

OCEAN VIEWS

RHODE ISLAND AREA 61 NEWSLETTER

March 2017 • Volume 3

TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITIES COMMITTEE

Hello, I'm Jeff W. and I'm honored to be serving as your Area Chairperson for the Treatment and Accessibilities Committee.

I'd like to tell you a little about our committee - what we do and how you can help carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to those who need it. Since the beginning of AA in 1935, we have cooperated with treatment facilities. Bill W. himself was the product of a treatment facility. Our primary purpose is to practice the

principles of our twelfth step and carry the message of AA to those in treatment facilities or those who have

accessibility issues to our message/12-step program. But please remember we help ourselves as much or more than those we help. It is only by giving it back that we help ourselves and thank those who freely gave of themselves to help us.

We work with treatment facility administrators and personnel to bring meetings into their facilities, supply AA approved literature, and help with the patients' transition back into the community with our "Bridging the Gap" program. We'll arrange to pick up and bring a person to a meeting in their community so they can begin to form their own network of AA's. It's very important to note we work within the guidelines of the facility for safety rules, scheduling meetings and carrying a positive message of recovery. We have

established guidelines on bringing a meeting into a facility and encourage all to get them before you go into one. We also provide help to those with accessibility issues such as sight and hearing. We have Big Books in Braille, large print literature and audio literature. We are now in the process of identifying

meeting facilities that meet the guidelines of the ADA (American Disabilities Act) and will be denoting those facilities in future meeting schedules. By doing so, those individuals with disabilities will be able to know a meeting can truly facilitate their needs upon arrival.

We currently support meetings at just about all treatment facilities in the state: Butler, Rhode Island Hospital, Adcare, Phoenix House, Providence Center, Kent, Providence VA, and more. We help the old and young alike. In total, we support and coordinate over 150 meetings per month, seven days a week, 365 days a year. None of this would be possible without YOU!

Our committee is structured with volunteers from each of our various districts. Each district has a committee coordinator. These people put in countless hours of support and 12-step work. Our current committee consists of the following district coordinators: Ian & Marie B – Dist 1, (Ian is also our Bridging the Gap Coordinator), John D – Dist 3, Scott S – Dist 6, Robin Z – Dist 7,

and myself. There are many others who join us and give tremendous help and support. We meet the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Area 61 office, located at 3649 Post Road, Warwick, RI. Please join us! This is very rewarding service work and your help is needed to carry the AA message to those in treatment facilities or with accessibility issues.

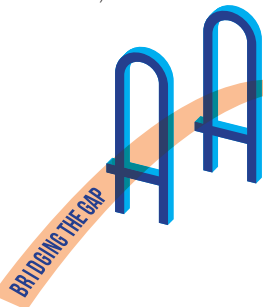
Thank you all so very much.
Yours in Service, Jeff W.

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THE AA MESSAGE



WE SUPPORT AND COORDINATE OVER 150 MEETINGS A MONTH, 7 DAYS A WEEK 365 DAYS A YEAR



Share

Your Experience
Strength & Hope

Have an idea for an article? Would you like to submit a story for the newsletter? Please forward it to:
autrycindy@yahoo.com

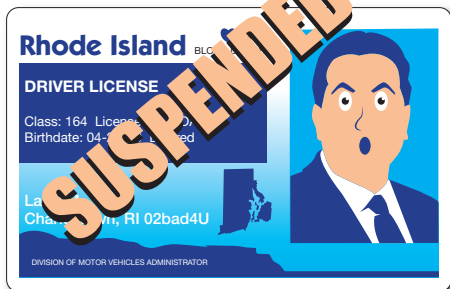
If you've never been to a Pre-Conference Assembly, please join us on April 15 at 9:00 am at St. Kevin's Church, 333 Sandy Lane in Warwick, RI.

MODEL CITIZEN

My friend Jim and I were bringing an AA meeting into the local prison as we do every other Tuesday night. After a great meeting we were driving home. It was St. Patrick's Day. I can admit to feeling a little self-righteous, thinking they should name a saint after me, bringing a meeting into prison on St. Paddy's Day! While we were chatting away in the car, police lights came on behind us.

I pulled over and the officer informed me I was speeding. As he wrote me up, he said that because of my good driving record, I could get the charges dropped if I went to court.

A few weeks later when I was having some trouble setting up a court date, a woman at the court surprisingly informed me that my license had been suspended. What? Me? I've been sober for 26 years. Why, I've been a model citizen for years.



