



No. 562 January 4, 2016

South Eastern New York Area Committee and Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous

Out with the Old, In with the New From the Delegate

With the close of 2015, Panel 64 delegates are riding off into the sunset with a new status - that of past delegates - bearing with them many expressions of gratitude for a job well done from their respective areas.

Panel 66 delegates are now the “new kids on the block” as the year 2016 rolls in. These first year delegates will be looking to the Panel 65 delegates for guidance, which comes to them in the form of being assigned a “conference buddy”. James H., a Panel 64 delegate from Area 68, Southwest Texas was my Conference Buddy and was invaluable in helping me get through the first few days of the 65th General Service Conference. That relationship developed into a friendship and today we continue to communicate regularly. It now becomes the role of Panel 65’s to impart their experience, strength and hope to the Panel 66’s.

Concept I suggests to us that the “... final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.” In this Concept Bill W. continuously refers to Tradition Two. One line stands out: “The main principles of Tradition Two are crystal clear; the A.A. groups are to be the final authority; their leaders are to be entrusted with delegated responsibilities only.”

The conference agenda will be in place shortly and will be forwarded to the delegates sometime in early February. Here in Area 49 this means that we will then distribute the delegate’s questionnaire to all the AA groups in Area 49. The groups’ response to the questionnaire will enable your delegate to represent your thoughts during the course of the 66th General Service Conference. We hope that when the questionnaire comes your way you will consider it in accordance with the ideals of Concept I and Traditions One and Two.

Our first assembly of 2016 will be in February and will be hosted by Bronx and Upper Manhattan (BxUM). At that time, we will begin to announce the results of our area inventory and the initial steps we plan to take to better our service commitment to Area 49’s membership as a whole. We look forward to seeing a “packed house” in February as well as throughout the rest of the year.

Peace and serenity,

Jim W.
delegate@aaseny.org

SENY

South Eastern New York Area Committee and Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous

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Submissions

The Link is published ten times per year and is currently seeking articles for submission. Articles should be 350 words in length and related to experience, strength and hope in doing service in A.A. and A.A. as a whole. Please send your articles to link@aaseny.org.

A Privilege to Serve

From the outgoing SENY Link Editor

Greetings trusted servants!

No, this is not a request for article submissions, rather an announcement that this issue will be my last as the editor of *The Link*. I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude to the SENY body for allowing me to serve in this position. It has been an extremely rewarding experience and has afforded me the opportunity to give back what was so freely given.

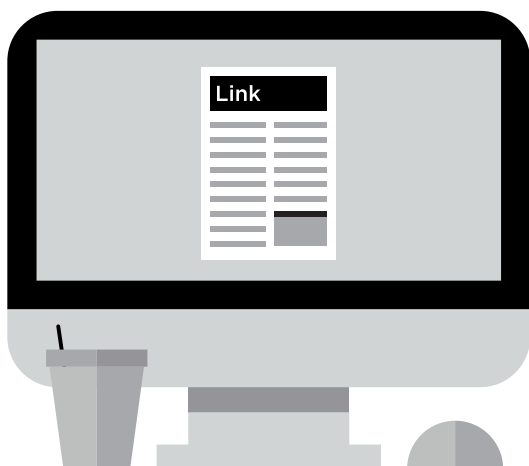
When I first crawled into the rooms of AA, I noticed that the people who seemed to be enjoying their sobriety and who had what I wanted were those people involved in service. I remember hearing them say that I could not keep it unless I gave it away; that service was gratitude in action; that if you are not being inconvenienced then you are not doing enough service. I took those words to heart, got a service commitment, and I have been happily inconvenienced ever since.

In serving as *The Link* editor, I have found myself sitting squarely in the center of AA. The editor's inbox is often filled with communications from the SENY Officers, Ad Hoc Committee Chairs, DCMCs and GSRs notifying me of an upcoming meeting, Share-a-Day, alcathon or spiritual breakfast. I have even been asked to help out by designing event flyers or goofy Statue of Liberty crowns. All of this has served to remind me that the more I give, the more I receive. As I have grown in AA, so a fellowship has grown around me. Thank you SENY!

