



Securing our history or wading into public controversy?

From the SENY Delegate - Panel 67

Last April I saw an article in the New York Post about an upcoming auction of the original printer's copy of the manuscript of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, our Big Book. I was very familiar with the document because a photographic version of it was published in 2010 by Hazelden. It shows all sorts of last minute changes to our text - even to the language in the Steps. As someone who loves our history, I found it fascinating.

Lois Wilson gave the manuscript to Barry L., a member of the Greenwich Village Group and the author of *Living Sober*. No one seems to be quite sure how the document went from Barry's hands to being sold twice at auction (in 2004 and in 2007). A third auction was set for June 2017 and the document was on public display in Manhattan in mid-May. The marked up version of what is now Chapter 5 was there under glass -- I got goosebumps viewing it!

Within hours of my visit to the gallery, the General Service Office (GSO) informed Conference members that the General Service Board (GSB) had filed legal action to stop the sale on the basis of a letter from Barry L., discovered earlier in the archives, that donated the manuscript to the GSO Archives.

It's hard to describe all the tumult that the GSB's action has created. There are many who feel the Board launched a public controversy, failed to properly inform Conference members in advance of their actions, and are wasting considerable financial resources. There are even calls to reorganize the Board and oust trustees.

Others site Concept III's right of decision and the authority granted in Concept VI that gives great latitude to the Board to act in what they deem is the best interest of the Fellowship as they seek to reclaim a unique historic document that, according to Barry's very specific instructions, rightfully belongs in the GSO Archives.

The two sides in the legal proceedings, the current owner and the GSB, are in discussions to seek some sort of resolution before the end of the year. Meanwhile, there's a lot of heated talk about what should or shouldn't be going on, and/or what is happening next. I take great solace in folks citing the Traditions, the Concepts, and the Conference Charter in these debates. As we transition from the Conference theme "Supporting Our Future" to "A Solution for All Generations" I am certain we'll grow stronger from this 'controversy' and be here to welcome the generations to come, no matter the outcome.

Yours in service,

John W.

Your voice in *The Link*

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 AAs 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!

Your SENY Office

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

"A.A. — A Solution for All Generations."

Theme of AA's 2018 General Service Conference

How I Got To My First SENY Assembly From the SENY Area Chair

Our GSR brought LINKS to the group, and I'd grab the first one, paying special attention to the "events page." Because of *The Link*, I'd been to a SENY Convention in my first year and loved it - especially the "sobriety countdown." I figured that if all of you could stay sober for years, then I could do it too; you gave me hope.

I had a schedule of meetings for every day of the week. It was a structured plan that helped me get sober. I also liked venturing out from that routine within the safe confines of AA meetings and events. In my second year I saw something on the events page of *The Link* called a "SENY Assembly." I didn't know what a SENY Assembly was; I kinda thought it must be something like a Shareathon, what a Share-A-Day event is in Nassau County.

I wandered in, found a seat, and listened; albeit very briefly. I stood up, waved my hand a few times and said rather loudly "excuuuuuse me . . . but would it be all right, I mean is it all right" if my group, I continued, could put off voting on a "hot issue," until the next business meeting? Unbeknownst to me, the person standing at the podium was SENY Delegate Boyce. I didn't know what a Delegate was, but I did care about that topic at my group, and was hoping he would tell me the answer I wanted to hear.

Mr. Boyce, the SENY Delegate in 1989, answered my question. He told me in a most respectful way that yes, not only was it okay, it was advisable; and that it would help the group to have an informed conscience. Nobody told me to be quiet and to sit down. I do my best today to model the behavior that was shown to me by Mr. Boyce and others, at that first assembly I went to: safe, kind, and loving. With gratitude to SENY (that's all of you reading this!) and *The Link*.

Jane E.



Our 50th Convention! From the 2018 SENY Convention Chair

Once again it's time to plan our SENY Convention, which will be held March 23-25, 2018. This one is extra special because it will be our 50th! And, in keeping with our delegate's decision, we'll be back at the Westchester Marriott.

Our committees have been hard at work on the registration flyer, hard copy and online versions. Our program is beginning to take form. We have filled all of our committee chair positions--but as with all conventions, we'll be looking for more volunteers to help out during the months leading up to the event, as well as during the weekend of the convention itself. All volunteers are welcome!

