

# "PASS IT ON"

## THE CAPE-ATLANTIC INTERGROUP NEWSLETTER

First Edition

September 2006



### Cape-Atlantic Intergroup Hits The Big "30" Celebration Slated for October 4th in Margate

Cape-Atlantic Intergroup will celebrate its 30th Anniversary on Wednesday October 4th at 6:00pm. The event is being coordinated by Joanne C. and Bonita D. It will be held at the Margate Community Church located at Thurlow and Ventnor Avenues in Margate. This is the location of the Downbeach Group.

The agenda will include speakers from our early days along with some recent trusted servants who will share how our Intergroup has changed and grown during the past thirty years.

There will also be a skit presented by current Intergroup chairman, Robbie W. It will highlight how important service is to personal sobriety as well as those we serve. Naturally, it will feature a light undertone and spotlight the talent of 40 of our finest members.

There will be food and refreshments provided free of charge. This event will be open to anyone interested in learning more about our local AA history. So, visitors are encouraged to attend.



### Formation of Cape Atlantic Intergroup: April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1976

#### *Minutes from First Meeting*

1. The temporary Chairman Lee C. called the meeting to order @ 8:40 PM and everyone repeated together the "Serenity Prayer."
2. Joe P, read the 1<sup>st</sup> Tradition.
3. It was suggested we have a roll call of the groups and committee persons attending this meeting.
4. Roll Call:
  - a. Harry A
  - b. Lucille T AC.
  - c. Mima R Absecon
  - d. Francis M Absecon
  - e. Joan S Brigantine
  - f. Rose B Somers Pt.
  - g. Natalie W Somers Pt
  - h. Edith M Somers Pt
  - i. Barabara F Pleasantville
  - j. Dick A Somers Pt
  - k. George H. Ventnor Margate
  - l. Gene M. Somers Pt
  - m. Ed D, Ocean City
  - n. Ken I Pleasantville

- o. Mike S                      Cape May  
City
- p. Helen G  
Cape May Court House
- q. Bill J                      Cape May  
City
- r. Mary T  
Wildwood Group
- s. Mary G                      Area Committee  
Rep. Dist. 15
- t. Mary K                      Area  
Committee Rep. Dist. 18
- u. Jack C                      Cape May  
City
- v. Joe P  
District 16 Committee
- w. Bill B                      Ocean City
- x. Bob Van G  
Mays Landing
- y. Morgan F  
Mays Landing
- z. Peter G  
Hammonton
- aa. Mary S                      Wildwood
- bb. Ed H                      Linwood
- cc. Paul G                      Ventnor  
Margate
- dd. Art R                      Linwood
- ee. Leo A                      Arctic Ave.  
Group

\* In addition to the above group representatives, there were several guests of the Somers Point Group, who kindly set up tables and prepared coffee.

\* Further, also attending were officers and committee chairmen of the South Jersey AA Intergroup from Cherry Hill, NJ as follows: Dan W., Bill W., Harry P., Jean M., and John W.)

Lee gave a brief discussion on the need and reasons for forming the new "AA" Intergroup to service the area North from Waretown, South to Cape May Point, East from the Coast, and West to Hammonton.

*He urgently requested the help and cooperation of all those present.*

5. The first order of business was the nomination of permanent officers for the "new intergroup." Elections to be held at the next regular meeting, with one vote to be cast per group, which will represent that groups "group conscience." (It was pointed out by one of the guests from "South Jersey Intergroup" that the positions were normally a 2-year term, with the vice-chairman succeeding to the office of Chairman.)
6. Nominations were made and seconded as follows:

Chairman	
Lee C	Atlantic City
Harry A	Mays Landing

Vice Chairman	
Ed H	Linwood
Bill B	Atlantic City

Secretary	
Eleanor F	Margate Ventnor
Harry A	Mays Landing

Treasurer	
Paul G	Margate
Ventnor	
Ted C	Margate Ventnor

Asst. Treasurer	
Howard D	Northfield
Leo A	Arctic Ave. / AC.

