

Preparing for Our Future

From the SENY Delegate - Panel 65

"A.A.'s Third Legacy Procedure is a special type of electoral procedure, used primarily for the election of delegates and regional and at-large trustees. It is considered to be unique to A.A., and at first glance, appears to introduce a strong element of chance into a matter that should depend solely on the judgment of the majority. In practice, however, it has proved highly successful in eliminating the influence of factions or parties that seem to thrive on most political scenes. The railroading of a candidate for election is made difficult, if not impossible, since voters have a wide selection of candidates to choose from. More importantly, a second-place candidate who may be extremely well qualified but without early popular support is encouraged to stay in the balloting rather than withdraw."

(The A.A. Service Manual, p. S21)

Choosing the right candidate for delegate, alternate delegate, area chair, treasurer, or registrar should not be based upon popularity alone. Consideration must also be given to candidates with viable area service experience rather than none at all as well as their ability to be available at all times, especially as delegate, alternate delegate, or area chair. Those familiar with the workings of Area 49 tend to serve the area fully as effective leaders. Those who "leapfrog" from county to area service in recent years have shown what this lack of experience has rendered.

Concept IX in the A.A. Service Manual includes Bill W.'s essay "Leadership in AA: Ever A Vital Need," originally published in a 1959 issue of the AA Grapevine:

- "...A leader in A.A. service is therefore a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him up and help him with his job. When a leader power-drives us badly, we rebel; but when he too meekly becomes an order-taker and he exercises no judgment of his own well, he really isn't a leader at all."
- "Good leadership originates plans, policies, and ideas for the improvement of our Fellowship and its services. But in new and important matters, it will nevertheless consult widely before taking decisions and actions. Good leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, anywhere. Consequently, good leadership will often discard its own cherished plans for others that are better, and it will give credit to the source."

Your voice in *The Link*

Your SENY Office

Are you willing to share your experience, strength and hope about your service in A.A. at the group, district, county or area level? *The Link* is published ten times per year and welcomes articles from all AA's in our area. Please limit your article to 275 words, and email it to link@aaseny.org or mail it c/o The Link Editor, P.O. Box 571, NY, NY 10116. Thanks!

Visit: 199 Lincoln Ave., Suite 302 Bronx, NY 10454

Send mail: P.O. Box 571, New York, NY 10116

General inquiries: info@aaseny.org

Call: 718-665-1253

"Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts."

Theme of AA's 2016 General Service Conference

Preparing for Our Future (cont) From the SENY Delegate

- "Good leadership never passes the buck. Once assured that it has, or can, obtain sufficient general backing, it freely takes decisions and puts them into action forthwith, provided of course that such actions be within the framework of its defined authority and responsibility."
- "A 'politico' is an individual who is forever trying 'to get the people what they want.' A statesman is an individual who can carefully discriminate when and when not to do this. He recognizes that even large majorities, when badly disturbed or uninformed, can, once in a while, be dead wrong. When such an occasional situation arises, and something very vital is at stake, it is always the duty of leadership, even when in a small minority, to take a stand against the storm, using its every ability of authority and persuasion to effect a change..."

Many of our past elections exemplify what Bill W. has written about above. Cases of personalities over principles, rather than principles over personalities, have resulted in some recent elections (e.g., in 2012 and 2014) being decided by lot from the hat after a fourth or fifth ballot. In some instances, this "hand of God (H.P., God of your understanding)" has resulted in the most viable, experienced candidate being selected. In other instances, the selection from the hat may have been the result of H.P. selecting the most experienced trusted servant from the choices left since some of the better choices may have inadvertently been weeded out.

Voting members need to carefully look at whom they are voting for, based upon their overall service experiences rather than popularity alone. Your vote has an impact on how well the area fares or doesn't. Please don't take it lightly and always do it with the integrity of our Twelfth Step work first and foremost.

SAVE THE DATE: SENY Election Assembly - Saturday, September 17, 2016, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Make your vote count! See you there. Enjoy the summer.

Peace and serenity, **Jim W.**

Tradition Six and Our Public RelationsFrom the Orange County DCMC

"We sometimes congratulate ourselves on the Traditions as though they were a list of virtues singular to us. Actually, they are a collection of the lessons of our past experience during the early days of AA."
(Bill W., Transcribed from tape, General Service Conference, 1968)

When we read the Sixth Tradition, our first impression is that the accumulation of money, property, and personal authority by individuals, groups, or AA as a whole generates serious hazards against which we must ever be on guard. Personal defects that infiltrate and corrupt our Fellowship would eventually limit or nullify our ability to fulfil our primary purpose. However there is another issue that the tradition addresses: the necessity of maintaining AA's public reputation.

