



Actions of the 68th General Service Conference

From the SENY Delegate - Panel 67

As part of the recent LISTS (Long Island Spirituality Through Service) event, I had the opportunity to speak on the actions of the 68th General Service Conference and wanted to share with you some of my thoughts.

As for outcomes, five of the new or revised pamphlets that were finalized last April are already available and making their way to literature racks in home groups across the Fellowship. A sixth should be available in the coming weeks. It's incredibly rewarding to see them in print.

But some of the actions at the April Conference won't materialize for years, for example the new pamphlet about the Three Legacies and the one for Spanish speaking women. There is a current call for written shared experience to be included (both with a November 19 deadline – have you written anything yet?). The Trustees Committee on Literature will need to review the submissions and then work with the publishing department to prepare drafts. If all goes well, they may make it to the Literature Committee by 2020. Even then it's often another year before something is in print. (I once heard it takes four or five years for the Conference to have a “knee-jerk” reaction!)

One of the actions I am most excited about was the approval to publish the new publication, “Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W's General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970” that came through the Archives Committee. It will hopefully be available by the end of the year. It's chock full of experience, history, and tradition--as told by Bill.

Another action of this past Conference included increasing how much an individual member can contribute annually to the General Service Office – raised from \$3,000 to \$5,000. Not many members give at that level, but it may encourage discussion around the importance of self-support.

You can read about all the actions and outcomes in the 68th General Service Conference Final Report. An anonymity-protected electronic version is posted at www.aaseny.org in English and Spanish. It's a powerful service tool. Please consider reading through it with some of your service buddies.

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 300 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

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General inquiries: info@aaseny.org

Call: 718-665-1253

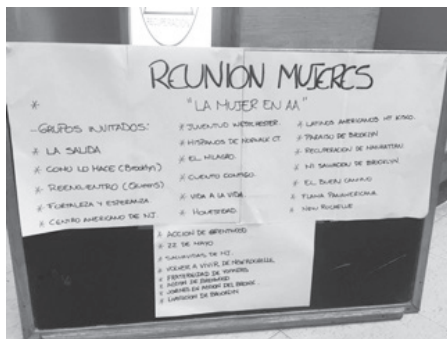
“A.A. — A Solution for All Generations.”

Theme of AA's 2018 General Service Conference

Happy Birthday *The Link!* From the SENY Area Chair

Happy birthday *The Link!* As far as we know, *The Link* was first published in September 1961; and Frank G. of the Canarsie Group in Brooklyn was a founder and a GSR. We think September was the first issue because we have past issues going back to 1963 and “guesstimated” from the volume numbers. Anyone have prior issues? Other memories?

“La Mujer en AA (The Woman in AA) Workshop” at the Grupo Hispano de Brentwood (September 9) had both men and women in attendance, with female speakers from all over Area 49, as well as other areas. (See the photo of participation - no personal photos, of course - below). On the 13th, I was privileged to participate in the “Integrity, Fairness and Dignity in AA” workshop co-hosted by Queens General Service and Hispanic District 314. Great stuff! Keep your eye on our SENY calendar for a plethora of upcoming events. Be hungry, it’s SENY breakfast season.



The New York State Informational Workshop (NYSIW) rotates among the four general service areas in NYS: 47 (Central NY), 48 (Hudson-Mohawk-Berkshire, or HMB, 2018’s host), 49 (Southeastern NY) and 50 (Western NY). The purpose is for each area to share information about their committee work. I’m proud to say that SENY’s participation was robust. We had a SENY member on every panel.

SENY is up to host next year’s 40th NYSIW! Our NY-SIW Chair for 2019 KC (nysiwi@aaseny.org) has been busy this summer researching venues. We last hosted in 2015. I served as the NYSIW registrar in 2010, when we had it at Graymoor Spiritual Life Center. The 2010 NYSIW chair, Cyndy (who moved to Nevada), and I still laugh about that fun weekend up in the hills together.

And to think I would have just settled for no hangovers.

Grateful to be alive, awake, and not hungover,

Jane E.

