



"Just do the next right thing."

NEI Events

March 2018

11 NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5pm*

23-25 12 Step Retreat, Chester, VT

April 2018

8 NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5pm*

21 Spring Gathering, 8:30-5:30pm
Theme: "Self Care"
 Andover Newton Theological School, 210 Herrick Rd.,
 Newton Centre, MA
 Green Line Riverside D Train
 \$18 advance/\$20 at door

May 2018

6 NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5pm*

* NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5pm
 Newton-Wellesley Hospital
 Open to all S.L.A.A. members.
 Allen-Riddle Bldg, Rm 100
 (Small brick building adjacent to
 main hospital)

Or participate by phone.
 Call the conference line
 (712) 432-6100
 Passcode: 74128638#

S.L.A.A. Inspiration Line
 (215) 574-2120
 Your 24/7 Sponsor

Check out this recorded message of experience, strength and hope. At the end of the share (that is changed almost daily) you have the chance to leave comments or get current.

S.L.A.A Fellowship-wide Services Newsletter Available

Read past issues or subscribe online by visiting:

<https://slaafws.org/fwsnews-previous>

It Can Take Time to Feel Comfortable at NEI's Spring Gathering, but Worth the Effort

This year's all-day event is Saturday, April 21, 2018

by Peter S.

I attended my first NEI Gathering about 10 years ago when it was held at UMASS Boston. I had been in the program for about 6 months and I was intimidated by the idea of so many sex and love addicts in one place, and that I was identifying myself as one of them. I remember similar feelings when I went to my first meeting. I actually did not go to any of the sessions. I talked to a couple of people I knew in the lobby area and looked at the literature table, then I left. However, I did not feel the same way leaving as I did coming in. I felt welcomed by people with a similar human condition.

I did not immediately return to the Gatherings, but when I did I became a regular. A whole day of sobriety was at first a great way of doing just that, having a sober day. As my own program got stronger, I was able to get more out of the gatherings. As a regular attendee I am now able to enjoy them fully. I listen to the keynote speakers, pick topics I think I'll get value from, pick up literature for my meeting and talk to friends.

This year's Spring Gathering at the Andover Newton Theological School is about self-care. This is such an easy concept for us but it is so hard to do in practice. With our busy lives and many commitments caring for ourselves is the last thing I think of. If I know you, it may be the last thing you think of, too.

Come to this Saturday event and practice self-care. We will discuss and inquire into what it is to care for ourselves. Hopefully we will all leave with a stronger commitment to self-care in our own and other people's lives. As the flyer for the event rightly says: *"You can't pour from an empty cup."*

Want more event details?

Ask your meeting's NEI representative for a copy of the event flyer or visit the NEI website for full details.

STEP OF THE MONTH, STEP 2: Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

TRADITION OF THE MONTH, TRADITION 2: For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as this Power may be expressed through our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Newburyport Offers Sponsorship Workshop March 24

Often times as we sit in meetings or enter the S.L.A.A. program as a newcomer, we hear a lot of terms and slogans that are certainly foreign to us from our lives outside of S.L.A.A. One of those terms is sponsorship or “having a sponsor.” For many of us, our deepest recovery didn’t begin until we hit a bottom that hurt so badly, we had to ask someone else for help.

What is sponsorship in S.L.A.A.? Our Fellowship Wide Services provides us with a brief description:

Ideally, having a sponsor is an integral part of recovery from sex and love addiction. Working closely with someone to identify your bottom lines and your accessory behaviors can be very helpful to working the Twelve Steps. A sponsor is someone who has found sobriety from their addictive behaviors and gives us individual support and guidance in applying the S.L.A.A. Twelve Step program of recovery to our lives.

It is so difficult for us to heal alone. Our addiction is one that often causes us to push everyone in our lives as far away as possible so we can isolate in the pain and shame our disease uses to bind us. There is help. On March 24 noon-1:30 p.m. there will be a great workshop in Newburyport. We will have three people who are currently sponsors and three people who are relatively new sponsees share their experiences of hope and how sponsorship has changed their lives. We will have a Q&A period for anyone who wants more information, and we’ll have available sponsors introduce themselves. They’ll be time at the end for attendees to meet with sponsors and sponsees, to get acquainted and to ask questions, or just socialize.

There is no charge for this workshop and we encourage all sponsors with time available to attend. Please arrive at 11:30 a.m., if possible, as lunch has been generously donated and everyone is certainly invited to partake!