In the early days of AA several breweries and distilleries sought our endorsement of a public education campaign much like the "Drink Responsibly" commercials we see today. AA headquarters considered and rejected the request – such an endorsement would have blurred our message and compromised our singleness of purpose. The principle still stands. We don't, as a Fellowship or as individual members, lend our name to alcohol-related initiatives by outside enterprises.

Today we see many rehabs and other treatment organizations seek affiliation with AA. We must remember that business entities or charities, even with the best of intentions, can make mistakes. And these mistakes can possibly bring public ridicule and cause damage to AA merely by its associating with these enterprises. We need to always guard the reputation of our Fellowship. We do this by avoiding affiliation with any outside entity.

We have no one to blame but ourselves should our reputation with the general public suffer because of our actions. Our relations with outside enterprises must be within the guidelines of our Sixth Tradition. Any compromise of our Sixth Tradition would diminish our standing with the general public and inevitably damage our ability to fulfil our primary purpose.

In service,

Mike D.

Willing to Serve

From the Nassau County DCMC

There are a couple of questions that I feel need to be constantly before me: "Does AA service give me a real sense of purpose in life? And do I owe AA a debt of gratitude, a debt that I can never repay?" The answer to both these questions is "Yes".

On the page for May 19th of Daily Reflections there is a quote from page 69 of As Bill Sees It, which reads: "And he well knows that his own life has been made richer, as an extra dividend of giving to another without any demand for a return." The last sentence in the reflection (written by another member) states, "When my life is full of a loving God of my understanding and I give that love to my fellow alcoholic, I feel a special richness that is hard to explain."

All of our members are volunteers, are never paid for their service work, and give without strings attached. I am very grateful to A.A. and can never repay it in full. Another member states at page 149 of Daily Reflections, "On a day-at-a-time basis, I am confident I can stay away from a drink for one day. So I set out with confidence. At the end of the day, I have the reward of achievement. Achievement feels good and makes me want more!"

Back in the days when the military draft was in effect, there were posters of Uncle Sam, which bore the caption: "Uncle Sam Wants You." This also applies to us in General Service: AA needs your help. Please talk to other members about the possibility of their getting involved in service. And please remember, "No one can do everything, but everyone can do something."

Steve K.



Technology and Privacy From the SENY Web Chair

Having been trusted to serve as the SENY Web Chair, I am honored to work with the SENY Web Committee. One of our functions is to keep our members aware of significant shifts in the technological landscape that may affect our collective responsibilities.

"Technology and privacy" is such an area that is experiencing noticeable shifts. Many people today assume they can easily control their privacy online the same way they can offline. Then there are those who consider 'Privacy on the Internet' to be a silly topic for discussion, believing there is no such thing. Obviously, privacy is a very important matter for us - we are a fellowship that places a high value on anonymity. Therefore it has become increasingly important for us to understand the privacy policies of the various technological solutions that we implement.

A case in point is email. About a year and a half ago, with the best of intentions, Area 49 implemented a new email framework as an interim solution. The email was free and was already used by many individuals in our fellowship (including myself) as a personal email option. But the privacy component of this framework is severely lacking. At our most recent SENY Web Committee meeting we decided to replace this interim email solution with one that is more aligned with our principles. While the options we are exploring seem to be getting more complex, the committee's due diligence has been, and will continue to be, rigorous. We hope to agree on a solid solution before Summer gets into full swing, which would allow us to conduct a system migration during a reasonable downtime.

We expect all SENY email addresses to continue to function in any event. Please let me know if you have questions, comments, or concerns.

Yours,

Jon O.

SENY Election Assembly (hosted by the Hispanic Districts)

WHEN: Saturday, September 17, 2016 WHERE: Cross Hill Academy School

160 Bolmer Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10703

TIME: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

We will be selecting the following officers for the Panel 67 rotation, 2017-2018: Delegate, alternate delegate, area chair, treasurer and registrar. Refreshments will be served from 8:30 to 9:20 a.m. Elections start at 9:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at miday and elections will continue thereafter until their completion.

Who is eligible to vote: Past delegates, current officers and standing committee chairs, GSR's (or their alternates in the GSR's absence), DCM's (or their alternates in the DCM's absence), DCMC's (or the alternates in the DCMC's absence).

NOTE: Ad hoc committee chairs and members, Service Sponsorship Chair and Al-Anon Liaison Chair are not eligible to vote unless they also fall into one of the "Who is eligible to vote" categories outlined above.