Service and Sobriety From the DCMC, Suffolk County

I love being a DCMC. The sense of focus and direction, knowing that we’re doing things for the good of AA as a whole, the incredible fellowship and sense of belonging found below the group level – all of these things I treasure. Additionally, active participation serves an important need that I have, which is to keep my ego in check...most of the time. Okay, a lot of the time.

The other side of the coin, I have discovered, is that sometimes I can’t see the trees for the forest. In focusing on my county, the area, and AAWS, it’s sometimes too easy to lose sight of why I have been given the exquisite privilege of servant leadership, and so many other gifts besides: because I’m sober, and because a number of people looked past the fact that I was arrogant, in denial, and an insufferable dry drunk when I came in, and they loved me anyway until I could learn to love myself.

So I do all the things I’m encouraged to do to stay sober, and I do something else that is my gift to me: once a month, I take a meeting into the local jail. This was never part of my master plan; in fact, I almost backed out before my first prison visit as a speaker seven years ago. I thank my Higher Power that I didn’t back out, because this commitment has become a rock in my quest for spirituality and balance.

Through the jail commitment, I have learned that bedrock honesty and un-whitewashed truth are the gold standard of sobriety. I’ve learned that those who are imprisoned share the same emotions, the same concerns that I do. And I’ve learned that reaching out to another alcoholic in ANY environment helps to keep me sober that day – even as, going in, the gates clang shut behind me.

Find your passion in AA, as have so many others – sobriety is so much more than not drinking.

In Love and Service,

Tom B.



What's all this "chatter" about Safety in AA? From the DCMC, Queens County

The hot topic in AA service circles these days is "Safety in the Rooms." Suggested guidelines were published by the GSO in February 2017, and there is also a yellow safety card which is supposed to quickly and simply explain the concept of safety in the rooms. So why is it that members are still confused?

One of the main reasons the safety discussion ignited recently is the law suit that was filed (unsuccessfully) against AAWS and the GSO because a female member in California was murdered (yes, murdered by another "member"). It appears the female was a newcomer and although we don't have all the details and probably never will, she decided to move in with the person and the situation went south. We can only speculate about how they met, who knew what the individual was capable of, were there obvious warning signs, etc.

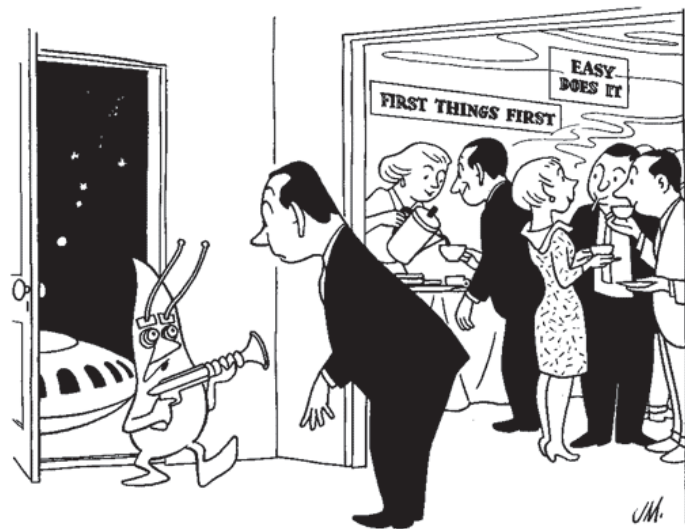
All we know for sure is we as a Fellowship, must safeguard our members or we could all perish. Do I sound desperate? Hopefully not, but I would really hate it if meetings started closing because members felt unsafe or uncomfortable. We need each other to survive and we must continue this conversation to make sure all members are aware of the significance of feeling safe at a meeting. I was trying to find specific background information before I started writing this piece, so that my words would be accurate. I went to aa.org to see what was in the digital archives. Here are the hits on the word Safety:

Literature matching: safety (20 results)

Pages matching: safety (7 results)

Newsletters matching: safety (30 results)

Press Releases matching: safety (1 results)



"Take me to your humble, trusted servant."

