



## The 68th General Service Conference is History From the SENY Delegate - Panel 67

As I write this, I've been home barely 24 hours since the 68th General Service Conference ended. I'm exhausted and exhilarated. The Conference was extremely productive and will undoubtedly be the highlight of my rotation. I heard a fellow delegate grasping for words to describe our shared experience. A past chair of the General Service Board, Reverend Ward Ewing, smiled to him and said: "you can't explain a spiritual experience." And all I can tell you is that it changed me.

The Literature Committee met three separate times for a total of about eleven hours. We reviewed 22 agenda items and sent 14 Recommendations to the floor of the Conference for approval, along with 9 Additional Committee Considerations. The Conference process has the chair of each respective committee present their report and then answer questions as each item is discussed, debated, and finally voted upon. Because of the large number and great interest in our items, I was on the dais, at the microphone, for over four and a half hours! Here is a summary of what happened with the eight items from this year's Questionnaire:

The Corrections Committee discussed the request to create a new pamphlet for inmates who have been released after long-term incarceration and took no action. They felt current service materials could be revised for this purpose.

The Conference recommended approval to reprint *The "God" Word* pamphlet (originally approved by the AA General Service Conference in Great Britain, and first printed by their General Service Board in 1979), and recommended approval to create a new pamphlet for Spanish-speaking women. The Conference recommended approval to change the subtitle of the *G.S.R.* pamphlet and make the proposed revisions to *Living Sober*. The Conference did not approve the recommendation to create a new book combining the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts essays. The Conference did not approve the recommendation to add an appendix to the Big Book about Library of Congress recognition. The Literature Committee took no action on adding the Preamble, the Responsibility Statement, or an endnote to Bill W's story acknowledging Dr. Bob--to the Big Book.

The Trustees Committee thoughtfully reviewed a proposal to censure the General Service Board and after seeking extensive additional input from the general manager of the General Service Office, the chair of the General Service Board, and additional General Service Board trustees, agreed to take no action. They also reviewed a proposal to reorganize the boards and took no action.

You'll have to come to the June 2 post-Conference assembly for a full report!

Yours in service, **John W.**

Your voice in <i>The Link</i>	Your SENY Office
<p>Are you willing to share your experience, strength and hope about your service in A.A. at the group, district, county or area level? <b>The Link</b> 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 <a href="mailto:link@aaseny.org">link@aaseny.org</a> or mail it c/o The Link Editor, P.O. Box 571, NY, NY 10116. Thanks!</p>	<p><b>Visit:</b> 199 Lincoln Ave., Suite 302 Bronx, NY 10454  <b>Send mail:</b> P.O. Box 571, New York, NY 10116  <b>General inquiries:</b> <a href="mailto:info@aaseny.org">info@aaseny.org</a>  <b>Call:</b> 718-665-1253</p>
<p align="center"><b><i>"A.A. — A Solution for All Generations."</i></b>            Theme of AA's 2018 General Service Conference</p>	

## Our Primary Purpose From the SENY Area Chair

At our pre-Conference assembly, I saw so many members loving AA, passionate about making sure we are here now as well as in the future, for the still suffering alcoholic. When the agenda was planned, I omitted the Ask-It-Basket because I've been taught that the pre-Conference assembly is all about the groups and their respective conscience on the agenda items in the Delegate's Questionnaire--and to leave as much time as possible for that primary purpose.



Our next assembly is the post-Conference assembly, which is all about the delegate's report back from the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous. I'd planned on not having an Ask-It-Basket, but plans change; it was clear from the body that the Ask-It-Basket is wanted, as often as is possible; and the assembly belongs to "the bosses" (that's what my service sponsor called the GSRs, because the GSRs represent the groups — Concept 1). We initiated the Ask-It-Basket this rotation, and I'm excited it's been so well received. Thanks for your enthusiasm!

I'm writing this before the General Service Conference to make sure it gets into the May edition. I can't wait to hear John's report at the post-Conference assembly, June 2, in Westchester County! We'll also hear the final report of the SENY Convention and introduce next year's convention chair. As always, free breakfast and lunch, all AAs are welcome, so bring a friend (or 2 or 3). I fell in love with SENY Area 49 after the first assembly I went to. Then I went to a service workshop hosted by Suffolk Intergroup where the speaker told us that "97% of the people involved in service below the group level stay sober". I liked the odds.

