

December, 2015

www.slaanei.org

617-625-7961

NEI NEWSLETTER



New England Intergroup of S.L.A.A.

*"The spiritual substance
of Anonymity is sacrifice"
--Twelve Steps and
Twelve traditions*



NEI Sponsored Calendar of
Events 2015/2016

As of 11/7/2015

(Check with NEI to confirm date
& times or changes.)

December, 2015

13 NEI Monthly Mtg@5pm

18-20 **12 Step Retreat,**
Chester, VT

January, 2016

1-3 **12 Step Retreat,**
Chester, VT

10 **NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5pm**

February, 2016

13 **Annual We Are Not
Alone Mtg/Get Together**
Location TBD

14 **NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5pm**

March, 2016

20-23 **12 Step Retreat,** Chester,
VT

13 **NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5pm**

April, 2016

10 **NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5pm**

23 **Spring Recovery
Gathering** Andover
Newton Theological School
(ANTS)

(Check with NEI to confirm date &
times or changes.)

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Thoughts on the Twelfth Tradition

As I sat thinking about writing thoughts on this article I asked for guidance from God. I read the 12th Step and 12th Tradition over and over as I have for nearly ten years in this fellowship. I read the AA Twelve and Twelve and the S.L.A.A. Basic text on the Twelfth Step. I found the quote for the month.

I began pondering the quote and it suddenly evolved into an "aha" moment. Of course the spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice!! I looked up the definition of sacrifice which is not a word I am unfamiliar with and found this at vocabulary.com "A sacrifice is a loss or something you give up, usually for the sake of a better cause."

How does this come together? Well, when I came into program I had to give up a suffering life of addiction in order to gain sobriety and a better life. I had to lose the painful life that I was so familiar and strangely comfortable with. In attending hundreds of meetings, I've found that I am not alone.

Step 12 advises us that after awakening spiritually, through all of the previous steps, we sacrifice ourselves and carry the message. We maintain anonymity for those we carry this message to. We are interested only in being available to those still suffering in our addiction, sharing our experience strength and hope. Service is the word that really sums this up. We help others which spiritually helps us all.

Tradition 12 is really the culmination of the previous traditions and goes hand in hand with Step 12. It reminds us that "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities." This, to me, means that we set aside our personal wants and desires. We live by principles now. This was something most of us never did before program; at least not unselfish principles of our own. We were grandiose, selfish and self-seeking. We didn't care or think of those we hurt. Now we do. We seek to live according to very important principles.

Rich N

NEWSBRIEFS

****NEI NEEDS A TREASURER - ASAP** Please inquire to find out how you can share your experience, strength and hope to help yourself and others in this fellowship. A MINIMUM OF 1 YEAR SOBRIETY IS NEEDED FOR THIS POSITION.

**** NEI SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE:** There are opportunities for service at NEI including but not limited to phone service volunteers, group reps and alternative reps. ANYONE CAN HELP

**** IS YOUR MEETING REPRESENTED IN NEI?** CHECK WITH YOUR MEETING. IF NOT **YOU** CAN REPRESENT YOUR MEETING AS A GROUP REP OR ALTERNATE REP AND ATTEND NEI BUSINESS MEETINGS.

Does your group need S.L.A.A. Basic Texts, pamphlets or chips?

Local S.L.A.A. meetings in Eastern MA and Rhode Island are encouraged to order their S.L.A.A. literature through New England Intergroup (NEI). Simply fill out the order form found at the NEI website, <http://www.slaanei.org>. Email an order to literature@slaanei.org. Orders may alternatively be mailed to our P.O. Box and picked up at the next NEI business meeting as long as it's ordered 3 weeks in advance. Or place your order through Fellowship Wide Services at <http://www.slaafws.org> or at 1-210-828-7900.



Contact us at mailinglist@slaanei.org to be added to our emailing list. Thank you.



OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO COME TO THE NEI BUSINESS MEETINGS TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING. THIS IS YOUR FELLOWSHIP.

Our next NEI business meeting is Sunday, December 13, 2015 from 5:00 -7:00 PM. We invite all S.L.A.A. members to join us **AND PARTICIPATE** at Newton - Wellesley Hospital – Room AR 100 in the Allen-Riddle Building.



TELEPHONE AND ONLINE MEETINGS --

There are those of us who are isolated or otherwise unable to get to meetings. Consider online and telephone meetings. **Attend online and telephone meetings as often as possible.** You will find a list of these at:

<http://directory.slaafws.org/>.



The views expressed in the NEI Newsletter are the opinions of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect those of New England Intergroup.

STEP AND TRADITION OF THE MONTH

STEP12: Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to sex and love addicts, and to practice these principles in all areas of our lives.

TRADITION 12: Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Thank you to all of you who did service for the Gathering!

We had 45 participants

We received:
Registration \$724
Raffle \$139
Bake Sale \$98.91
Delegate Fund \$44

Total \$1,005.91

Our Fee to Grace Church was \$385.

Peter S. Chairperson NEI

Spring and Fall gatherings are 2 of the major ways S.L.A.A. can raise funds for the services we provide.

The funds raised from the bake sale and raffle all went to the Retreat Scholarship Fund.

These were the comments from some of the evaluations turned in by participants at the Fall Gathering "Just for Today" offered by NEI volunteers at Grace Church on November 7th.

"Everybody Shares," "Courageous Leader," "Its always great to meet and share with different people," "Listening to Experience Strength and Hope," "4 hours focused on recovery - it was a safe place to be," "Great to be back," "Connecting with people who have solid recovery," "Being able to connect."

NEI TO HOST ABM/IRC FOR 2016 AND 2017

NEI is excited about hosting the 2016 Annual Business Meeting and International Recovery Convention, which will mark the 40th anniversary of S.L.A.A. S.L.A.A. started as a meeting in Newton, Massachusetts in 1976.

This will require a great deal of work by the intergroup. Are you interested in being a part of a local planning committee? The dates are planned for August 5-7. Please contact NEI to help.

Lots of opportunities to help create the event: suggest topics, decorate, create a list of area activities for out of town guests, make signage, help with registration, plan the banquet, create recovery souvenirs, stock the hospitality suite, share your experience, strength, and hope to make this a great recovery experience.

Email: IRC2016@slaanei.org Postal mail: NEI, P. O. Box 1375, Brookline, MA 02446

LOCAL MEETING CHANGES

SUNDAY -NH. CONCORD, 5:00 PM (CSD, NS,H) Big Book Step Study. Unitarian Universalist Church, 274 Pleasant Street (Route 9 West). **Newly Added to NEI Meeting List**

MONDAY - NH. PORTSMOUTH, 7:00PM (CDTNS, 60 min) Topic/Discussion Meeting. Christ Episcopal Church, 1035 Lafayette Road (Route 1 South). Enter at the door on the south side of the building. Meeting room is on the 1floor and is the 3rd door on the right side of the hallway. **Newly Added to NEI Meeting List**

TUESDAY – NH. SALEM, 7:30 PM (CSD12,NS) NH Originals. United Methodist Church, 8 Pleasant Street, Parlor Room. **Newly Added to NEI Meeting List**

WEDNESDAY -- MA. WORCESTER, 7:00 (CD, ns) New Hope, First Unitarian Church **(with the large white steeple)**, 90 Main St. Next to court house. Enter from lower parking lot off State St., Room 1 Basement