



County Crier



Putnam County General Service of Alcoholics Anonymous®

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2008

Serving Putnam County
A.A. Districts:
910, 920 & 930

Putnam County General Services Meetings Are Held the 3rd Friday of Every Month at 8:30 p.m. in Carmel at the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church Hall.



Service Outside The Home Group

If you are anything like I was about 4 years ago, you're asking yourself, "Putnam County General Services of Alcoholics Anonymous?"... "What the heck is that?"

This all started with my sponsor saying, "Staci will be our new GSR," at our group's monthly business meeting. So, actually, my first question was, "What's a GSR?" These "silly" questions all started a journey into service that I never knew existed. What's more, it opened a door of spirituality that's "beyond my wildest dreams!"

Basically, it has gently and sometimes not so gently, lead me from the Twelve Steps into the Twelve Traditions – the true essence of unity. I was always under the impression that the Twelve Traditions were the steps for the Group, period. It is true that the Traditions are meant as guidelines for group unity, however, that 4th Tradition doesn't stop after, "Each group should be autonomous" – Oh no! It goes on to say... "except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole!"



AA as a whole? What does that mean? It means that I am a member of a group – the group is at the top of the AA Service Structure. The next level is Putnam County General Services, of which each group has a General Service Representative, GSR, to voice their Group's concerns & opinions with all of the Groups in our district – Putnam County.

Wait there's more than just the groups unifying with each other! Remember that Tradition that says, "Each Group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers?"

PCGS has several committees that focus on that primary purpose! There are service committees designated to communicate the needs of the still suffering alcoholic – the alcoholic who has not found recovery or cannot get to meetings – from the community of Putnam County to the GSR.

The PCGS committee chair receives a request for help then passes the need to the GSR's and they in turn report the information back to their group.

And Voila! There you have it in a nutshell.

Staci N.

Each Group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

P.S. ~ The service structure does not end with PCGS, that's a story for another time...stay tuned!



May 31	1st SENY Bilingual Workshop in Mamaroneck, NY at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 168 W. Boston Post Rd. 10am – 4pm
June 7	Lois' 56th Annual Family Groups Picnic at Stepping Stones, the historic house of Bill and Lois Wilson, Katonah, NY. AA & Alanon. 12-5pm Meeting at 2:30pm For more info: www.steppingstones.org
June 8-10	Founders Day Celebrate the 73 rd Anniversary of the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous in Akron, Ohio. Events at Dr. Bob's home, Akron University and other locations. For a full schedule of events & registration information: www.akronaa.org or 800-897-6737 & 330-253-8181
June 13-15	Ocean State Young People's Conference <i>Fly into Freedom on the Wings of Change</i> at Camp Aldersgate, North Scituate, RI.
June 21	Area 49 Committee Meeting in Ozone Park, NY at St. Mary Gate of Heaven Church, 10406 101 st Ave. Contact Area 49 for more details.
July 25-27	40th New York State Convention in Tarrytown, NY at the Westchester Marriott, 670 White Plains Road. For more info contact NYS Convention Chair: convention08@aaseny.org
Sept.11-14	12th Annual National A.A. Archives Workshop <i>History Lights The Way</i> at Days Inn (Niagara Resorts) Niagara Falls, NY.
Nov. 1	S.E.N.Y. Special Needs Share A Day <i>Communication & Participation-The Key to Unity & Self Support</i> in Brooklyn Heights, NY at St. Francis College. 10am-3pm, registration at 9:30am. For more info contact: special-needs@aaseny.org . ASL interpreted & Wheelchair accessible.
Nov.13-16	47th Annual Hawaii Convention , <i>Give Freely of What You Find and Join Us. Utopia is here and now.</i>

AA Inside Corrections and Treatment Facilities

I am the Treatment/Corrections Committee Chairperson; as such, I am in contact with the various Corrections & Treatment Facilities, who send requests for assistance from Alcoholics Anonymous in Putnam County.

The AA members help those facilities in a variety of ways: we bring meetings into the facility; we become contacts for individuals making the transition back into our community, "Bridging the Gap" program, and we also correspond with individuals serving time in prisons



throughout the United States.

At this time, there are several meeting requests in these facilities that are NOT being fulfilled. It is at the Putnam County General

Service Meetings the various opportunities to "carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic" are brought forth to the groups via the GSR.

I have witnessed some of the many ways Alcoholics Anonymous serves our community

and it is profound. I have discovered for myself that in "suiting-up & showing-up" to serve, I am astonished by how it has enhanced my spiritual/personal growth – the true essence of recovery!

Corrections and Treatment is only one of the service committees where we need more people to carry the message of recovery in these facilities.

Staci N – Putnam County General Services Correction/Treatment Committee Chair

For more info: staci94@Comcast.net

"Suiting-up & showing up" to serve, I am astonished by how it has enhanced my spiritual personal growth - the true essence of recovery!

May 2008



**Serving Putnam County A.A. Districts:
910, 920 & 930**

Putnam County General Service Office
Post Office Box 983
Carmel, NY 10512

Contact County Crier Newsletter by email:
countycrier@gmail.com for submission of AA events to be posted, AA related info, something of interest you heard in the rooms or if you just can't sleep.

New York Intergroup: www.nyintergroup.org
General Service Office: www.alcoholicsanonymous.org
SENY area 49: www.aaseny.org
AA Grapevine: www.aagrapevine.org

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the first edition of the **County Crier** newsletter for Alcoholics Anonymous® in Putnam County. The idea to start a newsletter has been brewing for a long time. It is our hope to make this an informative and worthwhile newsletter to A.A.'s locally.