I'm learning so much, and living so well, all because of AA. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

In love with service,

**Jane E.**

## The Miracle of AA At Work From the SENY Recording Secretary

I'll always be grateful to Peter, my first sponsor, for emphasizing service. Throughout my first year, service kept me close to the rooms. I learned that helping to carry the message to other alcoholics was, and would always be, an important part of my sobriety. I did so at a time when I was not yet capable of examining myself through the Steps, or of hearing the message being transmitted. I could only trust in the phrase contained within Appendix IV of the Big Book, that AA's "kinship of common suffering" could help keep me sober.

Most recently I've been serving as the recording secretary for SENY. On the surface my service is very straightforward: it requires me to take and prepare Committee or assembly meeting minutes, and make copies for the body as necessary. But what is it that am I actually putting down into writing? First, as our delegate and chair emphasize, I'm recording the participation of AA groups in AA as a whole. That's remarkable. Second--even more extraordinary in my mind—I'm recording the coming together of alcoholics from widespread geographic distances to carry the message to other alcoholics; and to give any alcoholic who wishes the opportunity to better understand AA principles.

So when I prepare or read the minutes, I don't see a record of words spoken at a business meeting. I see communal participation and 12th Step work. I see the "kinship of common suffering" transmuted into service and joy. I see the miracle of AA at work.

**Mike O'B.**



## Making Our Fellowship More Accessible From the DCM, District 601

For a deaf alcoholic in Manhattan, the AA prescription of '90 meetings in 90 days' is simply not possible. In fact, it would take about six months to attend 90 meetings that one could actually participate in--meaning, those offering American Sign Language (ASL).

District 601 and SENY's Committee on Accessibility and Special Needs (ASN) recently hosted a workshop on accessibility titled: I am Responsible. Attendees heard from a panel of seven AA members. Some are facing significant challenges that the 'average' alcoholic does not, while others are working on possible solutions to those challenges.

An A.A. member who is blind discussed recent resistance to service dogs in meetings, a surprise to many attendees. He pointed out that the law is settled: an AA group cannot ban service dogs. Federal and state laws mandate that any space open to the general public must allow access to a person accompanied by a service dog. A past Area 49 delegate felt that groups insisting on banning service dogs risk drawing AA into public controversy and damaging our reputation: "An AA group is not above the law."

Attendees learned about two types of AA service that just about any group or district can adopt. District 620's Homebound service organizes meetings for AAs in the district who cannot get out of their home. The Pot-pourri Group's Hospital Program brings meetings to AAs during hospital stays.

One panelist spoke about the resistance she encountered when she brought her children to meetings, typically because she had no other choice. As a result she stopped going to meetings for ten long years. It was noted that some groups around the country are trying to address this issue by providing childcare during meetings, paid for by the group's 7th tradition.

The accessibility chair for the Hispanic Districts shared from the floor about his efforts to support Spanish-speaking alcoholics with special needs. The workshop had a Spanish language interpreter, making this person's valuable addition to the discussion possible.

Individual AA members can take the initiative to make our Fellowship more accessible. Indeed, one attendee met with the ASL interpreter on hand about bringing ASL to his home group, which meets where the workshop was held. Imagine if this worked out: the deaf AA member on the panel lives around the corner.

**Michael M.**

## Wish You Were Here From the DCMC, Suffolk County

I attended Manhattan District 601's Accessibilities and Special Needs (ASN) workshop yesterday. Once again I was blown away by how much Alcoholics Anonymous does, and how much I have yet to learn. The depth, balance and inclusiveness of the seven panelists were incredible, and the messages were timeless. It was a great event – thank you, trusted servants!

As I listened to the fourth panelist speak about her journey through recovery with her autistic son, I thought of a friend of mine in sobriety who has faced a similar challenge; and I said to myself, "Boy, I wish \_\_\_\_\_ were here. That person could really identify, and perhaps even speak with the panelist." When the presentations were done, one of the first attendees (regarding what another panelist had said) made the remark "Boy, I wish \_\_\_\_\_ were here."