Here are the 2018 SENY Convention committee chairs:

Chairperson	Michael C.	917-685-8677
Treasurer	Steve G.	631-532-7825
Secretary	Christina A.	917-685-9148
Publicity	Ben L.	347-860-2172
Program	Jerry R.	718-974-3053
Hospitality Co-Chair	Trish D.	631-478-3139
Hospitality Co-Chair	Kevin McQ.	516-384-6517
Entertainment	Richard P.	646-996-8830
Registration	Nisaa A.	646-717-7511
Banquet	Mike O'B.	929-280-5130
Alkathon	Frank G.	718-844-6329
Accessibilities	Nellie P.	917-748-0191
Hispanic Liaison	Sandra V.	347-866-4871
Al-Anon Liaison	Rene V.	516-635-8030
Greeting Team	Emma M.	914-255-3507

Anyone who wishes to volunteer can either contact a committee chairperson directly, or email me to let me know how you would like to help out: convention@aaaseny.org.

I've worked on various convention committees over many years, and am truly blessed to have been entrusted with the responsibility of chairperson. To my friend Jane E., a special thank you. Your faith in me will be passed on in the faith I have in all of this year's committee chairs. I am such a lucky guy to have the support and help of such a fine committee.

To past delegates John W. and Terry F., thank you for your ongoing commitment to the convention and for the invaluable and welcome guidance you provide to our committee.

I'm looking forward to celebrating our 50th SENY Convention with all of you!

Michael C.

The Link will publish a special, 50th anniversary SENY Convention issue to commemorate this wonderful milestone in Area 49 service and fellowship.

When There Is A Tradition Break From the Treasurer, Queens County

When there is a Tradition break, the following terms are often heard: "There are no 'AA Police;' we embrace the Traditions, we do not enforce them." So my question is what do we do? *When does embracing become apathy? Do we sit back and remain silent?* At one point the Traditions were titled "12 Points To Assure Our Future." To me, the intent of that statement seems pretty crucial to the existence of our Fellowship.

I've heard that "we have the right to be wrong", but in the same context, do we not have the responsibility to be right? Does not our literature instruct us to investigate and take our time when making policy, to insure we have an informed group conscience? In conclusion, yes there are no AA Police, and yes, the Traditions should be embraced, not enforced; but these spiritual principles should not be used to shout down the question: "Are we being consistent with the Traditions?" I believe that when it comes to questions of whether or not a Tradition has been broken, our response should always be: "Let's investigate and discuss because, together we can."

Ben L.

Service Gladly Rendered From the SENY Grapevine/La Viña Chair

When I started my journey in AA, I joined my home group and I'm blessed to still be a part of that group. I was introduced to the Grapevine by my home group because we had and still have a Grapevine Rep and. The GVR sold the magazine and some of the books. At various times in my sobriety I purchase books and subscriptions of the magazine. Sometimes I even purchase a yearly subscription for sponsees.

This past year I have had the privilege to serve as the Area 49 Grapevine/La Viña chair. My knowledge of this commitment was limited and I was amazed at the various literature sold by the Grapevine/La Viña. Along with selling the magazines, Grapevine/La Viña also sells books, slogans, signs, ebooks, tapes and the picture of the Man on the bed. I am meeting new people from the Hispanic District and the Area 49 counties who are helping me learn about this commitment. By being a part of this committee, it is enriching my sobriety and I am learning the history of the Grapevine/La Viña which is also expanding my knowledge of Alcoholics Anonymous.

This magazine is referred to as 'Our meeting in print' started in 1944 as a Newsletter and has grown in popularity as did the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. I am honored to serve as the Grapevine/LaViña chair and am grateful it has become a part of my journey in sobriety.

Please remember to pass it on,

Laura G.

Our Rich A.A. Heritage From the SENY Archives Chair

"We are trying to build up extensive records which will be of value to a future historian...."

"It is highly important that the factual material be placed in our files in such a way that there can be no substantial distortion..."

"We want to keep enlarging on this idea for the sake of the full length history to come..."

