

# **Voice of AA or Rubber Stamp?** From the SENY Delegate - Panel 67

That's the title of a May 1966 article in the AA Grapevine about the General Service Conference, which was written by a past delegate who was then serving as a trustee.

In it, J.M. cautions that "too many delegates come (to the Conference) unprepared, not having kept adequately in touch with problems in their areas, and not having read the advance material sent out from New York." This scenario allows the Conference to "end up being nothing but a rubber stamp for the Trustees and (GSO) staff, blandly okaying their decisions about expenditures, and publications, and the service commitments which AA has undertaken around the world."

I know that my job is to show up prepared, speaking my mind, sharing the views of SENY, and then voting in the best interest of AA as a whole.

I'm grateful to everyone who is helping me prepare. We had a huge crowd – well over 300 – attend the Delegate's Day of Sharing on March 3. Wonderfully informative presentations were shared with those in attendance. Groups have already started sending me responses to the questionnaire, which are due by April 8. I'm hoping we'll have more participation from groups across SENY than the 15% we had last year. But it's not just about numbers: it's about voices in the process.

Our service manual tells us that the Conference is the practical means by which AA's group conscience can speak and put its desires for world service into operation. That it **IS** the voice of AA. The better informed you help make me, the better job I can do at the Conference.

Yours in service,

John W.

#### 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 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!

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

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

General inquiries: info@aaseny.org

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"A.A. — A Solution for All Generations."
Theme of AA's 2018 General Service Conference

## AA - A Solution For All Generations From the SENY Area Chair

I enjoyed two YPAA workshops at Queens General I'm grateful that SENY sends the delegate, alternate delegate, and chair to NERAASA (Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly), an annual event open to all AA's. Every AA present has a vote at the annual business meeting. Presence at these "working weekends" helps us to better serve. This year, SENY Agenda Chair Jeanne spoke on an essential internet presence for our committees. Additional SENY trusted servants working on the panels were GSR Melissa and DCM KC who were spiritual timekeepers for two separate panels; our Delegate John was instrumental in GSR Irina speaking on "The God Word," translated, for us, from Russian, and DCMC Tom kept time for the first ever NERAASA Panel presented in Spanish with English translation. We were involved, engaged, and most of us sat together up front on the right (area unity!).

Sometimes we wonder where our contributions to GSO go. Here's a story I heard at NERAASA. Jay, a US serviceman in Beirut, needed some AA literature. He wrote to GSO and we sent him free literature. Two years later he wrote back; he needed more literature for the Peacekeeper's Meeting in Beirut that he'd started. We sent him more free literature. He wrote back two years after that; he needed more literature. GSO sent him free literature yet again. I went online to find out that you can go to the Peacekeeper's Meeting in Beirut on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Here's my NERAASA take home message for this year: "The thing about service at this level, unlike one on one 12 step work, is that we don't get to see the result of our work. Taking people through the steps, we get to see the results. General Service though, we don't see the results."

I trust that our work bears fruit, so we can be "a solution for all generations," including those yet to come.

I'm in a generation that benefits from sharing of many past trusted servants. One of these was Mike F., Panel 37 SENY Delegate (1987-88). Mike was generous with his experience before he passed away on March 11. I already miss his wit and wisdom.

Hoping to pass it on...

I am available,

Jane E.



# **Service Is A Powerful Recovery Tool** From the Alternate DCMC, Hispanic Districts

I landed in an AA group on November 19, 1995. That week I connected with a wonderful woman, who suggested I start "working my sobriety." The first thing she told me was that I had to start doing service in my home group. "Make coffee," she said. And so I followed her suggestion, because I was willing to go to any lengths to stay sober. That willingness was a miracle, and I've been truly blessed by my Higher Power.

And so I made coffee for a year--and then became group secretary; then treasurer, then overall chair. One day I went to the Hispanic Central Office, located on Henry Street at that time. I took on another position, as an alternate GSR. For a year I covered for a fellow who had dropped out of service. I finished out his term, then took on his position--for a total of 3 years. Then I became alternate DCM and then DCM.

All these years of doing service have been wonderful and have kept me growing in my recovery. Service fills my heart with love.

