

August 2026

Vol. 54 - No. 04



SUFFOLK INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION

Bulletin

**“We grow
in understanding
and effectiveness”**

**- Alcoholics Anonymous,
p. 84**



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

AUGUST IS A SEASON OF GROWTH, GRATITUDE, AND CARRYING THE MESSAGE

SIA Business Meeting

Held last Tuesday of every month

Augst 25th, 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



START DATE: February 6th

The 2026 Unity In Action

12 Traditions Workshop

First Fridays
Each Month in 2026

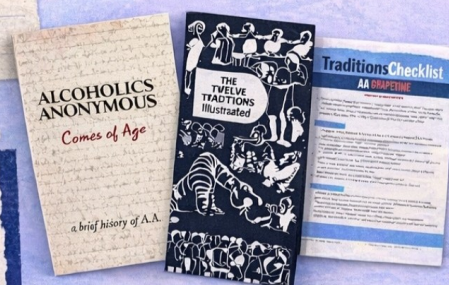
6pm

ZOOM Meeting ID:
941 2170 5886

PWD: service

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

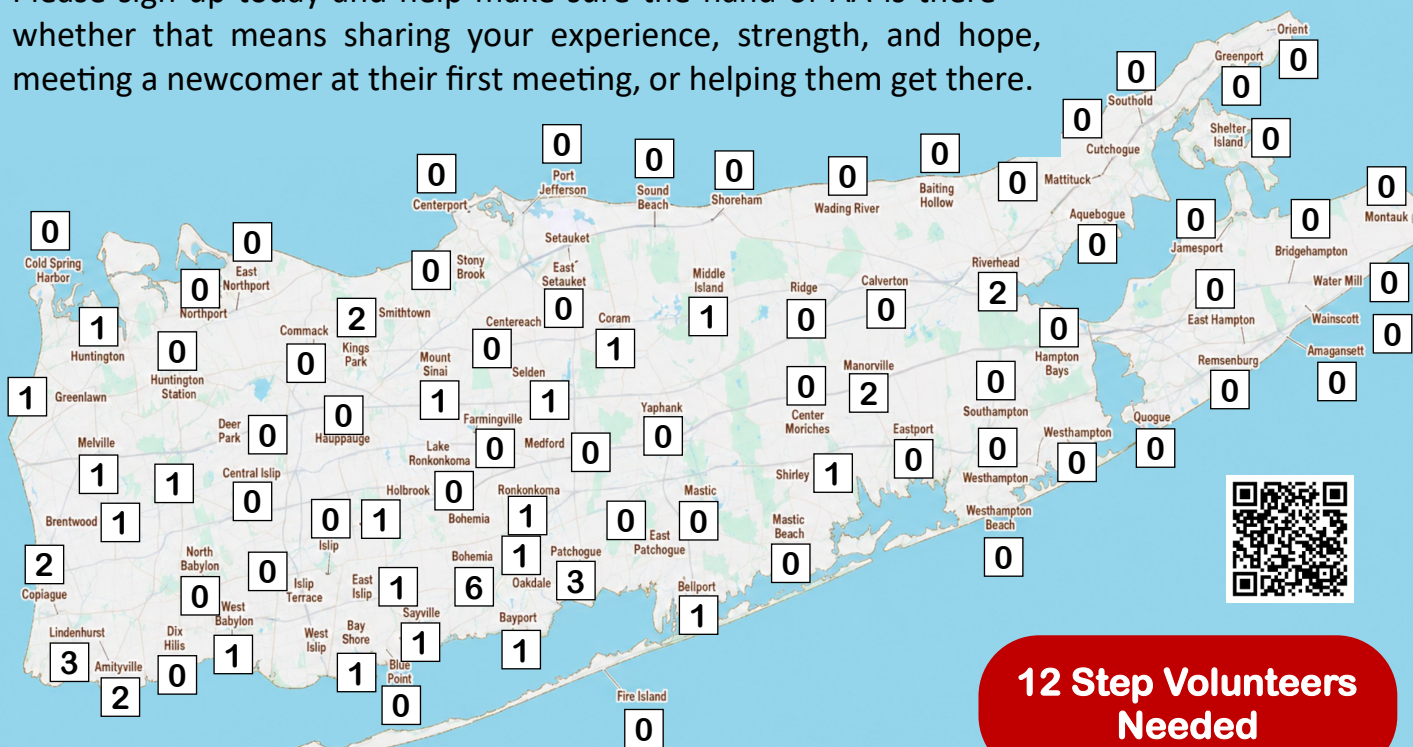
Contact Natalie S
for handouts & info
Third Legacy Chair
thirdleg@suffolkny-aa.org



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.



