

Each Group has but one primary purpose, to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers'



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Please pass on this newsletter to your friends in the Fellowship, either by forwarding via email or by printing copies to take to your local meetings. Anyone who wants their personal copy of the newsletter should send us their email address to the address below. You can also drop a line to GSO with any items for inclusion. Please could you limit your articles to a maximum of 1,000 words so that we can include more of your ideas then we'll do the rest.

**Please note the new contact address.**

[aainformation@btconnect.com](mailto:aainformation@btconnect.com)

## **“Anonymous but NOT Invisible”**

Hopefully by now, those of you who are Region and Intergroup PI Liaison Officers will have already had your invitation to York for the PI Seminar on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

This is our opportunity to tell the whole of the country, at the same time, that AA is here, where it is and what it does and doesn't do. Many of you will be aware that government funding is being cut in the recovery sector, and that creates a hole that needs to be filled. AA can fill that hole, but to do that we have to be seen.

I believe we are at a crossroad at this present time and we have the chance to put AA at the forefront of the minds of the people who decide where to send those less fortunate than ourselves. One of our greatest assets is that there is no fee as we are self-supporting, therefore to the professional we are free.

This year the Alcohol Awareness Week will be held from the 14<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> November. During the National Alcohol Awareness Week we could send a very clear message to all those involved in helping the still suffering alcoholic throughout the country in a unified way. We need to show every doctor, nurse, magistrate, policeman, prison governor, probation officer etc. that we are here, how effective we are, how much we care and how much we will cost them – NOTHING.

To do this, every member of AA, especially those of us in PI, Health, Employment, and Prisons & Probation needs to encourage their Group, Intergroup & Region to be part of this massive awareness campaign.

If during Alcohol Awareness Week every group had an open meeting, every Intergroup held an “awareness day”, and Regions supported these events, then AA would be VISIBLE. The good work that AA has always done could be seen by all those who attended. We **can** be “VISIBLE” we **are** allowed to say, “Hey, look what we can do to help you!” we are permitted to tell people that we are in recovery and its great.

So let's get out there and do it this November. Let's ALL do it at the same time. Wouldn't it be great if every Newspaper, every Radio station every television programme was talking about AA at the same time? People would hear, people would notice and who would benefit.

### THE STILL SUFFERING ALCOHOLIC

That is the whole point of the exercise. We must let the country know we are here and where and when meetings are held.

We have a wonderful opportunity – “Let's not louse this thing up”

Nick R (board member for Public Information)

## Some Simple Ideas

- Every AA group could ensure that AA contact information, either a contact card or poster, is displayed at their meeting venue. This could just give the National or Local Helpline Number.
- In many areas of the country there are voluntary organisations who produce lists of places to display posters e.g. Libraries, community centres etc. Often you need to send a sample poster to be checked before sending out the full amount.
- A library display can be a good way of informing the local community about AA. Often there is a Community Display area in the library. As well as including general information about AA, what we do and how to contact us. It is often helpful to add some local archive material which can give a sense of how long AA has been in the area.

### Part of Dr. Bob's last message reads:

“Our 12 Steps, when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words love and service. We understand what love is and we understand what service is. So let's bear those two things in mind”

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