

the Top Line



New England Intergroup
S.L.A.A. Newsletter
slaanei.org
(617) 625-7961

January 2020

*"I am a glorious being.
A miracle. That which is in
God is also in me. I survive
all the storms, and like a
tree planted by the water,
I shall not be moved."*

-- Susan L. Taylor

Upcoming Events

January 2020

- 12 NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5pm*
Election of Service Positions
- 25 Annual "Meeting & A Movie"
Grace Episcopal Church
76 Eldredge St., Newton
2:30-6pm
"Defending Your Life"

February 2020

- 9 NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5pm*
- 15 Annual "We Are Not Alone"
game night and meeting.
Time TBA

March 2020

- 8 NEI Monthly Mtg @ 5pm*
- 27-29 12-Step Retreat (Co-ed)
Chester, VT

April 2020

- 25 **Spring Gathering**
Location/Time TBA

*Newton-Wellesley Hospital
2014 Washington St, Newton
Bowles Conference Room #6
(Main hospital building)

Conference call: (605) 313-4446;
Passcode: 774308#25

Changes to your meeting? Let NEI Know, We'll Help!

Steps for a Sober Weekend, the Friday night S.L.A.A. meeting at Newton-Wellesley Hospital has had two changes recently. First in location from the auxiliary building to the Bowles Conference Room #6 inside the main hospital; and then in start time, from 8pm to 7:30pm. Regulars to the meeting knew of the changes and adapted. But what about newcomers?

The group contacted NEI through the link on the webpage listing its meeting and alerted the webmaster to the changes. Two things happen. The website is immediately updated, and the next time the meeting list is printed and distributed by mail, it will also reflect these changes.

Bowles Conference Rooms can be hard to find the first time. [NEI knows! It's where the monthly NEI meetings are held and we still struggle to get there :-)] It's also where the **Men's True Grit Meeting** is held Sundays at 7:30pm. Here are directions:

- Enter Hospital grounds at the set of lights on Washington St., Newton, for the East Entrance.
- Take your first right into the Patient/Visitor parking garage.
- Park as close to the third level as possible. The third level of the parking garage connects with the first level of the Hospital.
- Follow signs to Main Lobby of the Hospital through the White Building.
- From the Main Lobby, take the West elevators to the second floor.
- Turn left and follow the signs to the Conference Center located after the Cafeteria. Look for Room Number.

Add information about your meeting!

The Saturday **Quincy Men's Step Meeting** from 9-10am alerted NEI's webmaster that its meeting is now accessible by phone. The call-in number is (605) 313-4446, access code 774308; the same system used to call in to the monthly NEI meetings. This is a step meeting that uses the new S.L.A.A. workbook *A Guide to the Steps: Companion to Chapter Four*. Bring a copy to the meeting. If you don't have a copy, that's okay, too.

Never done a phone meeting? Might be worth giving it a try!

STEP OF THE MONTH, STEP 1:

We admitted we were powerless over sex and love addiction --
that our lives had become unmanageable.

TRADITION OF THE MONTH, TRADITION 1:

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

Does Your Meeting Need more Literature or Medallions?

Many groups chose to save on postage costs by picking up their program literature and chips in person during an NEI meeting. In fact, NEI encourages it. Just email your order to literature@slaanei.org ahead of time so it can be prepared and ready for pickup. And, hey, if you're planning to make the trip, why not stay for the whole meeting? You could even introduce the newly minted 18-month sobriety chip to your meeting. The medallion was approved at the Fellowship-Wide Services Annual Business Meeting in July 2019. If you'd like to see what it looks like, visit: tinurl.com/slaa18month

Service Position Elections in January More Flexible Sobriety Requirements Considered

NEI's bylaws require that elections be held every two years for all service positions. Special elections to fill open positions can happen at any time, such as last January when a number of positions were open and new people stepped up to serve. January 2020 is the regular two-year cycle and a full slate of positions will be open. Job descriptions for the various positions can be found in NEI's bylaws posted on the website as well as the current sobriety requirements:

slaanei.org/bylaws

At NEI's January meeting, the merits of removing sobriety requirements for these positions from the bylaws will also continue to be discussed. Rather than have the bylaws dictate the sobriety requirements, the change being considered is to instead allow the current S.L.A.A. membership to determine what the sobriety requirements should be in place based on current circumstances and the needs of NEI and its membership. It's a technical process to change the bylaws and the details can be found on the NEI website. Interested? You and every member of S.L.A.A. is encouraged to attend the monthly NEI meetings. We'd love to have you! Consider taking on a service position.

Newsletter Editor Position is Open and Ready for You!

By Betsy L.

It's been an honor and a pleasure to serve as the editor of the **Top Line** newsletter for more than two years now. This is my last issue as editor as elections for new service positions will be held at the NEI meeting January 12th. In the spirit of rotation of service, it's time to step aside and welcome another member of S.L.A.A. to bring his/her/their energy, and creative flair, to the role. There are certainly technologies available to move beyond having to download a pdf for viewing an "old-fashioned" word document. And graphics. The newsletter definitely could use more graphics 😊

As can happen with service, sometimes the need must be made known before the next volunteer steps forward. Hopefully, the next editor is reading this and plans to step forward – if not, we can wait. There just may be a gap before the next **Top Line** is published. All good. I am willing to train and help with the transition. That's the fun part!

Thank you again for allowing me to be of service. It has certainly fed my sobriety.