12 Step Volunteers Needed

Sales Tax on Literature Sales Where We Are Now

Since May, Suffolk Intergroup Association has been discussing its responsibility to collect New York State sales tax on literature sold through the SIA office.

For many years, SIA operated under the assumption that these sales were not taxable. We have since been advised by tax professionals that this understanding is incorrect and that SIA is required to collect sales tax and remit it to New York State.

Because of the importance of this issue, which involves both legal and financial responsibilities, SIA has asked the groups to take part in deciding how we should move forward.

Beginning the Discussion

The matter was introduced at the May SIA meeting. Representatives were asked to bring the information back to their groups for discussion and an eventual group conscience.

The goal was not to make an immediate decision. Groups needed time to understand the issue, consider the available options, ask questions, come to a group conscience for their group and communicate this back to the intergroup through their SIA representatives.

The July issue of the Bulletin provided additional information on pages 3 and 6, along with a Frequently Asked Questions section on page 7. Groups that have not yet discussed the matter are encouraged to review these materials.

Feedback from the Groups

At the June SIA meeting, the Chairperson reviewed the issue and asked representatives for feedback. Representatives were invited to report whether their groups had discussed the matter, what questions had been raised, and whether they had reached a decision.

The discussion showed that there is a range of opinions among the groups. However, most comments leaned toward bringing SIA into compliance with New York State tax law.

The main question is no longer simply whether SIA should collect sales tax. The larger question is how we should address the matter.

One option is to begin collecting sales tax on future literature sales. Another is to contact New York State through a voluntary disclosure process and address any possible responsibility for past sales.

Questions Still Being Considered

Several important questions were raised:

- Could SIA be responsible for unpaid sales tax from previous years?

August Calendar

August 3 @ 7pm

Schools Committee (virtual)

August 4 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Special Events Committee Meeting (SIA Office)

August 4 @ 7:00 pm—8:30 pm

Bylaws Committee Meeting (hybrid)

August 6 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Treatment / Bridging The Gap Outreach Subcommittee (virtual)

August 7 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Third Legacy
12 Traditions Workshop (virtual)

August 11 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Web Committee Meeting (virtual)

August 11 @ 7:00 pm—8:00 pm

SIA Archives Committee Meeting (virtual)

August 14 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Treatment Facilities' Bridging the Gap Committee Meeting (virtual and SIA Office)

August 20 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Treatment / Bridging The Gap Outreach Subcommittee (virtual)

August 22 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

SGS vs SIA Softball Game
(Lake Ronkonkoma County Park)

August 25 @ 6:30 pm - 7:40 pm

Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting (virtual and True North Church)

August 25 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

New Intergroup Rep Orientation (virtual + True North)

August 25 @ 7:00pm—7:45 pm

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

August 25 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

SIA Business Meeting (virtual + True North)



Around the AA CAMPUS

AUGUST 2026



Building a Fellowship of Hope and Service

NEW GROUP!

★ MTK AWAKE FOR CAKE (MONTAUK)

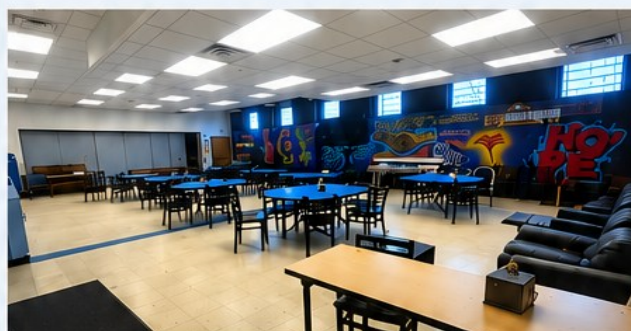
New group called MTK Awake For Cake has started in Montauk. It meets Saturday at 8:30 AM at St. Therese School 67 South Essex Street. Well worth joining them.



NEW GROUP!

★ GRANT US THE SERENITY (G.U.T.S.)

Another new group. This one is called Grant Us the Serenity (G.U.T.S.) and meets at 159 Brightside Avenue Central Islip every Tuesday at 5:30 PM. Each week is a different format, so if variety is your thing, head over.



KEEP TRUDGING

The Trudge Group, which stopped meeting back in April, has reemerged with a new name. Now called **Keep Trudging**, it shows you can't keep a good group down. The schedule is Monday 5:30 PM and Thursday 5:30 PM. Trudge over to the Presbyterian Church 340 Main Street Islip to participate in its two Big Book meetings.