Nominations were then closed; further nominations will be accepted on the night of elections, just prior to the elections.

7. Next order of business was for us to get a name! Following are the names that were suggested and seconded:
  - a. Shore Intergroup
  - b. South Shore Intergroup
  - c. Jersey Shore Intergroup
  - d. Seashore Intergroup
  - e. Atlantic Shore Intergroup

- f. Cape Atlantic Intergroup
  - g. Atlantic Cape Intergroup
- A vote was taken by a show of hands after each name was presented. The "Cape Atlantic Intergroup" received the most votes and was adopted as the official new name.

8. The next order of business was to have the various officers and committee chairmen of the South Jersey Intergroup present their functions and duties. (

Upon completion of these reports Lee asked if there were any questions. Some clear suggestions were made by the South Jersey Intergroup Officers this night, they were as follows:

- a. That we draw up our own articles of association."
- b. That anonymity at the Intergroup level and at Intergroup meetings be dropped and that we use our full names.
- c. That Intergroup meet once a month and in view of the fact that we don't have an official office, that we travel to different group locations to hold our meetings.
- d. That we establish a Post office Box for mailing purposes.
- e. That committees be formed as soon as possible and set up their own meeting requirements.
- f. General "Rule of Financing" is \$.50 per active member per month for each group participating.
- g. That we establish an office as soon as possible, but not to be connected with a "club house" or Church, etc., this is recommended procedure from General Service Office in New York.

- 9. A motion was made and seconded to have our next meeting at the Ventnor Margate group in Ventnor, NJ on Wednesday May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1976 @ 8:30PM. This is to be held at the same time of the regular meeting but in a separate area of the room.
- 10. It was further suggested that all of the participating groups try to make an available time for future meetings of Cape Atlantic Intergroup to cover the next year from June, 1976 until June, 1977.
- 11. The 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition was observed and the total contributions were \$27.45 This amount will be deposited in the new Cape Atlantic Intergroup bank account when it is established. The meeting was then closed in the usual way, with those who wanted to, repeating the Lord's prayer.

The above information was gathered by Archives Committee Chairperson, Bonita D. with the assistance of Robbie W.



Do you have an amusing or inspiring story about getting or being sober for the holidays? Why not submit for our next issue.

Deadline : November 1<sup>st</sup>

Mail to Cape Atlantic Intergroup  
Attn:Newsletter

PO Box 905 Pleasantville

## How to Get Literature

1. Call Ellie (609) 641-8855 or any of these Literature volunteers to place an order:

Debbie L. Phone # available upon request

Clyde L. Phone # available upon request

Mark K (609) 576-2775

Steve G Phone # Available upon request

Be sure to leave your name and call back number. You will be contacted when your message is received to verify the order and the price and make arrangements for delivery.

2. Go to the Cape Atlantic Intergroup Website:

WWW.CAIGRP.ORG (or WWW.Capeatlanticintergroup.org) and click through the site to email the Literature Chairperson. [Literature@caigrp.org](mailto:Literature@caigrp.org) Again, please leave your name and phone number. I will email or call you back with the total price and we will make arrangements for you to receive your order.

3. Stop by the office at a time when a CAIG officer or Chairperson is regularly there:

Saturday 8:00am - 10:00am

Sunday 10:00am - 12 Noon

Sunday 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Thursday 12 Noon - 3:00 pm

OUR OFFICE IS VOLUNTARILY STAFFED. PLEASE CALL FIRST AT (609) 641-8855

TO MAKE SURE THERE IS SOMEONE THERE BEFORE YOU DRIVE OUT.

## Reflections on Gratitude and Service to CAIG

I became a member of AA in 1986. I was told of the importance of service to the fellowship. It was suggested that I get off the bench and into the game. That my involvement would enrich my sobriety.

My first service position was as Alternate GSR (General Service Representative) for the Leader Group in Atlantic City. I next became the GSR and then Alternate DCM (District Committee Member) for District 17. When my term ended in 1992, I asked my Higher Power (God) to continue to use in some other area of service, as long as it wasn't in Cape-Atlantic Intergroup.