May God bless you with abundant hope in your recovery; we hope to see you at:

Saturday, March 24 – Lunch 11:30 a.m., workshop noon-1:30pm
St. Paul’s Church, 166 High St., Newburyport, MA
(Please use the main church entrance)

Scholarships available for NEI 12-Step Retreats **Want to go, but can’t afford it. It’s ok to ask for help!**

by Jenny R.

NEI wants to make the 12-step retreats available to as many people as possible. It has been a long-standing policy that NEI will give the equivalent of the cost of one spot (\$180) to participants who inquire. Our goal is to get as many people to the retreat with these funds as a subsidy if it is needed. It is given on a first-come, first-served basis.

Through the generosity of our membership we have managed to keep the scholarships funded. Participants often donate extra when they pay their own fee to attend and many times will donate the cost of the entire price to enable someone to attend beyond the scholarship fund availability. The step retreat is amazing, and it is such a gift to help others be a part of the life changing process. I personally cannot express enough gratitude to those who give so freely. Thank you.

If you would like to contribute to the fund to help those who would like to attend our retreats, donations can be made by mailing them to the NEI P.O. Box or you can contact us at VTWeekend@slaanei.org and make a contribution with a debit or credit card.

Help Needed to Plan and Run Spring Gathering

Lots of opportunities to get involved planning and/or helping the day of the Spring Gathering, April 21. The Activities Committee (AC) needs help finding keynote speakers, keeping in mind that we want to have a diverse group speaking on the topic of "Self-Care."

Also needed:

- **Raffle Coordinator** (collecting items, setting up at event)
- **Bake Sale Coordinator** (getting food and drink items, bake sale set up & clean up)
- **Literature Sales Coordinator** (bring the NEI literature, set-up and run sales)
- Volunteers also needed on the day of the event.

Please consider joining in the next AC meeting by phone, Thursday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Call (605) 468-8004;
Passcode: 263895#

For info on any of the above, email activities@slaanei.org

New Speaker Initiative Keeps Growing

S.L.A.A. speakers are traveling to different S.L.A.A. meetings throughout New England. Is your group interested in having a new voice? Interested in sharing your experience, strength and hope? Here's how:

Want to be a speaker?

Email jmgn2@yahoo.com to get calendar announcements about speaking opportunities.

Need speaker for meeting?

Email jmgn2@yahoo.com for a speaker request form asking for date, meeting type, sobriety requirements, etc. to make an appropriate match.

Volunteers fill many NEI service roles; there's still a position for you!

Gratitude and appreciation is extended to the following S.L.A.A. members who were recently elected to do service work on behalf of the Fellowship at the Intergroup level. Here are your elected service representatives and their role for the current term. The name of the outgoing volunteer is in brackets on the right. Thank you so much for your service, enthusiasm, and good cheer!

- Chair (Seth S.)
- Recording Secretary (Peter S.) [David B.]
- Treasurer (Michael T.)
- Outreach Chairperson (Seth S.) [Patrick D.]
- Acting Website Coordinator (Lisa P.)
- Phone Coordinator (Geri C.) [Peter S.]
- Newsletter Editor (Betsy L.)
- Activities Chair (Jenny R)

The major commitment of the positions is to attend the monthly NEI meeting, usually the second Sunday of the month from 5-7 p.m. at Newton-Wellesley Hospital, Allen-Riddle Building, Room 100. (The small brick building adjacent to main hospital). These meetings are open to all S.L.A.A. members. See page one for meeting details.

The following positions are still open, the sobriety requirement is in parentheses. Please consider stepping up. Service feeds sobriety!

- Vice Chair (1 year)
- Corresponding Secretary (1 year)
- Website Coordinator (6 months)
- Literature Secretary (none)

Special note: Finding a new **Website Coordinator** is paramount. Whether you're a seasoned techie or a newbie to website design and maintenance, your energy and interest in helping to spread the message of S.L.A.A. recovery via electronic channels would be greatly appreciated. We'll help train you and you won't be alone in the endeavor. Please consider stepping forward. Email any questions to info@slaanei.org or navigate to <http://slaanei.org/intergroup/nei-service-positions/> and click on "New England Intergroup Bylaws" on right side bar for details about this and other NEI positions.

STEP OF THE MONTH, STEP 3: Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood God.