BRIDGE TO SHORE

Bridge to Shore has discontinued its Friday 6:00 PM meeting. Its Sunday 6:00 PM Open Big Book will still meet at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs 53 Prospect Road Centerport.



ROCK STEADY

Greenport's Rock Steady reports that during the warmer months, it has moved outdoors. It meets Tuesday at 11:00 AM in the back room of an antique store at 214 Front Street. During inclement weather it's back inside, which is a pretty funky decorated place indeed. Stop in.



A tip of the hat to **Heather K**, whose article appeared in the July 2026 Grapevine. Makes for an excellent read.



THE BREAKFAST CLUB

The Breakfast Club which meets at 939 Johnson Avenue in Ronkonkoma reports its Tuesday 6:00 PM meeting will henceforth be in-person only. Its Monday 6:00 PM likewise is in-person, but the Saturday 10:00 AM will continue as Hybrid. Zoom ID 181 483 609 No passcode



We don't usually acknowledge anniversaries in this column, but **Bob T** of Patchogue just celebrated his **60th!!!** Now that's worth mentioning.



HAYGROUND KEEP IT SIMPLE

Hayground Keep It Simple has changed its hybrid information. It still meets in person Saturday 7:00 PM at Incarnation Lutheran Church 1553 Montauk Highway Water Mill but with a new Zoom ID: 896 3451 7325 Passcode: 093710



THE THINGS WE CANNOT CHANGE

Bill W, formerly of the Northport Group has passed away. He and his late wife Betty were powerhouses of Suffolk AA service work before retiring to Florida. Both touched many lives by their example.

"We will always remember."



Cow Harbor



Group History

St. Paul's Methodist Church
270 Main Street
Northport, N.Y. 11768

The original name for the village of Northport was Great Cow Harbor. In the 1600s, the town was a farming community and the pastures near the water were perfect for cows to graze. When Janet started the Cow Harbor meeting around June 1987, cows were mostly gone, but young alcoholics weren't. Even though there was already a young people's meeting in the area, Janet saw a need for another one geared toward them. It first met on Saturday evenings at 7:30 PM at the Trinity Episcopal Church. Despite its intended focus, the meeting drew people of all ages.

By the February 1989 Suffolk meeting list, it was noted that the meeting had moved to St. Paul's, where it still meets today. The meetings were run mostly by members of the Northport Group, although that was a separate group. No anniversaries were ever celebrated. As time wore on, numbers for both Cow Harbor and another local meeting, Northport Discussion, suffered and both meetings teetered on collapse. Brian stepped in and brokered a merger of the two meetings in 2014 and together they took on the name Cow Harbor and became a group.

With the merger, the new group did a complete turnaround. Residents from the Veterans Hospital started coming and numbers rose. The days they met on increased and up to 70 people attended. Now meeting Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, it has become a powerhouse of Alcoholics Anonymous.

There is a message to be learned here - never give up. With some adjustments made, things can change. Cow Harbor is a shining example.

S.I.A. Archives Committee

Original history written by Phyllis B, Jack C and Jim C September 2004
Updated June 14, 2026



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	(virtual + 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
Special Events	(SIA Office)
1st 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

WE ARE RESPONSIBLE
Share-A-Thon Planning Committee

Last Tuesday of the month at
7:00 pm —virtually and in person immediately before the SIA Meeting. See pg 2 for details.

(Continued from page 3)

- How far back might the state review past sales?
- Could SIA or its officers face additional liability now that we are aware of the issue if we fail to address it?
- Would voluntary disclosure reduce possible penalties or audit risk?
- Are literature sales at special events treated differently from office sales?
- Can tax-exempt organizations avoid paying sales tax by providing the proper documentation?
- How are other intergroups in New York handling literature sales?

These are reasonable concerns, and they are why SIA has taken time to gather information rather than rush into a decision.

What Happens Next

Groups should continue discussing the matter and give clear direction to through their representatives.

Representatives should be prepared to report whether their groups support collecting sales tax going forward and whether SIA should pursue voluntary disclosure concerning past sales.

The hope is that SIA will be ready to vote by the August 25th meeting. Until that vote takes place, no final course of action has been approved.

The goal is to reach a decision that respects both our legal responsibilities and the informed group conscience of the fellowship we serve.

- Suffolk Intergroup Association



The **Treatment Facilities Committee** is ramping up the county's BTG program. We need your help to be:

Temporary Contacts - bring prospects coming out of a Treatment facility to their first six meetings & get them connected with a sponsor, home group & commitment.