In love and service,

Masood B.

link@aaseny.org



The SENY Ad Hoc Service Participation Committee

From the SENY Alternate Delegate

At the area inventory there was a question whether or not the Ad Hoc Service Participation Committee was still in existence. Since I currently chair that committee, I thought I'd use this opportunity to do a better job letting people know what it is and what we do. I like to say that it's a "support group" for DCMCs.

The committee has been part of the area structure since 1993. The SENY Handbook states that the committee "is involved with the development of ideas which might help increase and support participation by GSRs, DCMs, and DCMCs in the SENY service structure. What can SENY and the counties do to reinforce group and district participation? The committee has no formal authority and is not a decision-making body, but is advisory to the area committee and assembly in function. It provides an opportunity to share valuable experience, ask questions, and spark new ideas."

The Service Participation Committee is made up of DCMCs from the 13 counties (12 geographic and 1 linguistic), the delegate, the alternate delegate, and the area chair. The area chair appoints the committee chair, though traditionally, it's the alternate delegate who gets that appointment. For this rotation, we are meeting on the second Thursday of months in which there is not an area assembly.

We get together over pizza to share experience, strength, and hope on service matters. This year we've been considering ways to be of greater support to GSRs and DCMs, including sharing practices at orientations for new trusted servants, reviewing county service structures, putting on service workshops, and discussing broad issues related to Concept IX and leadership.

We look at group, district, county, and area activities through the prism of our three legacies. Getting a shared sense from each DCMC about what each county does helps the rest of the committee with their own service responsibilities.

I am most grateful for this opportunity to get to know our area better.

In love and service,

John W.

altdelegate@aaseny.org

We Before Me

From the SENY Chair

Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. AA must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.

-Long form of Tradition One

I was recently reminded that “an isolated group is like an isolated drunk.” What that means to me is that we need our groups to stay connected. Each group, through its GSR, needs to be part of the general service discussion on matters of importance to AA as a whole. In that way, a group is not only helping to shape the direction of the fellowship on matters of importance but contributing to the unity of AA. Being disconnected and focusing only on ourselves, we tend to forget that we are part of a greater whole; we then find that we are living a life with a very limited viewpoint— mainly our own.

We learn in Tradition One that AA members have to conform to the principles of recovery and that our lives actually depend upon obedience to those spiritual principles. “If he deviates too far, the penalty is sure and swift; he sickens and dies,” Bill W. writes. Tradition One goes on to say that “most individuals cannot recover

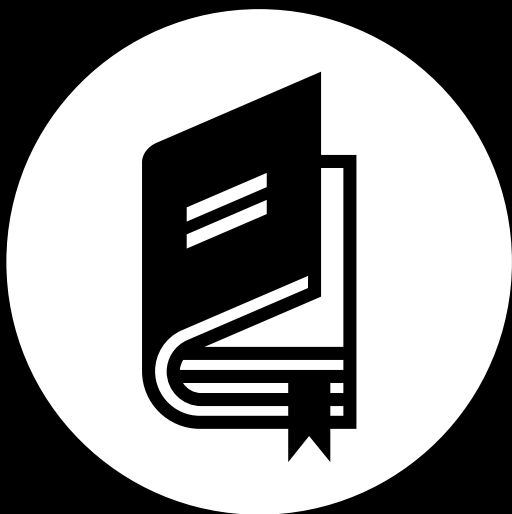
unless there is a group.” My call to action in my own home group is to constantly ask myself, “What can I do to contribute to the greater good, rather than always just trying to get my way?”

Selfishness and self-centeredness, as we know, are the root of our problem. How can I use this Tradition to help me deal with that? For me, it’s all about approach. Instead of planning on going to my home group’s next business meeting and complaining about all those things I think are wrong, I can go to that meeting and present my “complaints” from a place of needing to better understand why we do things the way we do them. Asking for clarity instead of trying to pile-drive my own agenda is one way of putting you first, that is, putting the fellowship first. “We Before Me” was never my way while I was drinking, but with an ongoing desire to maintain my spiritual condition today, I can make it a part of my life in sobriety and in the service I give to the fellowship.

In love and service,

Rick W.

chair@aaseny.org



Tradition and Concept for January

Tradition 1:

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.

Concept I:

Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

Reprinted from *Alcoholics Anonymous* and *The Twelve Concepts for World Service* with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Is GSR Your Calling?