TRADITION OF THE MONTH, TRADITION 3: The only requirement for S.L.A.A. membership is a desire to stop living out a pattern of sex and love addiction. Any two or more persons gathered together for mutual aid in recovering from sex and love addiction may call themselves an S.L.A.A. group, provided that as a group they have no other affiliation.

Telephone and Online Meetings

There are those of us who are in isolated locations, have children or elders to care for, or are otherwise unable to get to meetings. Consider online and telephone meetings that take place every day of the week at varied times throughout the day. Full list at:

slaafws.org/meetings/

Is Your Meeting's Group Contact Info Current?

Sometimes NEI gets calls from newcomers who have gone to a meeting listed on the S.L.A.A. website (or printed list) only to find no one there. *Oh, no. How discouraging!* NEI service volunteers do our best to keep information updated, but we need help from each group, while always keeping in mind Tradition 4: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or S.L.A.A. as a whole.

**** We'd like to hear from each group that they have a current GROUP CONTACT. ****

The GROUP CONTACT'S information will remain CONFIDENTIAL and will NOT be shared. It is solely for NEI's monthly mailing list or if NEI needs to get in touch with a group. There are currently a number of groups that do not have a group contact.

It would be very helpful if each group would submit updates online at slaanei.org/meetings/register-or-update-meeting/

New Local Meetings & Meeting Changes

SUNDAY – BEVERLY, MA 7 p.m. (CDSL)

To Tell the Truth, Memorial United Methodist Church, 2 Dane St, Across from HESS Gas. Parking in back, enter through white door and proceed downstairs on right.

Meeting changes from open to closed.

TUESDAY – BARNSTABLE, MA 7 p.m. (C12)

A Gentle Path. Unitarian Church of Barnstable, 3330 Main St (Rte 6A). Enter church and go downstairs, meeting is held all the way down the hall, last room on the left. Step writing using Patrick's Carnes 'A Gentle Path,' please bring this book with you.

TUESDAY – BURLINGTON, MA 6 p.m. (CD, 1 hour)

Please contact meeting contact, John, for location information at (617) 549-6847 or johnma384@gmail.com.

TUESDAY – DANVERS, MA , 7 p.m. (OSD12)

Lahey Health Behavioral Services (LHBS), Meeting in first room on left, inside lobby. Directions: Rt 62, westbound from US1, left at first traffic signal, turn at 1st right, go up hill 0.2 mi. to first stop sign. Bear right after stop sign (Hawthorne Circle, not marked). Go 0.2 mi. to first right hand turn, the entrance to LHBS. (Note: Mapquest will locate the entrance with the official address: 111 Middleton Road, but there are no Middleton Road street signs.) **Name change of facility where meeting is held—same location.**

THURSDAY – BOSTON, MA , 12 p.m. (CDSH12)

St. Anthony's Shrine, 100 Arch Street, 2nd floor via elevator, around corner to the right, room 22. Newcomer questions contact Kurt at bleu.anvil@gmail.com

Change of meeting room – same meeting location.

THURSDAY – YORK, ME 7 p.m. (CS12DH, 60 minutes).

York Recovery Meeting. York-Ogunquit United Methodist Church, 1026 US -1. (Meeting room is down left corridor from front entrance). **New meeting.**

FRIDAY – PROVINCETOWN, MA, 5:30 p.m. (CSD12H, 60min).

Group meets 1st and 3rd Friday of each month. United Methodist Church, 10 Shank Painter Road. Rear meeting room. **As of 11/03/17 meeting at 5:30 p.m. (instead of 6:30 p.m.) until further notice - 1st and 3rd Friday of each month.**

FRIDAY – NATICK, MA 8 p.m. (OD12,h,nf, ns) Stepping Forward.

Christ Lutheran Church, 113 Union St. **Enter through church office door behind church. Take hallway to right to Christmas Room. Effective 01/26/18 – meeting room change and new name for the meeting.**

SATURDAY – NEWBURYPORT, MA , 9 a.m. (CSD12,h, 45 min.) Changing Tides.

Newcomer and Beginner's Meeting, St. Paul's Church, 166 High Street, Basement. Use main entrance in church courtyard, take right and go downstairs. Meeting room is to the left at the bottom of the stairs. **Effective 01/18/18 change in building entrance - we no longer use the Adult Daycare entrance off Summer St.**

NOTE: All changes to the meeting list require an NEI Meeting Registration Form to be completed. This applies to any time, date, room or address changes as well as meeting name changes and contact changes. Submits updates online at slaanei.org/meetings/register-or-update-meeting/