sales as taxable transactions.

Are we opening ourselves up to fines or back taxes?

There may be risk no matter which option we choose. Ignoring the issue does not make that risk go away. The goal is to make an informed decision and begin acting responsibly going forward.

Will this make literature more expensive?

It may add the amount of sales tax to taxable purchases. However, sales tax is not an Intergroup markup or fundraiser. It is collected and passed along to the state.

Can groups avoid paying sales tax if they are tax-exempt?

Possibly, but only with proper New York State exemption documentation. Intergroup would need to keep records showing why a sale was treated as exempt.

Will pursuing this open individual AA groups to being audited by the IRS?

Most likely, no. This discussion is about Suffolk Intergroup's literature sales and whether Intergroup should collect and remit New York State sales tax on those sales. It is not an IRS matter which is federal, and it does not automatically involve the finances of individual AA groups.

Most AA groups are small, unincorporated, and self-supporting, with regular basket contributions that are generally well below the threshold that would require filing IRS tax forms.

What is being asked of the groups?

Groups are being asked to discuss the issue carefully and help decide which path Intergroup should take: voluntary disclosure, collecting sales tax going forward, or taking no action.

Why bring this up now?

Because once the issue has been identified, it is better to address it openly and responsibly than to leave it for a future treasurer, chair, or audit to deal with under pressure.

2026 — 2027 Officers & Chairpersons

Chairperson	Tom B. chairperson@suffolkny-aa.org
Alt Chairperson	David V. alt-chairperson@suffolkny-aa.org
Treasurer	Meredith F. treasurer@suffolkny-aa.org
Corresponding Sec.	Nancy S. corsec@suffolkny-aa.org
Recording Sec.	Kelly B. recsec@suffolkny-aa.org
Archives	Evan H. archives@suffolkny-aa.org
Archivist	Bob R. archives@suffolkny-aa.org
Bulletin	Lauren B. bulletins@suffolkny-aa.org
Corrections	Karen C. correct@suffolkny-aa.org
Grapevine	Laurie A. grapevine@suffolkny-aa.org
Hot Line	Tom S. phones@suffolkny-aa.org
Literature	Mike R. literature@suffolkny-aa.org
Meeting List	Adam B. meetings@suffolkny-aa.org
Office Manager	Charlie D. siaooffice@suffolkny-aa.org
Public Info	Ed A. pubinfo@suffolkny-aa.org
Schools	Nancy M. schools@suffolkny-aa.org
Share-A-Thon	John V. share@suffolkny-aa.org
Special Events	Pete K. specialevents@suffolkny-aa.org
Third Legacy	Natalie S. thirdleg@suffolkny-aa.org
Treatment Facilities	Rob M. treatment@suffolkny-aa.org
Web Master	David P. webmaster@suffolkny-aa.org
SGS Liaison	Zoie S. SGSLiaison@suffolkny-aa.org
Spanish Liaison	Jose R. SpanishRep@suffolkny-aa.org
Al-Anon Liaison	Matt C. Info@al-anon-suffolk-ny.org
Alateen Liaison	Ed O. AlateenChair@al-anon-suffolk-ny.org

Upcoming Events in the Area

view latest announcements by clicking
or scanning the QR code or visiting:

[https://suffolkny-aa.org/
announcements](https://suffolkny-aa.org/announcements)



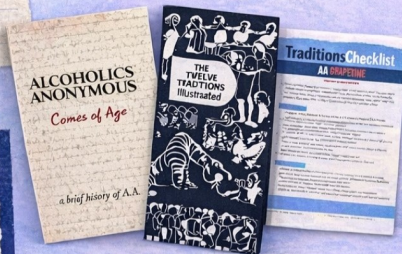
START DATE: February 6th

The 2026 Unity In Action 12 Traditions Workshop

First Fridays
Each Month in 2026
6pm

ZOOM Meeting ID:
941 2170 5886
PWD: service

- ☒ Q&A sessions
- ☒ Handouts provided
- ☒ Resources to take others
through AA's Traditions



Contact Natalie S
for handouts & info
Third Legacy Chair
thirdleg@suffolkny-aa.org



**SUFFOLK INTERGROUP OF
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

PRESENTS

50 Years

of the

SHARE-A-THON

"We Are Responsible"



**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2026**

TIME:
8:30 AM
— 4:00 PM

LOCATION:
Hyatt Regency Long Island
1717 Motor Parkway
Hauppauge, NY 11788

★ AA EVENT WITH AL-ANON PARTICIPATION ★



Join us for a powerful day of
fellowship, recovery, and connection.
Celebrate 50 years of the Share-A-Thon
with speakers, sharing, and community.

*All are
welcome!*

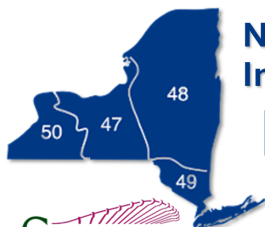


AL-ANON
for families
& friends of
alcoholics

**ONE DAY.
ONE PURPOSE.
OUR COMMON WELFARE.
TOGETHER WE CAN.**



For more information,
contact Suffolk Intergroup
share@suffolkny-aa.org
www.suffolkny-aa.org



New York State Informational Workshop

July 10 — 12, 2026

hosted by Area 49
Southeastern New York (SENY)

Stony Point Center
17 Cricketown Rd
Stony Point, NY 10980



Pricing

Single Occupancy (Private room + all meals)	\$495
Double Occupancy (Shared room with another attendee + all meals)	\$365

Commuter Rates

Full Weekend (all meals)	\$250
Friday commuter (with dinner)	\$80
Saturday commuter (with 3 meals)	\$100
Sunday commuter (with 2 meals)	\$80
Zoom Participants	\$25

Please note: there is no price reduction
for participants who choose to provide
their own meals.
With the exception of virtual registration,
all registration options include meals.

**June 12, 2026
Registration Deadline**

Schedule Includes:

Service Committee Panels • AA
Meetings • Area Chairs' Panel • Dele-
gates' Panel • Intergroup Participa-
tion • Meditation Meetings • Grape-
vine/La Viña • Fellowship • Sobriety
Skit • Nature Walk • Scavenger
Hunt • Labyrinth Walk • Sing-A-
Long • Bonfire • and much more

For more information,
visit NYSIW.org or email
nysiw2026@aaseny.org



Register at NYSIW.org

Join the Long Island Committee of
Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous

ANNUAL LICYPAA LUAU

with Al-
anoni/Alateen
participation

**BBQ | BEACH | VOLLEYBALL | MUSIC
GAMES | CRAFTS | MEETING | FELLOWSHIP**

Sunday, July 19th
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Meeting 4:00pm

Robert Moses State Park Field #2
600 Robert Moses State Park Dr, Babylon, NY 11702
(Picnic area to the right of the parking lot)
\$10 Parking per car (carpool!!)

\$10 suggested contribution when you pre-register
\$15 suggested contribution day of event
Scholarships available

Scan QR code to Pre-Register!



visit.licypaa.carrd.co

ALL ARE WELCOME. YOUNG AT HEART!
CONTACT INFO.LICYPAA@GMAIL.COM FOR ANY QUESTIONS
TO BE ADDED TO OUR EMAIL LIST FOR UPCOMING EVENTS.
EMAIL OUTREACH.LICYPAA@GMAIL.COM