The press release matching safety was a blurb about the 25 millionth Alcoholics Anonymous "Big Book" being given to a non-alcoholic trustee who was a dean at a college with safety in the name.

Based on the other 57 matching results, clearly, safety has and always will be a hot topic in AA. The topic of safety in AA has been in our literature, pamphlets and newsletters for years ever reminding us to be vigilant. Our Fellowship is precious and fragile. So, what can we do to promote safety in the rooms?

(from the "yellow" card)

Our Common Welfare

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

—Tradition One (Long Form)

It is hoped that our common suffering as alcoholics and our common solution in A.A. will transcend most issues and curtail negative behaviors that could jeopardize the safety of anyone attending an A.A. meeting. Nevertheless, Alcoholics Anonymous is a microcosm of the larger society we exist in. As such, problems found in the outside world can also make their way into the rooms of A.A. For this reason, groups and members discuss the topic of safety — to raise awareness in the Fellowship and to seek through sponsorship, workshops and meetings, to create as safe an environment as possible to carry A.A.'s message of hope and recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic.

100M - 9/17 (GP)

F-211

There are a number of suggestions and reminders for groups and members listed on page 3 of the "Safety in AA: Our Common Welfare" guidelines (SMF-209):

- Talk about issues of safety before they arise.
- Safety is something each member attending an A.A. meeting can be mindful of.
- Communicate clearly what A.A. is and what it is not.
- Sponsorship plays an important role and sponsors can be helpful in pointing out warning signs or unhealthy situations to sponsees and newcomers.
- A.A. members who are concerned about the words or actions of a sponsor or other member, may find it helpful to speak to someone they trust, their A.A. group, or a professional, as needed.
- Include Safety and the A.A. Meeting Environment as topics for a group inventory.
- Consider developing group guidelines and procedures on safety.
- In all discussions about safety, keep the focus on our primary purpose, our common welfare, and place principles before personalities.

So, what can we as members do to practice Safety in the Rooms? Keep the conversation going, share information, suggest a group inventory and most importantly, pay attention!

JoAnn M.

Excerpts from A.A. literature and current publications (text and graphics) are reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc. and The Grapevine, Inc.

A.A. Service With A Smile From the PI Chair, Queens County

I have always found the benefits of participation & potential for growth that A.A. affords it's members awe-inspiring. On a personal level, my sobriety and spirituality have expanded exponentially as a result of doing service below the group level. I had the privilege of being one of the presenters at the Orange County "Joy Of Service" workshop on Sunday May 6th and for me, the trip was one of nostalgia and spiritual rejuvenation. You see, I hadn't been to that part of New York State since summer camp, 1962 and I was thrilled to be reacquainted with the region's charm and natural beauty. I felt at home the moment Sherry A. DCMC and the Orange County A.A. family welcomed me to the beautiful First Presbyterian Church. Moreover, I was deeply humbled by the infectious enthusiasm my hosts and co-presenters exhibited at the opportunity to carry the message and do service. I was grateful to be able to share & learn so much during the four hour event. I found the speakers to be inspiring and the array of relevant topics, comprehensive.

There were presentations that drove home the positive impact of doing service, reminding us that "every" job in A.A. is the most important job in the Fellowship. It was emphasized that our program isn't organized but that we as trusted servants should act in unison to service the groups & help those who still suffer. The secretary of Area 5 in Southern California and a past delegate from panel 55 in Connecticut very eloquently shared experience on "Integrity, Fairness & Dignity in A.A." under the umbrella of "Service, The Secret We Must Not Keep" there were presentations on La Viña, Young People In A.A. and Service Sponsorship. My fellow presenters emphasized the importance of doing service without expectation and the magical power of growing through service. It was reiterated that whether it be sponsorship, making a group's coffee or representing an area as a delegate, being of service to others is the ultimate goal in this amazing segment of the three legacies.

I am so blessed to have been given the opportunity to do service in this manner and to do it with a smile as we are NOT a glum lot.

Antonio G.



