



*"The great law of culture:  
let each become what s/he  
is capable of becoming."*

*-- Thomas Carlyle*

## 2019 NEI Events

### September

**8 NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5-7pm**  
Newton-Wellesley Hospital\*

**13-15 12-Step Retreat (Co-ed)**  
Focus on Anorexia  
Chester, VT

**14 Anniversary Meeting**  
The Changing Tides Group of  
Newburyport invites you to join in  
their celebration 10-11:30am.  
Festivities include Potluck Breakfast,  
guest speakers, and a 50/50 Raffle.  
Open meeting so feel free to invite  
spouses, partners, and friends.  
St. Paul's Church, 166 High St.,  
Newburyport. Use main entrance.

**28 Cycling for Serenity**  
Thorndike Park parking lot, 99  
Margaret St., Arlington at 11am,  
accessible from Alewife MBTA.  
Leave promptly at 11:15am. Ride 4-  
6 miles, depending on pace. Stop for  
lunch & meeting. Return to Alewife  
around 3:45pm. Info: slaanei.org,  
email activities@slaanei.org, or call  
(617) 625-7961 and leave message  
for Peter or Lisa. **Rain Date: Oct. 5.**

### October

**4-6 12-Step Retreat (Co-ed)**  
Chester, VT

**20+ NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5-7pm**  
Newton-Wellesley Hospital\*  
\* Note 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday due to  
previous holiday weekend

**26 Fall Gathering, 12:30-6pm**  
Hosted by Newburyport  
Grace Episcopal Church  
76 Eldredge St., Newton, MA

## Let's Increase Group Support for NEI

By Joe G., Newburyport

I was blessed to be able to attend the NEI monthly meeting back in August. It was the second time I've attended, the first being a few years ago. I'm impressed by the amount of work NEI volunteers do during the short two-hour meeting.

In my mind the Intergroup was always some type of authoritative governing board I should avoid – likely do to my own rebellious spirit when it comes to being controlled. *Wow!* I couldn't have been more wrong. Everyone there is like me, trying hard to reach out to the addict who still suffers. There was a powerful spirit of giving and commitment to service by all who attended both in person and by phone. Who knew? You can phone in on a conference call number! It's published every month in the left-hand column, but let's mix it up:

**\*All S.L.A.A. members, and especially Group Reps, are encouraged to attend NEI meetings either in person or by phone at: Newton-Wellesley Hospital, 2014 Washington St, Newton. Bowles Conference Rm #6, Main hospital bldg. Conference call: (605) 313-4446; Passcode: 774308#**

On the August agenda was the discussion of the annual budget. Although I'm not eligible to vote as I am not on the board nor am I a meeting rep., my opinions on last year's budget and this year's proposed budget were welcomed. Fiscal year 2018 ended with a budget shortfall of **-\$3,055**. I looked critically at the expense items in the budget for ways to save money and I could see no items that could be eliminated or cut without severely damaging the outreach efforts of NEI. I was really astonished, though, when I reviewed the income statement. The donations from all of the groups in all six New England states for the entire year was only \$3,712.40. One half of that is barely enough to cover the cost of the 24-hour answering service we have for new and often desperate addicts to find us.

Although I am not on any committee or a meeting rep, I asked if I could write a letter of appeal to all of the groups in New England and the board's response was an enthusiastic yes. NEI's focus is to help keep all of the groups connected while providing outreach and resources and to addicts who suffer. As you know, the anonymity of our program is precious, and our meetings are not quite as well known or as well accepted as other 12-Step programs are. Most people in our society just don't understand.

**Group Support, Cont. on page 2**

## Let's Increase Group Support for NEI, Cont. from page 1

I am so privileged to have travelled to other groups all around New England and shared in meetings of recovery with them. I have met so many incredible people in our program. I also know first-hand how many groups struggle just to have a facility for their meetings and pay rent, so I am proposing a couple of ways your group may be able to help keep NEI services going.

One way your group may be able to help is by buying their literature directly from NEI. Currently NEI has an inventory of pre-paid materials ordered from F.W.S. and selling it would recoup costs and increase the revenue stream. Having your group's literature person pick it up during the monthly NEI meeting saves in postage costs. And, heck, why not stay for the whole NEI meeting? You just might enjoy it!

Another idea I had is to talk to your group about our program's needs here in New England and maybe have a special collection one week just for NEI to help us meet the financial obligations of our intergroup this year. We in New England are extremely lucky to have such a strong S.L.A.A. program and I know personally many whose lives have been saved because we do. Please pass the word on to members of the meetings you attend and help us continue to spread our message of hope to others.

May you be continually blessed with recovery and the spiritual gift of knowing your soul. Thanks for letting me share.

# Meeting Updates

**Group Contacts are responsible for completing an updated Meeting Registration Form** and filing it with NEI whenever there is a change to a meeting time, date, address, changes as well as meeting name changes and contact changes. Link to form is: [slaanei.org/meetings/register-or-update-meeting](http://slaanei.org/meetings/register-or-update-meeting). Consider representing your meeting!

## MONDAYS

**New Meeting:** PROVINCETOWN, MA, 6:30-7:30pm, "Monday Providence" (Open, Lit. Study, Speaker, Step). ASGCC at corner of 6 Bedford St/493 Commercial St. **NOTE: Meeting is only from May-Nov.** Info, call David at (203) 536-8822

## FRIDAYS

**Discontinued:** PROVINCETOWN, MA. 6:30-7:30pm. United Methodist Church at corner of Shankpainter & Commercial.

**Change of location:** NEWTON, MA, 8pm. "Friday Night Steps for a Sober Weekend." Still at Newton-Wellesley Hospital (2012 Washington St., Newton), but now meeting in the main building in Bowles Conference Center, Room #6 (second floor, past the cafeteria.)

### **STEP OF THE MONTH, STEP 9:**

Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

### **TRADITION OF THE MONTH, TRADITION 9:**

S.L.A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.