

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024



BOARD MEETING-FEB 2

NEW PUBLIC INFO CHAIR FOCUSED ON IMPACT

Chris, the newly appointed Public Information Chair, is results-oriented. Following an evaluation of the media spend in 2023, he intends to redirect some of the spend towards more SEM (search engine marketing) to get the message of support to those are sick and suffering. Chris clarifies, "We are not increasing the budget; instead, we are reallocating funds from the DMV ad campaign to a proven resource that drives traffic to our ad which helps individuals identify as an alcoholic and gives them resources, such as our 24-hour hot line."

Corrections & Treatment Re-Newed Focus

An enhanced outreach campaign to area correction and treatment centers was launched this month. Pete, the committee chair, is leading the initiative in coordination with Nick at District 6. The initial phase includes creating a list of all locations open to speakers. Pete reports, "We are really focused on meeting the unique requirements of each location. such as women-only facilities. It is my job to deliver high quality speakers and meet entry rules."

IAFC In-office Answering Service Under Discussion

The objective for the answering service is to have a recovering alcoholic answer the phone for the sick and suffering who are looking for help. During the board meeting held Feb 2, discussions revolved around the future of the IAFC in-office answering service. The current lease for the Norwalk office will expire on May 31, 2024. As Chair Michele stated, "The office was intended for in-person hotline answering services. However, due to the rise of Covid, IAFC created the remote answering service option and more volunteers handle calls from their cell phones at home." At the meeting, two options were seen as viable.

1. Retain in-person answering service and renew the office lease
2. Stop in-person answering service and close the office. Intergroup would use storage space for literature and other Intergroup materials.

Next step is for the board to present relevant data to the Representatives at the March representative meeting. The membership makes the decision about in-office answering service and the future of an office.

SPEAKERS EXCHANGE

Mark your calendars for next Speakers Exchange to be held Saturday March 9, 7:00am at the Real Club location at St Cecelia's. Jamil Speaker Exchange Chair reports that attendance grows with each meeting. He is focused now on new outreach now needed with redistricting.



Recovery Unlimited 45th Anniversary

Close to 100 people gathered in East Norwalk to celebrate Recovery Unlimited's 45th Anniversary.

Look for more details in the March newsletter

12-Step List--Service in Action

Did you know that over 150 people in our area volunteer their time for 12-Step Calls? IAFC maintains this database and performs an audit at least once a year to keep it up to date. The 12-Step list provides name, phone number, town, hours of service as specified by the volunteer. "These folks believe it is very important to give back what was so freely given to them, says Laura board member updating the list. "By doing so, they both fulfill the 12th step of their own program *and* extending the hand of AA to suffering alcoholics. Laura asks if you are contacted, please respond quickly so revised database can go live.

Area 11 Centralized Answering Service

The board welcomed Fred from Area 11 who spoke on their phone answering service redesign. The plan is to move from a district to area-centric platform for cost savings and improved efficiency.

And now some "humor"

Q: What separates a good meeting speaker from a great one?

A: A good speaker ends on time. A great speaker finishes early.

Q: Why do I emphasize my fourth step so much?

A: Because I've stumbled and injured myself when drunk.



SPRING FLING PLANNED

Plans are afoot for a spring social according to Brian, Events and Fellowship Chair. An evening of games, food, music even dancing will be held in May-June. Brian promises this event is designed 100% for fun and fellowship. Date TBD.

YOUR help is needed to bring off this event and others planned for later this year. Join Brian in a just created Events Committee to lend a hand. Brian reports this is a no-pressure assignment, open to all members of AA (no sobriety requirement). Reach out to him at _____

PHONE Coordinator Needed Urgently

If you have 1-2 hours a week to give for service and 2 years of sobriety please **step up** to be the IAFC Phones Chair. There is an easy to follow instruction manual and 1:1 time with an expert to get you quickly into the role. **Currently training for new hotline volunteers is on hold due to this vacancy.**

Co-chairs approach is possible so *ask an AA friend with the qualifications to sign up too.*



Let us know:
events to be posted
anniversary dates
story ideas
better jokes

Send content ideas to secretary@iafc-aa.org



This newsletter is written and designed by Laura B. She can be reached at secretary@iafc-aa.org