– Bill W., 1957

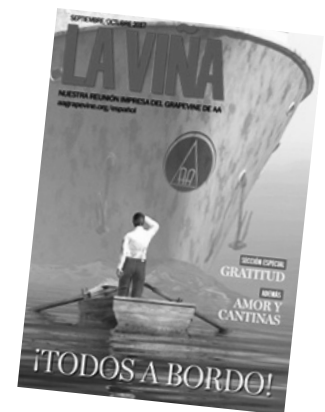
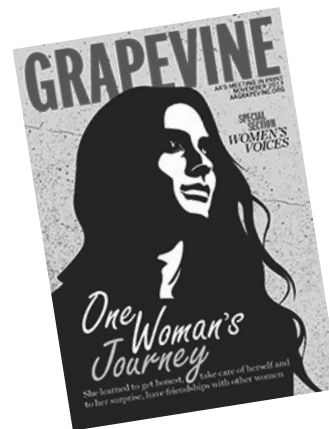
My first assignment as your area Archives chair was to help our delegate prepare for the General Service Conference, along with several other trusted servants. One of the questions was the agenda item considering the proposal for a new publication, "Unity in Action – Bill W. General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970." Although the motion put forth last year was not approved, it was scheduled to be revisited this year.

Over the past year I've participated in many service events, from (The) Brooklyn County Share-a-Day, to Staten Island Share-a-Day, and the New York State Informational Workshop. The latter proved to be an invaluable experience. Meeting and hearing other archive chairs from upstate NY, as well as other standing committee chairs, encouraged and energized me.

My project for this 2017-2018 rotation is to conduct oral histories of as many former Area 49 delegates as possible. I have a digital recorder and a cassette recorder, and I'm finally ready to roll. My first two oral histories were recorded at the September area assembly. I'm grateful for the guidance I've received for this project, from the senior archivist April H. at A.A.W.S., Steve G. of the Archives Ad-hoc Committee, and many others. More will be revealed going forward!

In Service,

Richard S.



Archives Service in A.A.

“History,” wrote Thomas Carlyle, “is the essence of innumerable biographies.”

Perhaps nothing better sums up A.A. history than the millions of personal stories of recovery that come together as a priceless legacy in

THE A.A. ARCHIVES

How do A.A. archives help carry the message of recovery? Through archives we are able to express A.A.’s collective experience, strength, and hope, gained through its rich heritage, and renew our own sense of purpose. As one A.A. member said, “When I saw the archives display at the area assembly, I had no idea what it was all about. But after looking at the materials, I had a new feeling of ‘what we used to be like.’ I realized that I could help by donating some time at the archives office and later I taped two oldtimers who told me a lot about the early days in our area. It has made me read some of the other A.A. books I had missed and has given me a real sense of ‘carrying the message.’” As we sort out fact from fiction, we ensure that our program of recovery will continue undiluted and true. The collective experience of the past reminds us of how little hope there once was for the suffering alcoholic—of how far we’ve come, thanks to Alcoholics Anonymous.

How is the Anonymity Tradition observed? Seeking to safeguard A.A.’s Anonymity Tradition, the trustees’ Archives Committee determined, in 1975, that “any A.A. member may view the originals of any material that has been previously printed or published,” and, with approval, may conduct research using unpublished material such as correspondence. Researchers working in the G.S.O. Archives are asked to adhere strictly to the Anonymity Tradition—among other things, to list only the first names and last initials of all A.A. members, living or deceased. Further, the trustees’ Archives Committee has recommended that there be no photocopying/ scanning of correspondence or other unpublished material, both to maintain the physical integrity of archival documents and to assure anonymity protection. A.A. archivists are ever vigilant when it comes to anonymity, which places principles before personalities and protects both the individual A.A. and the Fellowship as a whole against exploitation from within and without.

How can you help? There are many ways to participate in this rewarding aspect of A.A. service:

- Ask oldtimers to tape their stories – the G.S.O. Archives can help you get started with this by sending you an Oral Histories Kit, with suggestions for how to conduct a successful taped interview.
- Create a history of your home group, through research and interviews, to learn how, when and why your group got started—then share this history with your area and district.
- Volunteer your time to sort through archival material and help organize files. Almost every archives has a backlog of material to be sorted and inventoried. While this can be tedious labor, there is nothing more important in archives work. Without meaningful organization and an inventory, the archives are basically unusable.
- Help with visitors and help with the archives display at local events.

