

December, 2016

[www.slaanei.org](http://www.slaanei.org)

617-625-7961

# NEI NEWSLETTER



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

...“By seeking to live with honesty and integrity, and to be of service to others, we had discovered that the source of love, which was of God, had begun to flow from within us. We had lived our way into Step 12”.

-S.L.A.A. Basic text Step 12 reading

**NEI Sponsored Calendar of Events 2016**  
**(Check with NEI to confirm date & times or changes.)**

**December, 2016**

11 NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5pm

16-18 12 Step Retreat  
Chester, VT

**January 2017**

8 NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5pm  
Election of Officers

**February 2017**

12 NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5pm

**March 2017**

12 NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5pm

**April 2017**

9 NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5pm

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

617-625-7961 OR [www.slaanei.org](http://www.slaanei.org)

**S.L.A.A. Inspiration Line**

**215-574-2120**

**Your 24/7 Sponsor**

*A daily recorded message of experience, strength and hope with an opportunity to share by leaving your own message. Topics are brought up that one wouldn't think about or share on otherwise. Great for the drive to work!*

**S.L.A.A Fellowship Wide Services Newsletter**

If you love this newsletter, the fellowship's main office puts out a great newsletter as well.

## NEI Election of Officers



**Notification: Officer Elections - This Holiday Season Give Yourself the Gift of Service**

Our bylaws require the periodic election of new officers. Our next elections will be on Sunday, January 8, 2017, from 5 pm to 7 pm at our Intergroup meeting at Newton Wellesley Hospital (Directions on our web site).

Being an officer is a great way to be of service. You will learn about the Intergroup and be a part of the service it provides to our fellowship. Come to find out about being an officer and participate in the election. Even if you decide being an officer is not right for you, you can represent your local meeting by voting. A description of the duties of each position is on the NEI website by searching for bylaws.

We will be electing:

- Chairperson (1 year sobriety requirement)
- Vice Chairperson (1 year sobriety requirement)
- Recording Secretary
- Corresponding Secretary (1 year sobriety requirement)
- Treasurer (1 year sobriety requirement)
- Outreach Chairperson
- Newsletter Editor
- Web Site Coordinator (6 month sobriety requirement)
- Literature Secretary
- Telephone Coordinator (6 month sobriety requirement)
- Activities Chairperson

\*\*\*\*\*

Our program is all about extricating ourselves from our self-centered trance and becoming useful to others. There is no better way in being useful than giving back to the fellowship that has given so much to you. Our Intergroup helps to carry the message by distributing meeting lists, maintaining a website, answering phone inquiries and hosting 12 Step retreats, local conferences and outdoor activities. Please consider volunteering at the Intergroup level. There really aren't many opportunities to volunteer in S.L.A.A. at the local level. Representing your home meeting as Intergroup rep or becoming an officer at the Intergroup level is a great way to be useful. I found that the people volunteering at Intergroup are the same kind of great people I find at my meetings – serious about recovery but having a good time doing it. They sometimes have me in stitches and at other times their wisdom and dedication just amazes me. You will be glad to call them your friends. I know I am.

Craig G

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 11, 2016 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.** Telephone meetings are a perfect driving companion! You will find a list of these at:

**<https://slaafws.org/meetings/>**

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 & TRADITION OF THE MONTH**

STEP 12: Having had a spiritual awakening as a 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.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Step – What is Service?

Over the last few days I had difficulty finding the words to write about the 12th Step. I realized I was hiding out and only doing things that made me feel comfortable. It is an empty feeling. Then recently I received an invitation to service which I accepted. I realized that lately I had been stingy with accepting service in my life. The truth for me is that my life when I'm being "of service" is different than when I'm not. It has a different flavor, I have different feelings and different outcomes. Life is simply more fulfilling when I say "yes" to service.

Generally speaking, the 12th step is about service. But the question is: What is service? For me service started when I shared myself at my first meeting. Sharing ourselves and contributing to others is what service is all about. It is very easy to do. We all do it naturally.

To "Twelve Step" someone is to introduce them to our fellowship and start them on their program. This is done by people with sobriety and who have completed the 12 Steps at least once. I am on my 9th step and have never formally "12 Stepped" someone. I do share my experience with others in the fellowship and I know this helps because they have told me. Many of us also do more formal types of service. We volunteer to chair a meeting, write an entry for our newsletter or take a leadership role with Fellowship Wide Services. I also find these types of service to be very rewarding. However, one type of service is not better than another. Setting up chairs for a meeting makes just as big a difference as chairing one.

The second part of the 12th Step encourages us to "practice these principles in all areas of our lives." I have found this necessary as I have more sobriety on my "S" related bottom-line behavior. I am an addict and will always be one. But I look for relief in many different ways. I find myself overeating, over-exercising, seeking approval in others, etc... all so that I don't have to feel. It is important for me to apply these Steps to those areas too. I don't need to look for ways to hide from my life.

Happy Holidays to you! Peter S.

**LOCAL MEETING CHANGES**

SATURDAY- MA. BROOKLINE, 10:30 AM (OSDT12,nf, no food) Speaker-Discussion Group, All Saints Parish Church, 1773 Beacon St. at Dean Rd. **Block room, basement level.** Last Sat is step of month. C-Train Green Line

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL GROUPS** All changes to the meeting list will require an NEI Meeting Registration Form to be completed. This applies to any time, date, place or address changes as well meeting name changes and contact changes. You can submit updates online at <http://slaanei.org/meetings/register-or-update-meeting/>