As I started jumping through the hoops to get my license back, I began to get a little nostalgic. I hadn't had to deal with courts and the DMV in a long time. But I sure did in my drinking days. When I found out my license had been suspended in Florida, I was astounded. Turns out I was convicted of a DWI back in 1976. I remember so little of that night—just the first couple of drinks before I blacked out.

The next day I woke up in an Orlando drunk tank. I had four charges against me, including the DWI and eluding a police officer. Not

to mention a fair amount of damage I did to a new truck that belonged to my brother.

I didn't come into AA for another 12 years after that. I am so grateful to have gotten here and stayed. I'm also grateful for this reminder. It allowed me to take a hard look at what I was like when I was running the show on my own. My life in AA now is second to none.

Larry M., Charlestown, RI

ATTENTION

If you've never been to a Pre-Conference Assembly, please join us on April 15 at 9:00 am at St. Kevin's Church, 333 Sandy Lane in Warwick, RI.

This is where YOU get to voice YOUR opinions and vote on how YOU would like our Delegate, Kenny D, to express OUR Area Conscience in New York City at the General Service Conference in late April!! We will possibly be covering such topics as:

- Safety in the Rooms of AA
- Reaching alcoholics in the armed forces
- A new alcoholics & medications pamphlet
- Budget questions
- A new alcoholics & mental illness pamphlet
- A Zero Tolerance harassment policy at AA meetings.

Come and make your voice heard at the General Service Conference in New York City!

Not to mention that immediately after our break-out sessions, we will be holding a Sweet or Savory Pie Challenge! (Meat, Chicken, Shepherd's, Spinach, to name a few savory ones, or Apple, Blueberry, Sugar, Chocolate Cream, to name a few sweet ones) Bring a pie or just an appetite and enjoy some great food and fellowship!

If you want to get involved and are not sure how to do it, show up, get educated, and get filled up with pie!

Area Officers

Delegate Kenny D.

Area61Delegate@Rhodelsland-AA.org

Alternate Delegate Mary K.

Area61AltDelegate@Rhodelsland-AA.org

Area Chair Steve L.

Area61Chair@Rhodelsland-AA.org

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Committee Chairs

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Convention Chair John H.

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Corrections Chair Mary S.

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Grapevine Chair Tim P.

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Treatment/Accessibilities Chair Jeff W.

Area61Treatment@Rhodelsland-AA.org

Convention Information

This Year's Theme: *Anchor of Hope*

The Rhode Island 41st Convention will be held on March 24, 25 and 26 at Gurney's Newport Resort & Marina, Goat Island, Newport. To obtain a registration form, log on to the Rhode Island Alcoholics Anonymous website at: Rhodelsland-aa.org. You will find it under the Upcoming Events, 2017 RI Convention tab on the web.

Highlights from our January Area Assembly

- Everyone loved our new location at 333 Sandy Lane in Warwick.
- We had a chili cook-off and Districts 5 & 6 were tied as winners.
- Our next Area Assembly will be on April 15 at St. Kevin's Church, 333 Sandy Lane in Warwick at 9:00 a.m.

Spotlight on a District

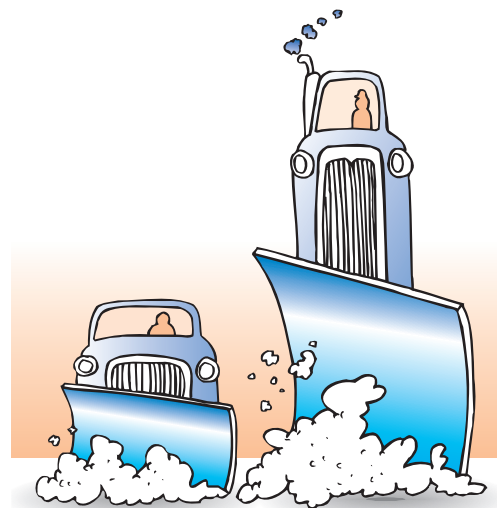
District 3, which consists of Providence, Cranston, Johnston, Scituate and Foster, meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Edgewood Congregational Church, 1788 Broad Street, Cranston at 7:00 pm.

District Committee Member (DCM):

DCM Bob L., Area61District3@Rhodelsland-AA.org



OCEANVIEWSTOON



Higher Plower