Right now I'm making coffee for my home group Camino Real, every other Sunday. I was recently elected as alternate DCMC for the Hispanic Districts. It's only been a few months, but I've learned that I need to stay even more open to suggestions in order to be of service to our districts, to our delegate, and to Area 49.

I'm willing to do whatever AA needs me to do.

#### Consuelo



## The Sunshine Of Her Spirit From the SENY Editor, *The Link*

On January 23, Cookie S. flew on to the Big Meeting in the Sky. She had been ill for a long time but managed to remain available for AA, and for each of us who showed up at her door, until the very end. There was a constant flow of visitors stopping by her place: newbies, oldtimers, service buddies, friends, sponsees; young and older; happy or scared; having a good day or not. Her door was always open, literally.

On the other side of the door, in the center of the living room, was a coffee table piled high with AA literature: the current GSC report, several frayed copies of the AA Service Manual, the latest AA Grapevine, recent issues of The Link, a bunch of flyers, Box 459....The coffee flowed, and a sweet treat (or two) could be had. The apartment had a faint smell of flowers, like a garden. It was warm and inviting, like the best of AA everywhere.

Cookie was passionate about AA and truly embodied the spirit of love and service. She gave freely of what she found in AA, and was deeply grateful for it. She led many into service by generously sharing her experience, strength and hope, with a twinkle and a smile. AA was her great love, her whole life.

The Potpourri Group on East 16th St. was Cookie's home in AA since her early sobriety. She celebrated her 34th anniversary there last August, having served Potpourri and Area 49 in many capacities over the years, including as delegate. She never failed to go out of her way for the newcomer, for the young people shaping the future of AA, and for those with special needs or at risk of being excluded. As a GSR, I was inspired to continue on in service after hearing her report from the Conference, which included a story about a delegate who traveled by boat, small plane and then dog sled to serve a remote community in Canada, carrying a suitcase full of Big Books. Cookie had that kind of devotion to service. It brought her great joy.

As a sponsor, Cookie kept it very simple: she didn't mince words, or beat about the bush. Her wisdom was always grounded in the inherent love, tolerance, and good sense of our Three Legacies. She embodied a joy of living and a spiritual freedom that I aspire to. I hope I will always want what she had, and that I will always remember her favorite suggestion: "Get to a meeting and have a good day--unless you've made other plans."

It's an incredible privilege to accompany someone you love in their last moments, and for that I am grateful. But I miss her tons--as I know many of us do--and my compass feels off. A day at a time this too shall pass, as far as I know.

Domi E.

## **Learning Through Service** From the DCM, District 620

When I first came into the rooms of Alcoholic Anonymous, I started doing service in my home group, which is the oldest group in Harlem. My first commitment was as a greeter, which introduced me to a lot of people in the Fellowship. Then I became secretary; and eventually, chair.

I believe that service has really enhanced the quality of my sobriety. After serving as the GSR for my home group I then became DCM for our district. I have always felt it a distinct honor to have had these commitments. I don't think one should take a commitment for name recognition alone.

I have learned a great deal about service, about how AA as a whole works, and about the three sides of our triangle--all of which I have found to deepen my love of sobriety. One thing I have especially focused on has been Tradition Five, which asserts that our primary purpose is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. This has just kept me very involved with the program of AA.

I will always be a student of Alcoholics Anonymous - I will never graduate. I will just keep coming and keep learning. And I am so grateful that my Higher Power introduced me to a great sponsor who has guided me in this process.

Love is Love,

Jeffrey P.



### The Delegate's Questionnaire (68th General Service Conference, 2018)

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

This is an exciting time of year when we have a direct link in shaping the future of our Fellowship. Below are items on the agenda for the 68th General Service Conference. I'm seeking your group's consideration of these items. My job is then to bring the collective conscience of SENY/Area 49 with me when I attend the Conference in April. The greater the participation, and the more groups throughout the area involved, the better informed I will be as your delegate.

On Saturday, March 3rd at the Delegate's Day of Sharing, in Manhattan, there will be presentations on these items and additional background given to help you better inform your group. Come and be an active part of this process.