BTG District Captains - remember the SIA hotline district Captains who used to go around recruiting A.A. members for 12 step calls via the hotline? Same thing - only recruiting Temporary Contacts for Bridging the Gap instead. Must have working knowledge of A.A. traditions or be willing to learn.

BTG Facilitators - communicate with staff of Facilities to assist prospects connecting with a Temporary Contact on the outside. Must have working knowledge of A.A. traditions or be willing to learn.

To learn more about service opportunities w/ Treatment Facilities Committee scan or click QR code, or visit:



<https://suffolkny-aa.org/treatment>

SUFFOLK INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION

SCHOOLS

Committee

★ CARRYING THE MESSAGE INTO OUR SCHOOLS ★

..... EDUCATE • INFORM • INSPIRE



Help bring A.A. literature and our message of hope to students and educators in Suffolk County.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Held the

FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH

(2nd Monday in Sept)

Held Virtually

ZOOM ID: 941 2170 5886

PASSCODE: service

URL: suffolkny-aa.org/schools

Your service makes a difference!

Get Involved. Make An Impact.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Sales Tax FAQ No. 2

Why is SIA discussing sales tax?

SIA recently learned that literature sold through the SIA office is subject to New York State sales tax. Tax professionals advised that SIA is legally required to collect the tax and remit it to the state.

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.

Has SIA made a final decision?

No. No final course of action has been approved. We are waiting to hear back from the groups on how they would like SIA to proceed.

What are the main options being considered?

SIA could begin collecting sales tax on future literature sales. It

could also pursue voluntary disclosure with New York State to address possible obligations from past sales.

What is voluntary disclosure?

Voluntary disclosure is a process for contacting the state to report and resolve past tax obligations before the state begins an audit or enforcement action. SIA is still gathering information about what would be involved in proceeding with this process.

Could SIA owe sales tax for previous years?

Very likely, yes. Questions remain about how far back the state might review sales, whether penalties could apply, and whether voluntary disclosure could limit SIA's exposure.

What feedback has come from the groups?

There is a range of opinions. However, most comments have leaned toward bringing SIA into compliance with New York State tax law. The main disagreement is over how to address past sales.

What should groups be discussing?

Groups should decide whether they support collecting sales tax going forward and whether SIA should pursue voluntary disclosure concerning past sales.

What happens next?

Groups should give clear direction to their SIA representatives. The hope is that SIA will hold a vote on how to proceed as soon as the August SIA meeting.

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. siaoffice@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>



SERVICE PARTICIPATION SOFTBALL GAME!

SUFFOLK INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION
REPS & ALTERNATES, OFFICE
VOLUNTEERS, CHAIRS AND OFFICERS

VS

SUFFOLK GENERAL SERVICE
GSRs & ALTERNATES, HOSPITALITY
VOLUNTEERS, CHAIRS AND OFFICERS

PLAYERS NEEDED!

**SATURDAY,
AUGUST 22, 2026**

BAGELS AND COFFEE
@ 10AM
SOFTBALL GAME
BEGINS @ 11AM

NEW LOCATION:
LAKE RONKONKOMA COUNTY PARK
600 LAKE SHORE RD.
LAKE RONKONKOMA, NY 11779

Fun, Food and Fellowship!

Root for both service bodies
who do awesome work in
Suffolk County!!!

CONTACT: Christine @ serviceparticipation@aasuffolks-ny.org
or Pete @ specialevents@suffolkny-aa.org

SIA BAR-B-QUE

GOOD FELLOWSHIP • GREAT FOOD • LASTING SOBRIETY

Saturday,
SEPTEMBER 5, 2026

*AT SOUTHAVEN PARK,
under the pavilion*

761 VICTORY AVENUE
YAPHANK, NY 11980

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**TICKETS ARE
\$10.00**

**PARKING
\$7.00**

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE
ONLINE NOW AT:

<https://suffolkny-aa.org/bbq/>

FUN **GAMES** **FOOD**

Bring your friends, your appetite, and your A.A. spirit!

SUFFOLK GENERAL SERVICE

ARCHIVES EVENT

JIM BURWELL / FITZ MAYO

DATE & TIME
SEPTEMBER 5, 2026
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

SPEAKERS
Jim S. & Marty K.

LOCATION
Saint Joseph the Worker Church
510 Narragansett Ave
North Bellport, NY

Hospitality • Fellowship • Lunch • Coffee • Cookies

Contact: Bobby I.
SGS Archives Chair

Preserving our history – carrying the message forward

**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