I had heard about all the controversy going there and didn't want to be a part of it. Oh well, so much for my plans. My God does have a sense of humor. Through a series of circumstances, I became Alternate Intergroup Rep for Leader Group in 1993. Because of this commitment, I began to attend business meetings at CAIG (Cape-Atlantic Intergroup). My feeling were right, it was indeed contentious at times.

I was elected as Vice-Chairman Pro-Tem of CAIG in 1995 and then served as full term as Vice-Chairman. In 1998, I was elected as Chairman. From 2000 to 2002, I blessed to be Assistant Treasurer. And I have a been a phone volunteer since 1990.

So, as you can see, God always knows what's best for me. I am now happily helping the Archives and Unity Committees. By becoming involved in service to CAIG, I have learned to really love and be grateful for the service and good that Cape-Atlantic does for our areas.

If you are undecided as to where to serve our fellowship. Trust your Higher Power. You will be guided to the area that can you be of the most use. In Continued Love and Service,

Ray B  
Leader Group

# Our Current Issue:

## How Has AA Changed Since Your 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting

Changes in AA are directly proportional to my "growth along spiritual lines." Since AA is still in it's pioneering time (under 100) and absent long term sobriety (30 yrs. or more) it's difficult to reflect on the more ridged form of meeting styles that I hear about from members of that period. But, I can see a trend since I periodically travel. That trend, in my AA opinion, is laxity with respect to our Traditions and what I'll term as a more all inclusive meeting. Even though an "Open/Closed" format statement is read at the beginning of the meeting, attendees ID themselves as "cross addicted; and a's or addicts" and disregard the suggestion of confining themselves to alcohol. The disturbing aspect of this is that no one seems to take the initiative to respectfully intervene to set the meeting back on track. If this was a single incident and the meeting returned to it's intended purpose then this commentary would be of no moment. My experience indicates that many times this gives license to those in attendance that it is acceptable to turn the AA meeting into a complaint session focused on ever topic but recovery from alcoholism.

My opening comment becomes operative when I become more and more willing to accept the situation for what it is and say the 4th Step prayer. If the trend at any meeting I attend moves to problems anonymous then I find another meeting. "A meeting where everything goes is a meeting where eventually nobody goes."

**Ed D**

**Singleness of Purpose**

**April 16, 1990**

I love the topic and theme of this issue: "How has AA changed since you came into the program?" When I entered AA I was impressed with the AA members who showed up everyday and carried the message of AA to me. They gave me hope through their example.

When I started getting "time" in AA, those members that impressed me were the ones who weren't afraid to talk about the 12 Steps or the Big Book. Since hitting "20 years of sobriety" I stay impressed with those "Long-Timers" that have learned how to be elder statesmen and are there for AA and our groups when they are called upon. I want to some day learn how to sit on the sidelines and patiently await developments and only delve into the group or service entity business when asked for help.

Today, as I approach my twenty third AA Anniversary I am "most" impressed with the newcomer who commits his or her life to AA and joins hands with those of us who have already found a solution.

Okay, okay, I'll get to the original question! So, what has changed since I joined AA? Well, that would be me! If I'm working a good program I believe I need to look within myself if I feel uncomfortable with something that is going on in AA. I don't need to "criticize" a member or a group that I think is askew, I need simply to be a part of the solution and not the problem. If I cannot effect a positive change then I move on, it's that simple for me.

Reverend Ed M. from Iowa said at our last Area 45 Convention that AA's are quick to remind us then when we are pointing a finger at someone, three are pointing back at us. What they generally don't point out, Ed says, is that the same principle works in a positive spiritual sense. You see, Ed explained, when I see God and Love in you; it's because I have that God or spiritual principle in me. I haven't been the same since Reverend Ed shared that parable.

