

9 March 2006

Dear IAC Members,

Thank you so much for all the contributions you have made to the IAC. We are here to serve you and the GLBT recovering community world-wide.

As of today's date, and Kevin W., Treasurer, we have a current balance of \$6,881.40 in our account.

As the Deputy Chair of IAC, I receive many interesting phone calls and letters each week. This past month I received a letter from a gay recovering person in prison. I asked for his permission to publish it and he agreed to allow me to do so. I would like to encourage you to write to this person. If you live near the prison, where he and about 30 - 40 other gay and lesbian persons wish to attend AA meetings – but cannot because of their sexual orientation – please try to set one up to give this person and other persons recovering some hope.

The letter reads as follows:

“Dear I.A.C. Staff,

Would you please HELP ME! I am a gay person & going through hell because of it – I am in prison.

I just got out of the Maximum prison & now in another – in which is not as BRUTAL.

A lot of us here “Queer Guys” are not allowed into the regular AA, NA, 12 Steps & Several programs or even jobs around here (the prison) because of inmate bullies and rapists who literally own us ...

I've been trying to get a hold of the Advisory Council for Homosexual Men & Women in Alcoholics Anonymous. I've asked a few people to try your e-mail or websites or subscription format for your newsletters or newspapers.

I am not looking for any of your newsletter or resources etc without 1st paying you 1st.

I've got the Superintendent's attention in my Goals to break these old bullying habits by writing to our Commissioner of Corrections in Massachusetts to be allowed to have our own (GLBT) meetings ...

Would you please send me all of the information possible, Round Ups, meeting Directories, Contact Lists, forms for ordering resources, pamphlets, newsletter or paper's for sale?

There are at least 25 – 40 Gays here & there's most likely another same amount that are not “out” about being a homosexual person. Once “Out” or “Known” in Prison, it's a lot tougher & we're subjected to be literally owned by 1 or more inmate bullies.

Please contact me with exactly the steps to take so I can get these meetings going inside this place!!!!

Thank you most sincerely,

Tod F. Walsh W51645
1 Administration Rd O.C.C.C.
Bridgewater Ma 02324 “

Please write to this person to let them know that we care! I am now personally corresponding with him on a regular basis. I would love for him to receive material, letters, and set up a meeting for these poor guys in prison. Today I received a five page letter from this same person, and he has not given me permission to put it in writing, and I was shocked and appalled at the treatment the gay and lesbian persons in prison must endure; some even die from being beaten to death! The prisoners do not have access to computers or the Internet, so they cannot view our web-site. I will download and send all of our information to this

recovering person.

Another person writes: Thank you Stan. The information you have sent will be very helpful. I have forwarded it and the IAC February Newsletter to our members.

Please direct this request on to the appropriate person.
Please change the contact person to:

James M.
Birmingham, Alabama
205-369-2566

Please update our mailing address, if necessary, and include us on the snail mail list for the Newsletter:

Live & Let Live
Post Office Box 55372
Birmingham, Alabama 35255-5372

Thank you again. jmelton@alabamaeyebank.org

James M.
Treasurer
Live & Let Live
Birmingham, AL

One more person writes: AA BULLSHIT BINGO

>>

>> Do you keep falling asleep in meetings? What about those long and boring
>> using stories?? Get tired of the same old Slogan Babble, or members who
>> continue to deal with the same problems, same defects, and same painful
>> relationships FOR YEARS?

>>

>> Here's a way to change all that...

>>

>> 1. Before (or during) your next meeting, prepare yourself by drawing a
>> square. I find that 5" x 5" is a good size. Divide the card into
>> columns-five across and five down. That will give you 25 one-inch blocks.

>>

>>

>> 2. Write one of the following word/phrases in each block:

>>

>> Issues

>> Inner-child

>> Living Amends

>> Meaningful Relationship

>> Didn't Mean to Use

>> I'm Stuck On Step ____

>> Couldn't Find A Meeting

>> My Sponsor Has Been Out Of Town

>> Can't change

>> Won't change

>> Yeah But

>> Oh, The Pain

>> But.... Don't you think

>> Misunderstood
>> Never
>> Rational
>> Recovery
>> Recovering Person
>> Searching (as in, "for answers")
>> Gonna (sometimes prefaced with, "I'm")
>> Been thinking (sometimes prefaced with, "I've")
>> she/he said,
>> "I know what it is I need to do but..."
>> Dysfunctional
>> I heard
>> Rage
>> I don't know much about this, but...
>>
>> 3. Check off the appropriate block when you hear one of those words or
>> phrases.
>>
>> 4. When you get five blocks horizontally, vertically, or diagonally,
>> stand
>> up and shout "BULLSHIT!"
>>
>> TESTIMONIALS FROM SATISFIED "AA BULLSHIT BINGO" PLAYERS:
>>
>> --"I had been in the meeting for only five minutes when I won."
>> Adam W., Atlanta
>>
>> --"My attention span at meetings has improved dramatically."
>> David T., Tampa
>>
>> --"What a gas! Meetings will never be the same for me after my first
>> win."
>> Dan J., NY City
>>
>> --"The atmosphere was tense in the last "Gratitude" meeting as 14 of us
>> waited for the fifth box. "
>> Ben G., Denver
>>
>> --"The speaker was stunned as eight of us screamed out "BULLSHIT" for the
>> third time in 20 minutes."
>> Carnie Joe, Miami
>>
>> Play "AA Bullshit Bingo" at your next meeting!

In closing, I am so grateful for recovery and AA. My heart pours out to this young man and I hope yours does too.

Happy 24 hours!

In-service,

Stan L.
Deputy Chair
IAC