From the Westchester County DCMC

As DCMC of Westchester, I am privileged to chair the monthly Westchester General Service meeting. Essentially a facilitator, I pass on information from SENY to Westchester GSRs, who then take this information back to their groups. GSRs serve as channels of information, ideas, and concerns. It is truly no wonder that the position of GSR is called the most important in A.A.

In addition to the county general service meeting and their district meeting, GSRs attend five assemblies each year. GSRs also see to it that their groups set aside time to discuss the annual delegate's questionnaire and report on where their groups stand on issues raised in the questionnaire at the pre-general Service Conference area assembly.

For me, service at the county level expanded my program to include new opportunities. I meet like-minded people at these meetings and have the chance to participate in workshops and forums. For anyone who is feeling like they have time to give back what has been so freely given to them, consider the position of GSR next time the commitment becomes available.

As I continue my journey in AA service, I am humbled by the role the GSR has as a link between an informed group conscience and AA as a whole. The SENY Handbook refers to this relationship as group sponsorship. Groups with an active GSR can benefit by attaining the best possible unity, health, and growth in AA.

In love and service,

Sally B.

dcmc@westchester.aaseny.org

Reminder

The next SENY Area 49 Assembly will be hosted by Bronx / Upper Manhattan and held on:

February 6 2016, 8:30 a.m.

Our Saviour Lutheran School
1734 Williamsbridge Road
Bronx, NY 10461

Tradition One

From the Bronx/Upper Manhattan DCMC

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity.

So states the short form of AA's First Tradition.

I have learned to put the common welfare of AA above my own, finally. Mind you, that was no easy task. As the old adage goes, I am an egomaniac with an inferiority complex. When I first got to the rooms I wanted everyone to see things from my point of view because, after all, I knew better. But what I learned, through trial and error, was that I had to put my personal ambitions to the side and to focus on my recovery if I was going to be an effective member of AA.

Where did this begin? When discussing matters during a business meeting, I had to learn to say what I meant and not be mean when I said it, or abrasive to those who did not agree with me or who wanted to keep a business meeting going longer than I thought it should go. Boy, oh boy, did my ego take a lot of bruising in those first few years and did I eat a lot of crow. I recall having to apologize to a former DCMC for being divisive and then having to apologize to the committee chair for not putting the good of AA above what I wanted and what I thought was the right thing. It was through the loving patience of a service sponsor that I eventually learned how to be in accord with others, that our common welfare meant that my ego had no place in the rooms of AA and that my personal ambitions had no place in AA.

Through my loving service sponsor I learned the spirit of rotation. When rotation of positions came, whether at the group, county, or area level, I had to accept the outcome, as it was up to God. If a vote on an AA issue did not go my way, I had to accept that the outcome was for the good of AA. Learning to put my personal ambitions to the side and the good of AA first has taught me that practicing these Traditions protect and unite our fellowship, which has enabled it to survive and grow.

In gratitude and love,

Colleen R.

dcmc@bum.aaseny.org

Gratitude in Action

From the SENY Agenda Chair

Happy New Year! Happy new day! Today is the only day we have.

I attended my first AA meeting one January night after a long, icy weekend of drinking around the clock. On a shade in the front of the room I read “Step One: We admitted we were powerless over alcohol; that our lives had become unmanageable.” And the speaker that night said “We talk about ‘yets’ in AA – jails, institutions, and death. Never mind the ‘yets’ - I don’t want the ‘agains.” For some reason, that made sense to me. Here was a solution to my powerlessness over alcohol and the resulting unmanageability of my life. I have not had a drink since. For that, I am grateful. Early on in my sobriety I attended meetings where we would read the steps in the Twelve and Twelve and at the end of the month we would discuss the Tradition corresponding to the number of that month. At one point I remember asking just how AA works, and was told “just fine”. I became grateful for each day of sobriety, as well as for the members of my group and for those who kept the doors of AA open.

“Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.” It became apparent to me that there were millions of people who also experienced the miracle of sobriety and were carrying the message of recovery to others.