At the April 8th Pre-Conference Assembly in Suffolk County, you will have the chance to share your group's conscience on these questions and leave your completed questionnaires with me. An electronic version of this questionnaire is also available at www. aaseny.org/d-q in English and Spanish. Please fill out that version if possible (it's easier for me to tabulate). You don't have to answer all the questions: your group may not have an opinion on an item. For those who cannot participate in the pre-Conference assembly, please complete the questionnaire online or return to me by mail, attn: John W., SENY Delegate, 199 Lincoln Avenue, Box 318, Bronx, NY 10454 or scan/e-mail to delegate@aaseny.org.

All questionnaires must be received by April 8, 2018. Thank you for helping me be a better informed Delegate! - John W.

1) **CORRECTIONS**: Consider development of a new pamphlet focused on long-term incarcerated alcoholics that are soon to be released.

**Background/focus:** Would it be helpful to have a new pamphlet that addresses specific issues related to long-term incarceration for members who are transitioning towards release and a sober life outside of confinement?

- 2) LITERATURE: Consider proposed revisions to the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous:
  - a. Request to add an appendix reflecting recognition received from the Library of Congress.
  - b. Request to add the A.A. Preamble and Responsibility Statement.
  - c. Request to add an endnote to Bill W.'s story acknowledging co-founder, Bob S.

**Background/focus:** Would adding these items (one, two, or all three) strengthen our experience when using the book Alcoholics Anonymous? Will they enrich or enhance it? Or do they detract?

3) LITERATURE: Consider request to change the subtitle of the pamphlet "G.S.R. General Service Representative: May Be the Most Important Job in A.A."

**Background/focus:** Would changing the name to something such as "G.S.R. General Service Representative: the link between your group and AA as a whole" be clearer and more accurate? Would it increase service participation?

4) LITERATURE: Consider request for the development of a pamphlet for atheist and agnostic members.

**Background/focus:** Some feel "Many Pathways to Spirituality" doesn't sufficiently address the needs of AA members who identify as atheist, agnostic or freethinker. Should there be a new, more targeted pamphlet? If so, does the pamphlet "The God Word" published by Great Britain's General Service Office meet those needs?

**5) LITERATURE:** Consider request for the development of a new book combining Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions with Twelve Concepts for World Service.

**Background/focus:** Would an additional book combining the essays of our 36 principles encourage more members to explore our pillars of Recovery, Unity, and Service--and generate more participation in general service?

**6) LITERATURE:** Consider request for the development of a new pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women alcoholics.

**Background/focus:** The Spanish-speaking female alcoholic has been identified as an underrepresented group in our fellowship. Should there be a new Spanish language pamphlet that addresses issues, cultural or otherwise, not covered by the pamphlet "AA for the Woman"?

**7) LITERATURE:** Consider request for revisions to *Living Sober*.

**Background/focus:** Should the section "some alcoholics require medication" be reintroduced to the book? Is that information more accessible to the newcomer in *Living Sober* versus the pamphlet "The AA Member – Medication & Other Drugs?" Are there other updates to *Living Sober* that you would suggest?

8) TRUSTEES: Review proposal to reorganize the A.A. World Services and General Service Boards.

**Background/focus:** Should the Conference request the resignations of board directors and initiate corporate reorganization (as outlined in the Conference Charter) as a response to the legal action undertaken by AAWS in attempt to reclaim the original printer's manuscript of *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

#### **Upcoming Events & Workshops**



SENY Districts 208,209, & 211 PRESENT:

#### SPONSORSHIP

"The Lifeblood Of AA"

How it WAS, how it IS, and how it COULD be!

Saturday, April 21, 2018 10am - 1 pm

St. Luke's Episcopal Church 253 Glen Avenue, Sea Cliff, NY 11579

- Panel Presentation followed by LIVELY group discussion
- Special guest speakers!
- Light refreshments and PIZZA Lunch served!

IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND, PLEASE E-MAIL: SCRIBBLER30@GMAIL.COM

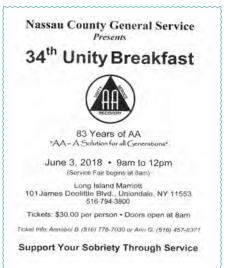
\$5.00 CONTRIBUTION APPRECIATED, BUT NOTREQUIRED - we'd rather have YOU than your money!