You see, it's too easy; for this alcoholic, to look at things in AA and say, "Boy AA isn't like it used to be!" When I hear a member saying that I ask them, "Then why don't you do something to get it back to the way you remember it?" Today, in my home group, during my Intergroup Meetings, and during Area Assemblies, I look for the good or the "God" in people. I am one of those guys that believe in "going with the flow."

I believe it's taking the easy way out to look for what's wrong in AA. I challenge the reader to continue to look for what's right and then join us in our common goal as we trudge the road of Happy Destiny. Today I am on the Broad Highway of Life. I totally love the life my loving God has bestowed upon me. He has granted me an understanding wife, a beautiful young gorgeous daughter, a career that meets all my needs and finally friends in AA that love me unconditionally. Who could ask for more?

**Robbie W.**

**Stagecoach Group**

Has AA changed since I attended my first meeting? Yes and no. AA is basically the same. The message hasn't changed but things about AA have changed.

When I started attending meetings there weren't any announcements about beepers or cell phones. Of course, they rarely rang during a meeting either. But, there were a lot more smoking meetings, the old Firehouse affectionately nicknamed the "The Smokehouse."

If wanted to answer the phones, you had to come to the Intergroup office. Back then, it was located on the Cardiff circle next to Bennett Chevrolet.. It was actually a pink office building! Now, you can have the call forwarded to your house. And the business meetings were held in the basement of St, Pete's rectory. We had to fight to get a speaker meeting for our groups. Today, we meet at Casino Serenity across from the old Pleasantville High School.

I remember when that Casino Serenity meeting was just starting. I thought "is there really a need for another meeting". Look at it now, it's one of the biggest and most active groups in our little neck of the woods. I also remember hearing everyone talk about "Florida Avenue" with a certain awe in their voice That's where Atlantic City Young People's used to meet. Since then, they've been on Arctic Avenue, 2 different addresses on Atlantic Avenue

And then a visit to New York Avenue and their current location in St Monica's on Pennsylvania Avenue. I recently learned that they originated as a spin-off of the Room 41 group. And their first meetings were at the Fox Manor near Tropicana on Pacific Avenue.

Another change I've witnessed is the number of Spanish speaking meetings. I don't remember back in the 80's and early 90's. Now they meet everyday in Atlantic City, there's even a "clubhouse" of sorts. Plus, GSO publishes a wide variety of material in Spanish. These are big changes.

Naturally, we didn't have very many internet meetings either. That's changed too. The anonymity statement and our literature both refer to this medium today. I understand there are even home groups that meet on the web...

Has AA changed? I'd have to say something changed.

**Anonymous Member of AA**



**Pat Mc F**  
**Southshore Group**

# Current Events Page

**Sept 13<sup>th</sup> Saturday**  
**A Night Out With District 16** 5:30pm Doors Open, 6:00pm Dinner Begins, Ruth O. to share her Experience Strength and Hope Pitney Rd. and Church Street (Where the Trudgers' Group Meet)

**Sept.29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> & Oct 1st**  
**55th Eastern Ontario AA Fall Conference**  
**Crown Plaza Hotel-Ottawa, Ontario**

**Oct. 4th Wednesday 6-9 p.m.**  
**Celebrate Cape Atlantic Intergroup's 30 Years of Service** Margate Community Church Hall, Thurlow and Ventnor Aves., Margate, NJ  
Coffee & Refreshments, Panel Speakers Sharing their Experience, Food and Skit "To Serve or Not To Serve, That is the Question"

**Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> Saturday**  
**Corrections and Treatment Facilities (CTF)**  
Conference Lamb's Road Cathedral - Assembly Hall, Sewell, NJ

**Oct.21st Saturday**  
**Day of Sharing (Cape Atlantic Intergroup Hosts)** Registration 8:30am Seaville Fire Co. (Station 19), Route 50 (Just West of Route 9), Seaville, NJ

**Nov.12<sup>th</sup> Sunday**  
**Area 45 Assembly, Section 2** Collingswood Senior Center, 30 Collings Ave., Collingswood

**November 14<sup>th</sup> Monday**  
**Leader Group's 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
Union Baptist Church Pennsylvania & Drexel Aves. Atlantic City. 7pm  
Speaker. Food-Fun-Fellowship

**November 18th Saturday**  
**An Evening with Bill W.," The Annual Gratitude Dinner Dance.** Doors open at prime rib dinner followed by guest speaker: Bill M., from York, PA, at 7:15 pm. - followed by sobriety countdown and dancing to D.J. Tom. \$32.00 per person. Advance ticket sales only. Seaville Volunteer Fire Hall, Seaville.