No other business will be conducted that day

Synergies: Step Six, Tradition Six, and Concept Six From the SENY Chair

Willingness (some say patience), singleness of purpose, and accountability are the foundation principles in Step Six, Tradition Six, and Concept Six, respectively. I have found it difficult at times to see the connection between the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts, but when look closely, I can see there are some very basic synergies.

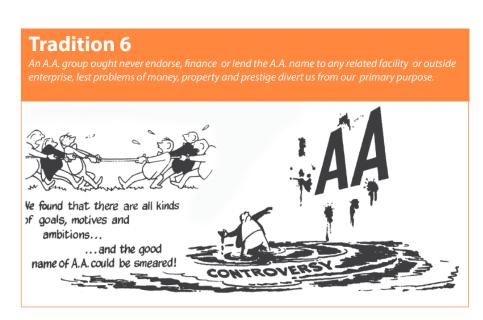
When I look deeper, it's pretty clear to me how Step Six and Tradition Six run parallel. When I'm not entirely ready to have my defects removed, the pursuit of money, property, and prestige take over. I could ask the question in Step Six, "How do I do that?" Tradition Six answers that question. When I'm ready to replace the goals of money, property, and prestige with our primary purpose of carrying the message of sobriety, I begin to develop a dependence on God rather than on character defects. The other correlation between this Step and Tradition is that Step Six encourages me to strive for perfection.

When I am actively responsible for carrying the message by practicing Concept Six in my service, I am not at all concerned about money, property, and prestige. Such action completes the Sixth Tradition promise of unity: I can carry the message if I become actively responsible for my service and let God be ultimately responsible for the results of my efforts (and the results of others). In other words, I don't get the newcomer sober or drunk. God has the ultimate responsibility for sobriety. But I do have active responsibility for carrying a message of recovery and not one of money, property, and prestige. I understand the relationship of Step Six, Tradition Six, and Concept Six as follows: I ask God, who is ultimately responsible for me, to remove my attachment to defects of character such as the pursuit of money, property, and prestige that I may be free to pursue my primary purpose in life, trying to carry the message of recovery to the alcoholic who still suffers. My Sixth Concept prayer is this: "Father, may I let go of my obsessions with worrying about the outcome of relationships, finances, and details of my life and, instead simply take active responsibility for trying to carry the message of recovery, a day at a time, as you direct me."

In love and service,

Rick W.





WILLINGNESS - Step 6 From the Bronx/U-M County Chair

How do we let go of those defects of character that make us sick? With willingness....we must be willing to let go of those defects or we will remain sick. We must be willing to move on and rid ourselves of those behaviors and attitudes that harm us.

Shortly after doing my 4th Step and my 5th Step with my sponsor, I came to conclude that all of my defects of character, in one way or another, were derived from the seven (7) deadly sins: Lust, Greed, Envy, Sloth, Gluttony, Pride and Wrath.

While I was working on the 6th Step, I realized that ridding myself of my defects of character was a lot like a childhood game called "whack-a-mole." Every time I would hit a defect on the head and think I had overcome it, another one "popped" up to take its place.

As my sponsor told me, if I wish to live a spiritual way of life, I must rid myself of those attitudes, behaviors and thoughts that bring me into conflict with others. The only requirement is that I become willing to have God remove all these defects of character.

In closing, I have heard shared in many an AA meeting that defects of character are those things which we know we should not do--and we do--and shortcomings are those things we know we should do--and we don't. Thank God this is a life long proposition.

In Love and Gratitude

Colleen R.

The 2016 General Service Conference

Presentation & Discussion Topics for the 2016 General Service Conference

The theme of the 2016 Conference is "Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts" and the topics of presentations/discussions for this year-long Conference are:

A. Connecting with the Newcomer

- 1. All Inclusive Never Exclusive
- 2. Are We Doing Enough to Help the Newcomer Are We Going to Any Length
- 3. Home Group Where It Begins

B. Connecting with Each Other

- 1. Singleness of Purpose Staying Pertinent in a Changing World
- 2. Informed Group Conscience The Key to Unity
- 3. Be Involved. Be Inspired. Be of Service

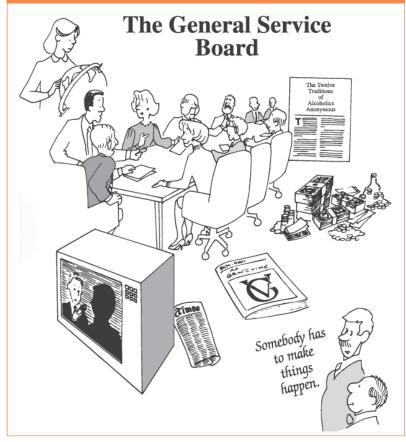
C. Connecting with A.A. as a Whole

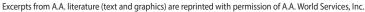
- 1. Participating in All of A.A.
- 2. Understanding Self-Support
- 3. Reaching Out to the Next Generation of AAs

In the spirit of unity, Area 49 groups and their members are encouraged to discuss and reflect upon these topics in 2016.