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

Sunday, April 21 (distribution at the May 7 Area Committee meeting)
Sunday, May 20 (distribution at the June 2 post-Conference assembly)
Sunday, September 16 (distribution at the October 1 Area Committee meeting)
Sunday, October 21 (distribution at the November 4 Area assembly)

Upcoming 2018 Area Committee Meetings and Assemblies								
04/02/18	7:30 pm	Area Committee	Church of the Holy Family, 2158 Watson Avenue, Bronx, NY 10472					
04/08/18	8:00 am	Pre-Conference Assembly	St. Anthony's High School, 275 Wolf Hill Road S. Huntington, NY 11747					
05/07/18	7:30 pm	Area Committee	Church of the Holy Family, 2158 Watson Avenue, Bronx, NY 10472					
06/02/18	8:00 am	Post-Conference Assembly	Westchester: location TBD					
06/04/18	7:30 pm	Area Committee	Church of the Holy Family, 2158 Watson Avenue, Bronx, NY 10472					
09/15/18	8:00 am	Elections Assembly	Bronx-Upper Manhattan: location TBD					

4 County General Service Meetings	Please visit www.aaseny.org for the most up-to-	-date infor	mation
Bronx-Upper Manhattan (2nd Wed, every other month)	Bedford Park Congregational Church, 3008 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10458	4/11/18	7:00 pm
Brooklyn (3d Wednesday, every other month)	St. Francis College, 180 Remsen St., Brooklyn, NY 11201		7:30 pm
Hispanic Districts (3d Sunday, monthly)	Location rotates - please see aaseny.org or aacdhseny49.org each month		9:30 am
Manhattan (3d Tuesday, every other month)	Seafarer's House, 123 East 15th Street, New York, NY 10003		6:30 pm
Nassau (3d Monday, every other month)	Nassau Intergroup Office, 361 Hempstead Tpke, West Hempstead, NY 11552		7:30 pm
Orange (3d Tuesday, monthly)	First Presbyterian Church, Campbell Hall, Rte. 207, Campbell Hall, NY 10916		7:00 pm
Putnam (2nd Tuesday, monthly)	Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, 76 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, NY 10512		7:00 pm
Queens (last Monday, every other month)	Saint Mary Gate of Heaven Church, 101-18 104th St., Queens, NY 11416		7:30 pm
Rockland (3d Wednesday, monthly)	Elim Alliance Church, 40 Lake Road, Valley Cottage , NY 10989		7:30 pm
Staten Island (2nd Sun; no meetings May, July or August)	Oakwood Heights Community Church, 345 Guyon Ave, Staten Island, NY 10306		7:00 pm
Suffolk (3d Friday, monthly)	True North Church, 1101 Lakeland Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716		8:00 pm
Sullivan (3d Sunday, monthly; except July & August)	Sullivan County Community College, 112 College Rd., Loch Sheldrake, NY 12759		3:00 pm
Westchester (3d Wednesday, monthly)	Memorial Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Avenue, White Plains, NY10605	4/18/18	7:30 pm
Standing Committee Meetings & V	Vorkshops Please visit www.aaseny.org for the most up-to-	date infor	mation
Accessibility/Special Needs Committee (1st Friday, monthly)	NY Intergroup Office, 307 7th Ave. #201, New York, NY 10001	5/4/18	7:00 pm
Archives Commitee	NY Intergroup Office, 307 7th Ave. #201, New York, NY 10001		1:00 pm
Corrections Committee (3d Saturday, monthly)	SENY Office, 99 Lincoln Ave., Bronx, NY 10454		12:00 pn
PI & CPC Joint Committee Meeting (last Tuesday, monthly)	NY Intergroup Office, 307 7th Ave. #201, New York, NY 10001		7:15 pm
Treatment Facilities Committee (last Sunday, monthly)	SENY Office, 99 Lincoln Ave., Bronx, NY 10454		11:30 an
12 Concepts of World Service Workshop (1st Wed, monthly)	Trinity Lower East Side, 602 E 9th St New York, NY 10009		8:15 pm
SENY Service Participation Meeting	NY Intergroup Office, 307 7th Ave. #201, New York, NY 10001		7:00 pm

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<sup>\*</sup>Special committees (neither standing nor adhoc committees)

**SENY Officers**