Spotlight on A.A. Archives

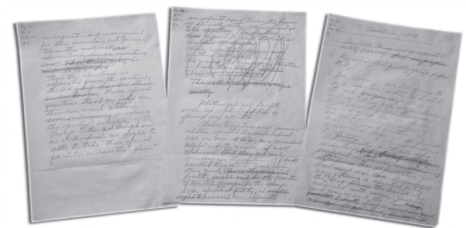


In April of 1946, Bill W. wrote an article for the Grapevine entitled “Twelve Suggested Points for A.A. Tradition,” an early presentation of what would become known simply as The Twelve Traditions. With his usual foresight, Bill had looked around the program some ten years after he and Dr. Bob met in Akron in 1935, and realized that, as A.A. grew, it was important to preserve its unity and singleness of purpose. During the 1940s, Bill received hundreds of letters from the A.A. groups that were springing up all over the country, letters asking him sometimes contentious questions about group autonomy, anonymity issues, A.A. endorsement of outside enterprises, and the like.

These letters, which described what Bill would call a “welter of exciting and fearsome experience,” played a key role in helping him formulate the Twelve Traditions. Published one by one in the Grapevine, from December 1947 to November 1948, and adopted at the First International Convention in Cleveland, the Traditions provided guidelines (not rules) that would help A.A. groups then and in the future conduct themselves in their relationship with the outside world and with Alcoholics Anonymous itself. “I offer these suggestions,” Bill wrote in that first April 1946 article, “neither as one man’s dictum nor as a creed of any kind, but rather as a first attempt to portray that group ideal toward which we have assuredly been led by a Higher Power these ten years past.”

Today, A.A. groups continue to use the Traditions to strive towards that group ideal as they carry their message of hope to still-suffering alcoholics around the world.

The Twelve Traditions is a Digital Archives Exhibit available at www.aa.org. You can also access the Archives Audio Library, featuring samples of audio clips of talks delivered by A.A.’s co-founders, Dr. Bob and Bill W., and other significant figures.



Living Cyber

At A.A.'s 10th International Convention in San Diego in 1995, a group of people who called themselves the Living Cyber Committee gathered in a hospitality suite. They knew each other, but many of them had never met, since their only encounters had been in early forms of online A.A. groups. Those unable to travel to San Diego were able to "virtually" attend the convention through the suite. Two major email groups, several groups from the major online services, and an Internet Relay Chat channel participated in uniting alcoholics from all over the world with the online members and visitors in the suite.

The Living Cyber suite was a great success, and the committee realized that, with the rapidly expanding Internet, alcoholics around the world would need an online version of a brick-and-mortar intergroup/central office. They formed the Online Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous (OIAA), which was registered in New Jersey in 1996. According to OIAA chair Vicki E., online intergroup provides "a centralized location where groups can come online and people can find the groups they need." Crucial to OIAA's function is a rigorous vetting policy. "Our policy and admission committee is very strict in vetting our groups before we register them — we need to make sure they are true A.A. groups, operating within our Twelve Traditions."

At any given time, OIAA may have more than 100 groups listed. They represent all types of meetings — email, chat, telephone, audio, video — for all different groups, including general discussion meetings (both open and closed); men's and women's meetings; meetings for those who for one reason or another can't leave home; meetings for those who are Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing; and meetings for atheists/agnostics, military and LGBTQ members. "All types of people come to online meetings," Vicki says. When she was training as a nurse and had to travel 50 miles to work, she was unable to get to her regular meetings and so went online. Now she mixes brick-and-mortar meetings with cyber meetings, depending on her schedule.

With meetings in 13 different languages besides English, OIAA is essentially an intergroup/central office for the online world. It functions along the lines of a regular intergroup, depending on Seventh Tradition contributions from its listed groups for expenses, with the usual number of committees liaising with general service structures in the countries OIAA reaches. And, of course, the Twelfth Step function is central to OIAA's mission. OIAA's Twelfth Step Help Committee (known informally as "the Steppers") responds directly by email — 24 hours a day, in numerous languages — to anyone who clicks on the "Get Help" button on the OIAA site or the meeting sites it links with. According to Vicki, the Steppers answer some 300 to 500 emails a month from all over the world.