Eventually, I met some people who told me about the Big Meeting and I went to my first one. I was impressed at the complete selection of AA literature displayed for sale, bought a copy of *As Bill Sees It*, experienced my first sobriety countdown, and heard of the Twelve Con-

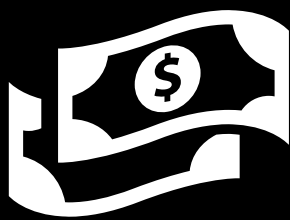
cepts for World Service for the first time, beginning with Concept I: “Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.” It was my first glimpse of members with commitments to service beyond the home group. Prior to that, I had only spoken at schools and hospitals. Still, I didn’t know or think to inquire about how anyone got those commitments.

Currently I am privileged to serve as the SENY Agenda Chair, keeping track of the myriad events happening in the twelve counties that make up Area 49. Throughout the area there are many workshops and fellowship events to attend. When the GSRs attending the area assemblies report their group’s decisions and actions, a sense of the area conscience is conveyed to the delegate, who then brings it to the annual General Service Conference. The Concepts Checklist asks if we are “willing to do what it takes to insure that our democracy of world service will work under all conditions.” Sometimes this means asking the foolish question, stating the obvious, or sharing a common or uncommon experience. Hearing answers to those questions and listening to others’ experiences with the topic at hand creates an informed collective conscience.

Area 49 is only one of the 93 Areas in the US and Canada served by our General Service Office. The Spring 2015 issue of *Markings, Your Archives eNewsletter* reports that “... there are currently 62 autonomous service offices worldwide”. This reinforces the perspective that I am “but a small part of a great whole” described in the First Tradition. For that, I am truly grateful.

In love and service,

Kathy. B
agenda@aaseny.org



Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix

The Language of the Heart, page 221

When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts, we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat we give a token that we are grateful for our blessings and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer.

➔ **SAY THE DATE**

NERAASA 2016

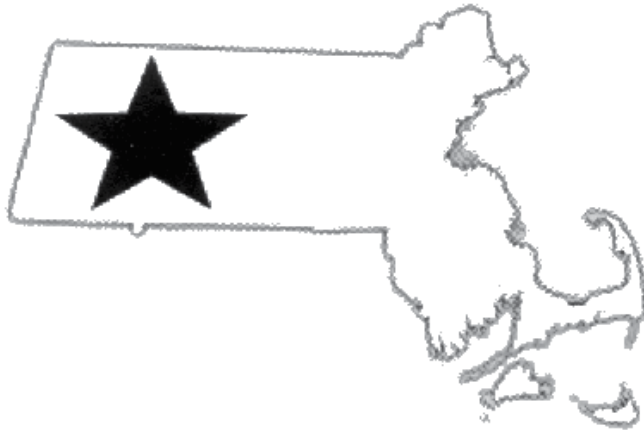
Twenty-fifth Annual

Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly

February 26-28, 2016

Hosted by Western Massachusetts

Area 31



Sheraton Hotel. Springfield, MA 01103

Celebrate Our Silver Anniversary in the Golden west

For more information go to: <http://neraasa2016.org>

**SOUTH EASTERN
NEW YORK
AREA 49**



**48TH SENY CONVENTION
MARCH 18-20, 2016**

Convention Highlights

Friday 3/18:
Kick Off & Welcome Meetings

Saturday 3/19:
Old-Timers, Theme, & Banquet Meetings

Sunday 3/20:
Spiritual Meeting

Westchester Marriott Hotel
670 White Plains Road
Tarrytown, NY 10591

Convention rate: **\$131.00 + 10.375%** tax per night
(single/double/triple/quad occupancy)
Room reservation deadline: February 26th

Hotel reservations via phone: 1(800) 882-1042
On-line: www.marriott.com/nycwe
Reservation code: **SNMSNMA**



AA Panels & Workshops
Alkathon Meetings
AA Archives & AA Videos
Spanish Meetings
Al-Anon Meetings
Hospitality Room
Evening Entertainment

On-site Registration Hours:
Friday 3 PM—11 PM
Saturday 8 AM—midnight

Spanish translation for all main meetings.
American Sign Language or other translation
needs with pre-registration only.

Service animals only in convention areas.
Designated smoking areas located near
hotel exits. Wheelchair accessible.