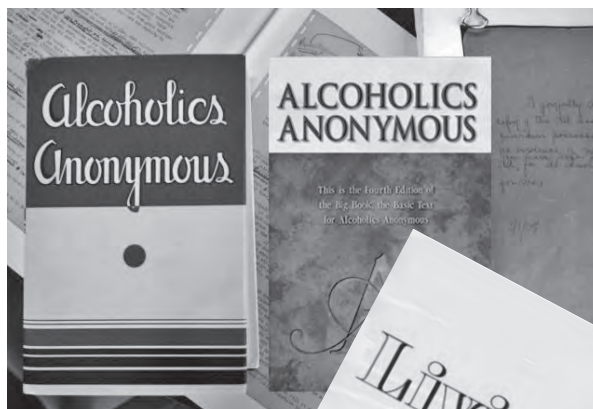
And in that moment, I understood fully, maybe for the first time, just how important our AA committees are. Yes, we are a fellowship of "attraction, not promotion," and this is as it should be. But what about those who are attracted, and have a desperate need, but for whatever reason can't get into an AA meeting or even get any literature? Not only those served by ASN: also those in prison, those who can't read, those who are truly alone, those who speak other languages, or live in other countries – what about them?

SENY and county elections and rotations will be upon us in just a few short months. Only one of us can be the delegate for 2019-20, but ALL of us can reach out to the still-suffering alcoholic. Make a difference. Stand. Chair a Committee. Extend your hand. Because, to paraphrase Dr. Bob: "somebody did it for you."

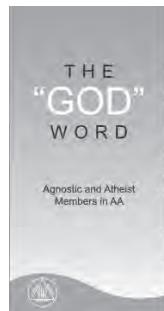
In Love and Service,

**Tom B.**





....additions



inclusions....



revisions....

...changes

## Upcoming Events & Workshops

HOSTED BY ORANGE COUNTY GENERAL SERVICE  
SUPPORTED BY SENY AREA 49

### JOY OF SERVICE WORKSHOP

SUNDAY MAY 6th, 2018 2-6pm

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
2815 RT 207  
CAMPBELL HALL NY, 10916  
DOORS OPEN 1:00 COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP  
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS  
2:00 WELCOME REMARKS  
FIRST PANEL 2:10-3:10

EVERY JOB MAY BE THE MOST IMPORTANT IN AA  
CSR DCMC DELEGATE  
SECOND PANEL 3:20-4:20pm  
INTEGRITY, FAIRNESS, DIGNITY IN AA PART II  
ZORAIDA SECRETARY AREA 05 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
AMALIA PAST DELEGATE PANEL 55 AREA 11 CONNECTICUT  
4:25-4:55pm PIZZA & DRINKS  
FINAL PANEL 5:00-6:00 pm  
SERVICE IS THE SECRET THE SECRET WE MUST NOT KEEP  
LA VINA

YOUNG PEOPLE IN AA  
SERVICE SPONSORSHIP  
CLOSE WITH RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

Queens County  
General Service Presents

### Safety in the Rooms

"How Safe is Your Group?"

May 19th, 2018  
7:00pm - 9:30pm  
(Doors Open at 6:00pm)

A Workshop featuring the recovery skit  
"The Sponsoring Game"

at  
St Mary's Gate of Heaven  
101-18 104th Street (Entrance on 103rd Street)  
Ozone Park, NY 11416

Contacts: Antonio @347-730-1201 or JoAnn @347-683-7355

Light snacks will be available

**THIS IS A FREE AA EVENT**

Nassau County General Service  
Presents

### 34th Unity Breakfast



83 Years of AA  
"AA - A Solution for all Generations"

June 3, 2018 • 9am to 12pm  
(Service Fair begins at 8am)

Long Island Marriott  
101 James Doolittle Blvd., Uniondale, NY 11553  
516-794-3800

Tickets: \$30.00 per person • Doors open at 8am

Tickal Info: Annibal B. (516) 776-7030 or Ann G. (516) 457-8371

**Support Your Sobriety Through Service**

Suffolk County General Service Presents



### 3rd Annual Birthday Brunch

Celebrating AA's 83rd birthday since its founding June 10th 1935

Date: Sunday May 27th  
Time: 9am-1pm

Location: Polish Hall of Riverhead at 214 Marcy Ave, Riverhead, NY 11901

Presenter: Current SENY (Area 49) archivist James D. will share from a historical perspective using a PowerPoint presentation.