This Twelfth Step work, like any other, is crucial. "You are sometimes dealing with alcoholics who are feeling hopeless and you want to connect with them, get them help," says Vicki. "Even though you are on the Internet, you are working side by side with them." And, occasionally, there is that validating moment when the virtual world meets the physical one.


"I was at the San Antonio International Convention [in 2010], in our hospitality suite, when we had a man come in from Peru," Vicki relates. "Where he lived, he said, there were only three A.A. members, all 50 miles apart, and they could only meet once every three months, traveling by boat. Aside from that, his lifeline to A.A. was online meetings. So, people do stay sober, all over the world, against the odds. And that is what OIAA is there to help them with."

Self-Support: A Unique Approach

In recent months, G.S.O. has noticed a groundswell of Seventh Tradition contributions, each for \$7.27 — the dollar amount noted by the General Service Board treasurer as the average cost per member for G.S.O. to provide A.A. services to the Fellowship. Each year the treasurer comes up with an average number based on that year's financial position. Recently, members of the Fellowship have latched on to this number, sending contributions to G.S.O. in that exact amount. The practice got started in the Pacific Northwest and has swept across the eight regions and 93 areas of the U.S. and Canada, reflecting the commitment of individual members to supporting the services that G.S.O. provides. For this, G.S.O. would like to say, "Thanks!" And to acknowledge the unique surge of contributions for \$7.27 that were sent to G.S.O. — on July 27 (7/27)!

Upcoming Events & Workshops

Drunkalog
Old-Timer 90min
12&12 John Barleycorn
Dry Drunk Preamble Sponsor
Big Book Easy Does It
Service



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AA Public Information Workshop/Training

What to say? How to say it? What is It?

When A.A. members speak at meetings outside the fellowship and organizations that want to know more about the A.A. approach to alcoholism.

Learn everything you need to know about speaking at non-AA groups, and have fun while you do it.

Come to the
DISTRICT 608 PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHOP/TRAINING

Saturday, November 18, 2017
2:00pm to 4:00pm
(Doors open at 1:30)


Hudson Guild
441 West 26th Street, NY, NY 10001

*Light refreshments will be served *** Wheelchair accessible*

Area 49
Staten Island General Services

16th Annual Spiritual Breakfast

Love and Tolerance of Others



Sunday
November 26th, 2017
10:00am to 2:00pm

The Vanderbilt at South Beach
300 Father Capodanno Blvd
Staten Island, NY 10305

Spanish translation available

Tickets: \$30 For Tickets Contact: Tommy W 646/269-2494
All tickets must be purchased in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door.

LONG ISLAND SPIRITUALITY THROUGH SERVICE 2017

sponsored by the General Services of:
Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties, and the Hispanic Districts



Hosted by Queens County General Service


SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2017
9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

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SPRINGFIELD GARDENS, NY 11413

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Light Breakfast and Lunch	Wheelchair Accessible
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for more information, contact JoAnn M. at dcmc@ccgsa.org or (347) 683-7355



2017
SPIRITUAL BREAKFAST
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DYKER GOLF CLUB
7TH AVENUE & 86TH STREET

DECEMBER 3RD, 2017
9:30A - 1P

\$35 / TICKET
\$490 / TABLE SEATING 14

FOR MORE INFORMATION
EMAIL
SPIRITUALBREAKFAST@BROOKLYNAA.ORG

TICKET INFORMATION
TEXT : MITCH K. AT 347.613.7042
EMAIL : TICKETS@BROOKLYNAA.ORG

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A SERVICE WORKSHOP SPONSORED BY SENY
HOSTED BY BRONX & UPPER MANHATTAN

SATURDAY DEC. 9, 2017
11 - 2 PM

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THE GENERAL SERVICE CONVENTION (GSC) -
A SOLUTION FOR ALL GENERATIONS


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THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER (COM) -
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GROUP - DISTRICT - COUNTY - AREA

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WORKSHOPS THROUGHOUT THE
SENY AREA (BRONX & UPPER
MANHATTAN) (FREE)

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ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS



STATEN ISLAND GENERAL SERVICES


12 TRADITIONS WORKSHOP

Using our Traditions as a guide to better ways of working and living inside and outside of AA.