Concept 6

On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.







Concept VI – A Spiritual Handshake From the SENY Alternate Delegate

The long form of Concept VI reads: On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

That's a mouthful! One way to break it down is to think about the function of the General Service Conference. Over 130 members gather in New York for one week each year to seek substantial unanimity on matters of policy and finance that are relevant to AA world services as a whole. Many AA members will recognize some of these matters as items that appear on the delegate's questionnaire that is shared throughout our area each spring and on which we get to share our group's conscience.

How can the Conference get everything completed and implemented in one week? It can't. So the Conference recognizes that the Trustees (who are themselves members of the Conference) will carry out those responsibilities over the course of the year as they act in their role as the legal custodians of the organization. I once heard our northeast regional trustee describe this particular act of turning it over as a "spiritual handshake." We must trust our trusted servants at all levels to do what's best for our Fellowship.

In Love and Service, **John W.**

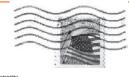
From AA Grapevine

The Birthday Plan (what's yours?)

The Birthday Plan provides a way for members to celebrate their anniversary—and express their gratitude—by setting aside a dollar or more for each sober year and sending it off to the General Service Office for AA services worldwide.

Some groups keep a regular stock of Birthday Contribution Envelopes, which can be requested on AA's website or by calling AAWS. Ask your group's Literature chair about it.





THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE POST OFFICE BOX 459 GRAND CENTRAL STATION NEW YORK NY 10163-0459

AA Grapevine Service From the GSR, 4 the Grace

Recently I attended this year's Manhattan-Share-a-Day, an all-day expo featuring workshops, meetings, and panels on a variety of AA topics. I really enjoy attending these kinds of events; I usually learn a lot and stay inspired, and I also get the chance to catch up with old friends in sobriety and share a few laughs.

My district is 608 and our service commitment on this day was the Grapevine table. Our main purpose was to increase awareness of the Grapevine and what it has to offer, as well as to encourage people to go back to their home groups and elect a Grapevine representative. The Grapevine continues its mission only with the active support of the Fellowship. Since it is not supported through group contributions, the Grapevine's only source of income is through subscriptions, both print and electronic versions, and sales of its various related items.

Initially, I was not looking forward to the assignment. It was rainy that day, I wanted a couple more hours of sleep, and I like to attend these events as a participant, looking mainly to keep sober and to be entertained. But my sponsor in early sobriety drilled into me the idea that "service is a privilege," and as usual, I found that in doing service for others, I got much more out of it than I felt I put into it.

As I sat there, folks filed by, and I got to chat with people with different backgrounds and experiences in sobriety, all sharing a common solution to our common problem with alcohol. We talked up our own groups, and invited each other to visit sometime. People occasionally aired a complaint, or shared an inspiration with me. If their group had a Grapevine rep, we chatted about what that rep did to carry the message regarding our monthly meeting in print, and Grapevine's other publications. We talked about the Steps and Traditions and sponsors and the higher power.

The thought occurred to me how similar my own experiences this day were to Grapevine's purpose in general. Sharing experience, strength, and hope with others that I encountered? Check. Passing along pertinent information? Check. Listening to a gripe or two? Check. Sharing a laugh? Check. Inviting others to service? Check. Sounds like a Grapevine to me.

Continuously since 1944, the Grapevine has been, in the words of its own statement of purpose, "a lifeline, linking one alcoholic with another...a forum for the varied and divergent opinions of AAs around the world." On this day I got to be a part of the lifeline.

Mike T.

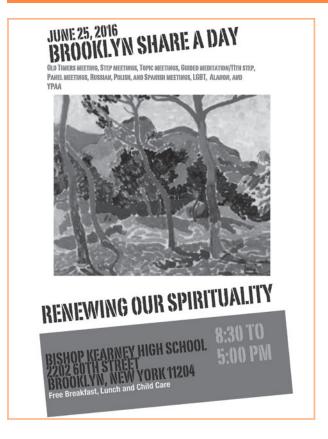


Write it for the AA Grapevine, our meeting in print! Come to District 608's Writing Workshop!