Tickets: \$20.00

See your GSR, DCM or SIA REP for information on acquiring tickets

Brunch consists of typical breakfast items (kielbasa included)

For more information contact Jonathan W., 2018 Birthday Brunch Chair:  
bdbbrunch@asuffolkgs-ny.org

Nassau County General Service  
presents:

### Twelve Concepts for World Service

2018 Round Table Discussion Series

Speaker  
John W., SENY's Panel 67 Delegate

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Nassau Intergroup Office  
361 Hempstead Tpke.  
West Hempstead, NY 11552

Bring a friend, everyone is welcome!!

Concepts I & II - January 13, 2018  
Concepts III & IV - March 10, 2018  
Concepts V & VI - May 21, 2018  
Concepts VII & VIII - July 16, 2018  
Concepts IX & X - September 22, 2018  
Concepts XI & XII - November 19, 2018

Please bring your "AA Service Manual" (contains your Twelve Concepts for World Service) - we will also have some available for purchase if you.

For more information, please contact dcrc@nassau.aseny.org

4TH ANNUAL QUEENS COUNTY  
*Spiritual Breakfast*  
"A.A. - A Solution for All Generations"

October 7, 2018  
The Immaculate Conception Center  
7200 Douglaston Parkway ♦ Little Neck, NY 11362  
9:30 am to 1:00 pm  
(Doors open at 9:00 am)

Tickets are \$30.00 ♦ Seating is limited!

What to Expect:	How to Purchase:
• Breakfast	• Ask your GSR
• Speakers	• Via Email
• Fellowship	• Attend the QCGS Assembly

Info: spiritualbreakfast2018@gmail.com

Hosted By Queens County General Service

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

- 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)
- Wednesday, November 14 (distribution at the December 3 Area Committee meeting)

## Upcoming 2018 Area Committee Meetings and Assemblies

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	Highlands Middle School, 128 Grandview Ave., White Plains, NY 10605
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
10/01/18	7:30 pm	Area Committee	Church of the Holy Family, 2158 Watson Avenue, Bronx, NY 10472
11/04/18	8:00 am	Area Assembly	Sullivan: location TBD
12/03/19	7:30 pm	Area Committee	Church of the Holy Family, 2158 Watson Avenue, Bronx, NY 10472

<b>County General Service Meetings</b>		Please visit <a href="http://www.aaseny.org">www.aaseny.org</a> for the most up-to-date information	
<b>Bronx-Upper Manhattan</b> (2nd Wed, every other month)	Bedford Park Congregational Church, 3008 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10458	6/13/18	7:00 pm
<b>Brooklyn</b> (3d Wednesday, every other month)	St. Francis College, 180 Remsen St., Brooklyn, NY 11201	5/16/18	7:30 pm
<b>Hispanic Districts</b> (3d Sunday, monthly)	Location rotates - please see <a href="http://aaseny.org">aaseny.org</a> or <a href="http://aacdhseny49.org">aacdhseny49.org</a> each month	5/20/18	9:30 am
<b>Manhattan</b> (3d Tuesday, every other month)	Seafarer's House, 123 East 15th Street, New York, NY 10003	6/19/18	6:30 pm
<b>Nassau</b> (3d Monday, every other month)	Nassau Intergroup Office, 361 Hempstead Tpke, West Hempstead, NY 11552	6/18/18	7:30 pm
<b>Orange</b> (3d Tuesday, monthly)	First Presbyterian Church, Campbell Hall, Rte. 207, Campbell Hall, NY 10916	5/15/18	7:00 pm
<b>Putnam</b> (2nd Tuesday, monthly)	Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, 76 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, NY 10512	5/8/18	7:00 pm
<b>Queens</b> (last Monday, every other month)	Saint Mary Gate of Heaven Church, 101-18 104th St., Queens, NY 11416	6/25/18	7:30 pm
<b>Rockland</b> (3d Wednesday, monthly)	Elim Alliance Church, 40 Lake Road, Valley Cottage, NY 10989	5/16/18	7:30 pm
<b>Staten Island</b> (2nd Sun; no meetings May, July or August)	Oakwood Heights Community Church, 345 Guyon Ave, Staten Island, NY 10306	6/10/18	7:00 pm
<b>Suffolk</b> (3d Friday, monthly)	True North Church, 1101 Lakeland Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716	5/18/18	8:00 pm
<b>Sullivan</b> (3d Sunday, monthly; except July & August)	Sullivan County Community College, 112 College Rd., Loch Sheldrake, NY 12759	5/27/18	3:00 pm
<b>Westchester</b> (3d Wednesday, monthly)	Memorial Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Avenue, White Plains, NY 10605	5/16/18	7:30 pm