Breakfast & Lunch will be served
Food donations greatly appreciated

Date: Saturday, December 16, 2017
Time: 8:30 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.
Address: 3560 Richmond Rd.
(Corner of Kew-Forest, 10006, St. Patrick's School Cafeteria)

For more info & to do service contact: Tommy W. 646-289-2494



Upcoming deadlines for submission of articles and flyers to *The Link*:

- Wednesday, December 27 (distribution at the January 13, 2018 Area Assembly)
- Sunday, January 21 (distribution at the February 5 Area Committee meeting)
- Sunday, February 18, for *The Link* issue celebrating our 50th SENY Convention (distribution at the March 5 Area Committee meeting *and* at the SENY Convention)

Upcoming 2017-2018 Area Committee Meetings and Assemblies

11/11/17	8:30 am	Area Assembly	George Fisher Middle School, 281 Fair Street, Carmel, NY 10512
12/04/17	7:30 pm	Area Committee	Church of the Holy Family, 2158 Watson Avenue, Bronx, NY 10472
01/13/18	8:30 am	Area Assembly	<i>Staten Island County</i> : location TBD
02/05/18	7:30 pm	Area Committee	Church of the Holy Family, 2158 Watson Avenue, Bronx, NY 10472
03/03/18	8:00 am	Delegate's Day of Sharing	<i>Manhattan County</i> : location TBD

County General Service Meetings		Please visit www.aaseny.org for the most up-to-date information	
Bronx-Upper Manhattan (2nd Wed, every other month)	Bedford Park Congregational Church, 3008 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10458	10/11/17	7:00 pm
Brooklyn (3d Wednesday, every other month)	St. Francis College, 180 Remsen St., Brooklyn, NY 11201	9/20/17	7:30 pm
Hispanic Districts (3d Sunday, monthly)	Location rotates - please see aaseny.org or aacdhseny49.org each month	9/17/17	9:30 am
Manhattan (3d Tuesday, every other month)	Seafarer's House, 123 East 15th Street, New York, NY 10003	10/17/17	6:30 pm
Nassau (3d Monday, every other month)	Nassau Intergroup Office, 361 Hempstead Tpke, West Hempstead, NY 11552	10/16/17	7:30 pm
Orange (3d Tuesday, monthly; not July or August)	First Presbyterian Church, Campbell Hall, Rte. 207, Campbell Hall, NY 10916	9/19/17	7:00 pm
Putnam (2nd Tuesday, monthly)	Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, 76 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, NY 10512	10/10/17	7:00 pm
Queens (last Monday, every other month)	Saint Mary Gate of Heaven Church, 101-18 104th St., Queens, NY 11416	9/25/17	7:30 pm
Rockland (3d Wednesday, monthly)	Elim Alliance Church, 40 Lake Road, Valley Cottage, NY 10989	6/21/17	7:30 pm
Staten Island (does not meet May, July or August)	Oakwood Heights Community Church, 345 Guyon Ave, Staten Island, NY 10306	10/8/17	7:00 pm
Suffolk (3d Friday, monthly)	True North Church, 1101 Lakeland Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716	10/20/17	8:00 pm
Sullivan (3d Sunday, monthly; except July & August)	Sullivan County Community College, 112 College Rd., Loch Sheldrake, NY 12759	9/17/17	3:00 pm
Westchester (3d Wednesday, monthly)	Memorial Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Avenue, White Plains, NY10605	9/20/17	7:30 pm

Standing Committee Meetings		Please visit www.aaseny.org for the most up-to-date information	
Accessibility/Special Needs Committee (1st Friday, monthly)	NY Intergroup Office, 307 7th Ave. #201, New York, NY 10001	10/6/17	7:00 pm
Convention Planning Committee	SENY Office, 99 Lincoln Ave., Bronx, NY 10454	9/17/17	11:00 am
Corrections Committee (3d Saturday, monthly)	SENY Office, 99 Lincoln Ave., Bronx, NY 10454	9/17/17	12:00 pm
PI & CPC Joint Committee Meeting (last Tuesday, monthly)	NY Intergroup Office, 307 7th Ave. #201, New York, NY 10001	9/26/17	7:15 pm
Treatment Facilities Committee (last Sunday, monthly)	SENY Office, 99 Lincoln Ave., Bronx, NY 10454	9/24/17	11:30 am
SENY Committee Chairs Meeting	SENY Office, 99 Lincoln Ave., Bronx, NY 10454	10/14/17	12:00 pm

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