



info@slaadvi.org

YOUR LOCAL INTERGROUP SERVES THE FELLOWSHIP. SO CAN YOU! HERE'S WHAT WE DO:

- ◆ **Meeting Lists**—maintaining and distributing a lifeline to SLAA recovery
- ◆ **Literature**—SLAA pamphlets and Basic Texts available FAST
- ◆ **Website**—creating a bridge to SLAA for the newcomer in our area
- ◆ **Information Line**—215-731-9760—answering newcomers' questions, sending meeting lists
- ◆ **Inspiration Line**—215-574-2120—hear experience, strength & hope, 24/7/365; leave a message/get current *whenever* you need
- ◆ **Recovery Retreats**—bringing together SLAA's in all stages of recovery for mutual aid and support
- ◆ **Sober Social Activities**—Game Night, Annual Kayak & Canoe Trip; will *your* idea be next?!
- ◆ **Institutions Outreach**—reaching the sex & love addict who still suffers **while** in treatment for a chemical or another behavioral addiction

We're on the Web!
www.slaadvi.org

The Augustine Fellowship of SLAA—Greater Delaware Valley Intergroup (“GDVI”)

“Nothing Changes if Nothing Changes”-Anonymous

HEADLINE NEWS

NEWSLETTER DATE: JUNE 2011

PLEASE PRINT & SHARE AT MEETINGS, JUNE/JULY 2011

A weekend of JOY for Women of SLAA

The Annual SLAA Women's Weekend Retreat will be held July 29-31, 2011 at the Stony Point Center in Stony Point, New York. The theme for the weekend is “Discovery JOY in Recovery.” About 20-24 women in the program from Virginia to Vermont will gather for a nurturing time of fellowship and fun that includes meetings, music, art, movement, journaling, good food, and more in the beautiful nature setting. For

information, flyer, and registration form, contact Kathryn M. at catspounce@aol.com. Some scholarship assistance is available. This event is sponsored in part by the GDVI.



Join the HEADLINE NEWS e-mail list. Ask to subscribe by writing to Corresponding Secretary at <http://slaadvi.org/contact>

“NEW PATH” GROUP

There is a Beginners Meeting on Wednesdays at 7pm, at the Old Pine Community Center, on 401 Lombard Street, Philadelphia (in the Library). Free parking is available and refreshments are served.

An Inspirational Story: The History of the Inspiration Line

It was 5 degrees outside as the wind was starting to kick up. It was also beginning to snow as I was about to chair a Friday night speaker meeting. It was my first time chairing a large meeting, so I was very nervous. My speaker was no where to be found, - the meeting was to begin in 20 minutes. We had no cell phones or email, they did not exist 25 years ago. As I was setting up the meeting room a very frail, frightened young man entered the room and asked - “Is this the SLAA meeting?” “ I said “Yes, can you set up some chairs while I run around and find my speaker?”. The young man nodded his head and began to set up the folding chairs. I could tell by his nervousness that this was his very first meeting. I left the room. I found my speaker outside in the cold trying to find the building we were in. It was normally a large meeting, usually 20 to 30 people on Fridays. As I entered the room with my speaker I was overwhelmed by the number of attendees, maybe 40 or 50 people! It was such a terribly cold night, yet everyone showed up including the young man who set up all the chairs. My speaker told his story, it was quite powerful. There was an incredible sense of hope in the room for all of us when he finished speaking. I opened up the meeting for sharing and the young man raised his hand first to share. I called upon him immediately because I knew it was his first time sharing, and I felt he was so brave. He shared that he had spent \$3,000.00 in one month on phone sex. He said he was addicted to the 900 numbers and would do anything to make sure the phone company wouldn't shut

off his home phone. (remember, we had no cell phones then, no internet, no streaming videos etc..) He went on to say, he stopped paying rent, stopped buying diapers for his child, bought only minimal food and was now without heat because the oil company would not make a delivery. His share devastated me! I had never heard that one before. A \$3,000.00 phone bill (25 years ago !!!) I thought to myself – “what a tragedy”. While driving home I was very upset for this young man. I agonized about his pain. I went to bed and woke up in the middle of the night and had what I call, a “Spiritual Nudge” – a feeling like I had to do something. I had no idea what to do at that moment, but I knew there had to be thousands of people like this young man who was hopelessly addicted to dialing 900 numbers. I looked in the newspaper in the morning and found 4 pages of 900 sex phone numbers. I felt sick to my stomach. Feeling depressed, I laid back down on my bed. Suddenly out of no where, a feeling of hope came over me, when the Idea of an Inspirational Phone line just popped into my head. I began to think of things like – “What if there was a phone line, say 1-900-SLAA -Hope?What if there was a free phone line where people could call in and hear a message and not have to dial a 900 number ? What if there was a number available 24 hours a day-7 days a week where a person could feel safe to share their innermost secrets and not be judged or criticized ?” The thoughts kept coming, the possibilities seemed endless. At the Intergroup Meeting that month I proposed my idea to the group. I asked

for \$60.00 to buy an answering machine and \$60.00 to set up the phone line. Back then there were no digital voice mails, just the old fashioned tape machines. I contacted AT&T and for an extra 5 bucks a month I got the phone number 215-SLA-1234 . This was the birth of the SLAA-GDVI's 24 Hour Inspiration Line. In the beginning, it was a little difficult coming up with inspirational thoughts to put on the line every night, however after a few months others in the fellowship offered to do service on the line and share their experience, strength and hope. It was wonderful. Today, 25 years later, the Inspirational Line is alive and well. Every day volunteers leave wonderful messages for the fellowship to hear. People call in from all over the country. Approximately 18 to 25 calls per day, - every day , long holiday weekends, even Christmas and New Year's Day. At last count there were 6552 calls over a 12 month period! The volunteers, (message makers), come from all walks of life, and from multiple cities. One is from New York, three from California, one from New Mexico, two from Pennsylvania. The group is dedicated and is always open to more volunteers. The inspiration line has help many people in their time of need. Some of us have referred to the line as “Your 3:00 AM sponsor”. The line is a gift that I can not take credit for. The credit goes to that young man who I encountered 25 years ago at his first meeting. I wish him well as have I never seen or heard from him again. In Service,
Michael S

Call the Inspiration Line: 215-574-2120

Next GDVI Meetings: Tuesday, June 14, 2011; 7pm sharp
Tuesday, July 12, 2011; 7pm sharp