<b>Standing Committee Meetings &amp; Workshops</b>		Please visit <a href="http://www.aaseny.org">www.aaseny.org</a> for the most up-to-date information	
<b>Accessibility/Special Needs Committee</b> (1st Friday, monthly)	NY Intergroup Office, 307 7th Ave. #201, New York, NY 10001	6/1/18	7:00 pm
<b>Archives Committee</b>	NY Intergroup Office, 307 7th Ave. #201, New York, NY 10001	5/5/18	1:00 pm
<b>Corrections Committee</b> (3d Saturday, monthly)	SENY Office, 99 Lincoln Ave., Bronx, NY 10454	4/21/18	12:00 pm
<b>PI &amp; CPC Joint Committee Meeting</b> (last Tuesday, monthly)	NY Intergroup Office, 307 7th Ave. #201, New York, NY 10001	6/26/18	7:15 pm
<b>Treatment Facilities Committee</b> (last Sunday, monthly)	SENY Office, 99 Lincoln Ave., Bronx, NY 10454	5/13/18	11:30 am
<b>12 Concepts of World Service Workshop</b> (1st Wed, monthly)	Trinity Lower East Side, 602 E 9th St New York, NY 10009	6/6/18	8:15 pm
<b>SENY Service Participation Meeting</b>	NY Intergroup Office, 307 7th Ave. #201, New York, NY 10001	5/10/18	7:00 pm
<b>SENY DCMC Meeting</b>	NY Intergroup Office, 307 7th Ave. #201, New York, NY 10001	5/12/18	11:00 am

<b>SENY Officers</b>				<b>SENY Standing / Ad Hoc Committee Chairs</b>			
<b>Delegate</b>	John W.		<a href="mailto:delegate@aaseny.org">delegate@aaseny.org</a>	<b>Acc./Special Needs</b>	Nellie P.		<a href="mailto:asn@aaseny.org">asn@aaseny.org</a>
<b>Alt. Delegate</b>	Manny A.		<a href="mailto:altdelegate@aaseny.org">altdelegate@aaseny.org</a>	<b>Agenda</b>	Jeanne C.		<a href="mailto:agenda@aaseny.org">agenda@aaseny.org</a>
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Michelle G.		<a href="mailto:treasurer@aaseny.org">treasurer@aaseny.org</a>	<b>Convention 2018</b>	Mike C.		<a href="mailto:convention@aaseny.org">convention@aaseny.org</a>
<b>Registrar</b>	Fred M.		<a href="mailto:registrar@aaseny.org">registrar@aaseny.org</a>	<b>Corrections</b>	Mike D.		<a href="mailto:corrections@aaseny.org">corrections@aaseny.org</a>
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<b>Bronx/U-M</b>	Barbara Ann		<a href="mailto:dcmc@bxum.aaseny.org">dcmc@bxum.aaseny.org</a>	<b>Grapevine/La Viña</b>	Laura G.		<a href="mailto:grapevine@aaseny.org">grapevine@aaseny.org</a>
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<b>Queens</b>	Jo Ann M.		<a href="mailto:dcmc@qcgasa.org">dcmc@qcgasa.org</a>	<b>Service Participation*</b>	Manny A.		<a href="mailto:participation@aaseny.org">participation@aaseny.org</a>
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				<b>YPAA Liaison</b>	Rachel L.		<a href="mailto:ypaa@aaseny.org">ypaa@aaseny.org</a>

\*Special committees (neither standing nor adhoc committees)