We encourage your input and ideas to help make this newsletter a part of AA in Putnam County. There's work to be done now; ideas for topics, design and layout, the posting of current events and changes with AA groups. Whether you feel inclined to join the newsletter team or not you are welcome to submit something of interest for the good of AA.

Everyone is welcome to come by on the third Friday of any month at the General Services meeting in Carmel to learn more about it.

Yours in service,

MaryJo L.



Service Positions Available

- Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Communication Website– Update information, enhance design and layout
- Literature/Grapevine– Order & maintain supply for events
- Newsletter– Edit current AA info, content, design & layout
- Special Needs– Contact & referral person for individuals with special needs.
- Special committees for 2008 - Unity Breakfast (Oct) and Alkathon (Dec).

If you think you might be interested in any of these positions, talk to your group GSR for details or come to one of the GSR meetings to get more information about each position.

Greeters Wanted!

Be a Greeter for the 40th New York State Convention July 26-27, 2008 at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, NY.



It's Fun, It's Easy and a Great Way to Get Involved!

For more info contact:

Tiffany (917) 558-0075, qtea@optonline.net or Linda (718) 462-0981, megheebklyn@aol.com.



PLUG IN THE JUG

If there is one thing in life that is constant—it is change.

So, after many, years of the **PLUG IN THE JUG** calling Lake Mahopac United Methodist Church their home — June 27th will hold their last meeting at the present location.

No need to worry - because July 1st the **PLUG IN THE JUG** will be opening their doors at a church down the road on Route 6N near Secor Road. Keep your ears open to hear about the new location.

The Plug meets on *Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.*

A Debt of Gratitude to Alcoholics Anonymous

I've been asked to write a few words, some paragraphs about what I consider to be one of AA's fundamental tenets. That of being responsible, a word that I've always had trouble spelling, unless it's right in front of me - never mind being responsible.

So here we all are bound together irrevocably by this simple unmistakable belief that, "I am responsible when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there and for that I am responsible."

It is through this simple message we are glued together, actually forcing unity thereby giving AA, one of its main strengths - Unity. This responsibility comes with the territory, as the saying goes. For without it, I am left alone, a place where I will not fare well for long.

This responsibility is married to the debt I owe AA. This is not one of those "a day at a time" things - there is permanence to it, in my opinion. For me, without A.A. and its gift of sobriety, I would most certainly be dead, drunk, a burden to those around me, imprisoned, insane or otherwise of little help to society at large. In simpler terms, if I don't do my part - or even more, the chain being strongest at its weakest point would be ruler. A scary prospect.

I have led a privileged life of travel, worldwide for the better part of my life to date, and have been privy to being a part of and a witness to AA, and how this individual yet common concept works. I can spend days filling pages with alcoholic non sequiturs ad infinitum about how individuals "drop what they may be doing at any given time" to be responsible - to what has not only saved their lives, and that is not a melodramatic statement.

The power of that alone is unique which I have found to be a fact that cannot be denied, argued or ignored. This particular elephant just wouldn't fit in any living room, I've been in. Small, large, full or empty, that fact is so deeply instilled in me by witnessing hundreds of miracles happen right in front of my eyes. That is surely why one continues to give and give to this organization. To witness seeing "hope" happen is truly an unnatural occurrence, and it is impossible to ignore.

I have seen it in over 20 countries, where often I don't even get close to comprehending the language being spoken. And we all know it-intrinsically, intuitively and with such uplifting power, we all continue giving. Smiling, laughing, driving people oft times far out of our intended destination.



The debt I owe to AA is one that can never be repaid, for what it has given me, piece of mind, acceptance, tolerance, understanding and love — are things that are not for sale. We all know what AA has given us. We all are aware, of just how unattainable these gifts were while drinking.

So, for such a worldwide loosely knitted fellowship that AA is, responsibility comes naturally and gratefully. It is through this unique responsibility that we grow, evolve, change and help one another. With just a brief perusal, it is plain to see that we are obliged to do our part and more, whether called upon or not. Selfishly, I want AA to always be there. For without it, I will have much less fun, much more loneliness and an almost guaranteed lifetime of alcoholic bafflement and no sense of the reward that comes from giving. To be a part of AA worldwide is an honor, and that comes with it very God given gifts. As I drift from country to country-easefully-and invariably without a lot of searching, I always find fellow alcoholics who are always in need of spending time with one of their own kind.

So, the writing of this article was not an onus, it was an opportunity to express gratitude and wonder at how it works, and for that, I am responsible.

Geoff C.

Each and every Alcoholic
—sober or not—
Teaches us some valuable lessons

Alcoholics Anonymous® of
Putnam County
Annual Unity Breakfast
Sponsored by Putnam County General Services

Sunday, October 26, 2008

At Graymoor-Home of the Franciscan Sisters and
Friars of the Atonement
Located on Route 9 in Garrison, New York

Tickets are \$15.00 and
will be going on sale soon!

A Day in the Life of the
Putnam County Archivist

Indiana Jones he's not but more like Sherlock Holmes on the trail for clues and uncovering bits and pieces of history about Alcoholics Anonymous® in Putnam County and their A.A. groups.

Do you have any information to share about AA history in your area?

Do you have any objects from your group you'd like contribute to the Putnam County archives?

Please contact Dave W. at (914) 261-2177