For further information contact: Jarrett D., SENY Convention Chair
(718) 665-1253 (SENY voicemail) or convention@aaeny.org (SENY email)

For on-line convention
registration via Pay Pal go to:
www.aaeny.org

**CONVENTION REGISTRATION
PRE-REGISTRATON DEADLINE: March 5, 2016**

One form per person.
Please make copies for
each registrant.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email(optional): _____

AA: _____ Al-Anon: _____

Other (please specify): _____

Special Needs (please specify): _____

ASL/Translation Needs: (please specify): _____

Old-timer 25+ years (sober date): _____
Month Day Year

_____ Registration Only \$17.00

_____ Registration Children 10 years and Under..... Free

_____ Registration & Banquet \$95.00

(Convention badges must be worn at all times.)

Please select one menu option:

_____ Beef _____ Chicken _____ Fish _____ Vegetarian

Special Dietary Needs (please specify): _____

**(Tables seat 10. Submit all forms together if you wish
to be seated together at the banquet.)**

Amount Enclosed: \$

Checks/money orders payable to: **SENY Convention 2016**

Mail to: **SENY Convention 2016**
PO Box 752
Rockville Ctr, NY 11571

Calendar of Events Visit www.aaseny.org for complete, up-to-date information; e-mail agenda@aaseny.org to add an event.

01/04/16	7:30 p.m.	SENY Committee Meeting , Church of the Holy Family, Mechler Hall, 2158 Watson Avenue, Bronx, NY 10472
01/10/16	10:00 a.m.	SENY Corrections Committee Meeting, SENY Office, 199 Lincoln Avenue, Bronx, NY 10454
01/12/16	7:00 p.m.	Putnam County General Service Meeting, Mount Carmel Baptist Church, 76 Gleneida Avenue Carmel, NY 10512
01/15/16	8:00 p.m.	Suffolk County General Service Meeting, True North Church, 1101 Lakeland Ave. Bohemia, NY 11716
01/19/16	7:00 p.m.	Orange County General Service Meeting, First Presbyterian Church, Campbell Hall, Route 207 Campbell Hall, NY 10916
01/20/16	7:30 p.m.	Westchester County General Service Meeting, Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains, NY 10605
01/23/16	9:00 a.m.	Westchester County General Service Breakfast, Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains, NY 10605
02/06/16	8:30 a.m.	SENY Area 49 Assembly (hosted by BxUM County), Our Saviour Lutheran School, 1734 Williamsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10461
02/09/16	7:00 p.m.	Putnam County General Service Meeting, Mount Carmel Baptist Church, 76 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, NY 10512
02/10/16	7:00 p.m.	Bronx/U. M. General Service Committee Meeting, Bedford Park Congregational Church, 3008 Bainbridge Ave. Bronx, NY 10458
02/14/16	10:00 a.m.	SENY Corrections Committee Meeting, SENY Office, 199 Lincoln Avenue, Bronx, NY 10454
02/15/16	7:30 p.m.	Nassau County General Service Meeting, Nassau Intergroup Office, 361 Hempstead Turnpike, West Hempstead, NY 11552
02/16/16	7:00 p.m.	Orange County General Service Meeting, First Presbyterian Church, Campbell Hall, Rte. 207 Campbell Hall, NY 10916
02/17/16	7:30 p.m.	Westchester County General Service Meeting, Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Ave, White Plains, NY 10605
02/19/-02/21	12:00 p.m.	14th Eastern Area Convention of Young People in AA, Grand Hyatt New York, 109 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017
02/19/16	8:00 p.m.	Suffolk County General Service Meeting, True North Church, 1101 Lakeland Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716
02/26-02/28	12:00 p.m.	2016 Northeast Regional AA Service Assembly, Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel, 1 Monarch Pl. Springfield, MA 01144
03/06/16	9:00 a.m.	19th Annual Suffolk County General Service Unity Breakfast, The East Wind, 5720 Route 25A, Wading River, NY 11792
03/07/16	7:30 p.m.	SENY Committee Meeting , Church of the Holy Family, Mechler Hall, 2158 Watson Avenue, Bronx, NY 10472
03/08/16	7:00 p.m.	Putnam County General Service Meeting, Mount Carmel Baptist Church, 76 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, NY 10512

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Publications Review			publications@aaseny.org
Service Participation	John W.		participation@aaseny.org
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