**CAIG Steering Committee** meets at CAIG Office on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

**CAIG Business Meeting** is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Lutheran Church

**List your event here  
deadline for  
Holiday Edition is  
November 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Email [newsletter@caigrp.org](mailto:newsletter@caigrp.org)  
mail to:CAIG Attn: Newsletter  
POBox: 905  
Pleasantville NJ 08232**



**12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DAY OF SHARING**  
**THEME: "WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER"**

**OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup> 2006**  
**SEAVILLE FIRE HALL**  
**A ONCE A YEAR A.A.**  
**INFORMATIVE EVENT!**

Hello everyone in the Cape Atlantic A.A. Area, my name is Julie and I am an Alcoholic. It is also my privilege to work for you currently as your Alt. Delegate and with that privilege I get to host, along with your host, Cape Atlantic Intergroup, the Annual Day of Sharing. So what is this day you ask? Well, let me help you out!

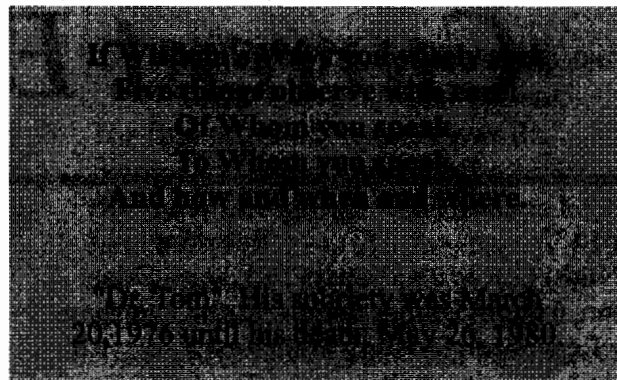
First off, **ANY A.A. MEMBER** can come and attend. It is a yearly opportunity where the **Area 45's** (state focused) and all three **Intergroup's** (locally focused) **Committee's** get together to see how well they are doing the job of "Carrying the Message". This day is a combination of **fun, workshops** and an **inventory**.

This is a day where you, the A.A. member can learn about the different Service Committee's and let them know how you and your home group thinks they are doing!

Our Co-Founder Bill W. stated that, "Our twelfth Step-carrying the message- is the basic of service of A.A. it is our principle aim and main reason for our existence. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die!" And with this, he and Dr. Bob handed over the fellowship to you and me, with the pledge of Responsibility. In other words, we, together in unity, are 100% responsible for providing and maintaining our own services. (And we all know how well our own recovery goes if we don't do a spot check now and then!)

I look forward to seeing you there and working, learning and improving along with you, because we really are "All in this together!"

In Loving Service,  
Julie W.  
Alt. Delegate Area 45



***Gratitude Dinner Dance***

***Saturday November 17 5:30pm***

***Seaville Fire Hall***

***Our Speaker is Bill M ~ York, PA***

***Prime Rib Sliced to Order***

***Live Music by Tom N***

***Tickets Available Now***

***Need a Job???***

***Cape-Atlantic Intergroup Has Openings***

***Our Service Committees Need Volunteers***

***Carry the Message in a Number of Ways***

***Visit Schools\*Hospitals\*Institutions***

***Answer Phones in the Office /Home***

***For More Information***

***Call 641-8855***

***Or Visit [WWW.CAIGRP.ORG](http://WWW.CAIGRP.ORG)***

***Or [WWW.Capeatlanticintergroup.org](http://WWW.Capeatlanticintergroup.org)***