> Saturday, Nov 5th, 10am to 12:30pm Doors open at 9:30am

Hudson Guild 441 West 26th Street - Dan Carpenter B Room (Between 9th & 10th Aves) New York, NY 10001

Wheelchair Accessible





There are many opportunities to participate in general service in our area! District, county and area committees always need more volunteers. You can find information about these committees on SENY's website at www.aaseny.org/service.



In the Murry Hill East Suite

Event for the Premier Table Selection of the Annual Bill W. Dinner held on Saturday, November 12, 2016

Staten Island A.A. (Alcoholics Anonymous) Presents:

32nd Annual Share-A-Day

"Rocketed into a 4th Dimension:

Our Spiritual Way of Life"

Saturday, July 23rd

8:00 am - 5:00pm

P.S.48 William P Wilcox

1050 Targee Street

Staten Island, NY 10304

Free Coffee, Snacks & Lunch / Babysitting Provided Handicapped Accessible & Air Conditioned



Calendar of Events Visit www.aaseny.org for complete, up-to-date information. E-mail agenda@aaseny.org to add an event					
06/12/16	10:00 am	SENY Corrections Committee Meeting: SENY Office, 199 Lincoln Avenue, Bronx, NY 10454			
06/12/16	12:30 pm	District 214 Service Workshop: El Grupo Alegría de Vivir, 19 West Columbia Street, Hempstead,NY 11550			
06/12/16	7:00 pm	Staten Island General Service Meeting: Oakwood Heights Community Church, 345 Guyon Ave, Staten Island, NY			
06/13/16	7:00 pm	Queens County GSR Boot Camp: Queens Intergroup, 105-29 Metropolitan Avenue, Queens, NY 11375			
06/14/16	7:00 pm	Putnam County General Service Meeting: Mount Carmel Baptist Church, 76 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, NY 10512			
06/15/16	7:00 pm	Westchester General Service Meeting: Memorial Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Avenue, White Plains NY10605			
06/17/16	7:00 pm	Suffolk County General Service Meeting: True North Church, 1101 Lakeland Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716			
06/17/16	8:00 pm	Dist 614 2nd Workshop, 2 Themes, 8th Trad & 9th Concept: Mt Washington Presbyterian Church, 84 Vermilyea Ave at 204 St, NY, NY			
06/18/16	9:am-1pm	Speaker Training For Speaking at NON AA Meetings: True North Church, 1101 Lakeland Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716			
06/19/2016	9:30 am	Asamblea de Distritos Hispanos: El Grupo Tres Legados, 77 Monhagen Ave, Middletown, NY 10940			
06/19/2016	3:00 pm	Sullivan County General Service Meeting: Sullivan County Community College, 112 College Rd., Loch Sheldrake, NY 12759			
06/20/2016	7:30 pm	Nassau General Service Meeting: Nassau Intergroup 361 Hempstead Turnpike, West Hempstead 11552 (new GSR orientation 6:30 pm)			
06/21/2016	6:30 pm	Manhattan General Service Meeting: Seafarer's House 123 East 15th Street NY, NY 10003			
06/21/2016	7:15 pm	SENY Public Information (PI) Committee Meeting: NY Intergroup, 307 7th Avenue #201, New York, NY 10001			
06/22/2016	7:15 pm	SENY Cooperation with Professional Community (CPC) Meeting: NY Intergroup, 307 7th Avenue #201, New York, NY 10001			
06/22/2016	8:00 pm	District 814 La Vina Workshop: El Grupo Unidos en Yonkers, 45 Ludlow St (bsmt), Yonkers, NY 10701			
06/25/2016	8:30 am-5pm	Brooklyn Share-A-Day: Bishop Kearney High School, 2202 60th Street, Brooklyn NY 11204			
06/26/2016	8 am-8 pm	32nd Hispanic Districts' Share A Day Hosted by District 614: Fine Arts Center Julia de Burgos, 1680 Lexington Ave, NY, b/t 105 & 106 Sts.			
06/26/2016	10:00 am	A/SN Share A Day - This IS Accessibility/Specal Needs: IS5 Walter Crowley Intermediate School, 50-40 Jacobus St, Elmhurst, NY			
06/27/2016	7:30 pm	Queens County General Service Meeting: Saint Mary Gate of Heaven Church, 101-18 104th St., Queens, NY 11416			
07/05/16	7:00 pm	Orange County Grapevine Committee Meeting: First Presbyterian Church, Campbell Hall, Rte. 207, Campbell Hall, NY			

SENY Officers						
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