Upcoming Events & Workshops

WESTCHESTER GENERAL SERVICES SHARE A DAY

"OUR BIG BOOK—80 YEARS, 71 LANGUAGES"

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2018
12:00 – 7:00 PM

HIGHLANDS MIDDLE SCHOOL
128 GRANDVIEW AVENUE
WHITE PLAINS, NY 10605

Meetings & Workshops on Diverse topics
All events/meetings are open to all.
Complimentary Dinner will be served

YESTERDAY'S WORLD—OUR LEGACIES BEGIN
TODAY'S WORLD—DEMONSTRATING INTEGRITY, ANONYMITY & SERVICE
TOMORROW'S WORLD—COURAGE TO BE VIGILANT



THE BIG MEETING



Saturday, October 13, 2018

6:00pm – 9:00pm



"Falling into Service"

True North Community Church
1101 Lakeland Avenue
Bohemia, NY 11716

- Dinner, Dessert & Refreshments
- Service Tables
- Three Speaker Meeting
- And A LOT of info on Service!!
- Friends & Fellowship

Service Sponsored by:
Suffolk County General

For more information, contact:
Frank (631) 988-6931
Diane (631) 699-7930

SAVE THE DATE

51st SENY
Convention
"Our Big Book
80 Years
71 Languages"



March 22-24, 2019

Westchester Marriott Hotel
670 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, NY 10591

Speaker Meetings • Workshops & Panels • Alkathon • Banquet • Archives
Literature & Service Tables • AA Videos • Spanish Translation
Entertainment • Al-Anon • Much More

Get involved. Upcoming Convention Planning Committee meetings are
September 23 & October 28, 2018. (At NY Intergroup, 307 Seventh
Avenue, Room 201, NYC 10001.) Submit logo artwork for our theme.

convention@aaeny.org



Upcoming Events & Workshops

Game ON Dance OFF
Reading
Is
FUN-daMental

A night of fun + games + dancing
to support + highlight
AA Grapevine + Literature

6 October 2018
6pm - 10pm
Saint Anthony's Church
155 Sullivan Street
FREE

AA themed game shows + literature prizes
Food + fellowship + dancing
A sobriety count down
Drag hostesses with the mostest

Hosted By
Manhattan Districts 602 + 603
NYCPAA

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

OUR BIG BOOK
80 YEARS 71 LANGUAGES
Bronx Upper Manhattan
Share a Day
 Saturday October 13th 9am – 4pm

Villa Maria Academy
 3335 Country Club Rd
 Bronx, NY 10465
 Free On-site Parking

Train: #6 to Pelham Bay Park
 Bus: Bx24 to Country Club Road/Campbell Drive
 From Pelham Bay Station (corner Wilkinson Ave. off Westchester Ave.)

Full Day of
 Meetings/Presentations/Information/and Movies
 Light Breakfast and Lunch will be served

Contact: Matt M. 917-836-8169
 Stephanie R. 646-246-2741

District 617 (serving Corrections) and District 618 (serving Treatment & Facilities) Manhattan
 presents

A Discovery Roundtable Workshop on
 Corrections and Treatment/Facilities:
 Carrying the AA Message Inside

 Saturday, October 20, 2018
 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM
 Rutgers Presbyterian Church
 5th Floor Assembly Room
 (Doors open at 9:30 AM for Breakfast and Coffee/Tea/Juice)

Listen to the stories of former and now sober inmates, SENY rep, and New York Intergroup people all on the front lines told as stories of experience.

Plan to be there for a great workshop ride:

- Understand what your fellow AAs have experienced in their sober journey from the inside prison walls to lives of sobriety and service.
- Address the critical issues involved in service areas of corrections and treatment/facilities.
- Learn how you can volunteer and serve as part of your sober growth journey.

Rutgers Presbyterian Church is at 236 West 73 Street, New York City, 10023, SW corner of Broadway & West 73 St.

- #1, 2 and 3 trains stop at 72 St. and Broadway
- A train stops at Central Park West and 72 St. (check for weekend service announcements and station responses).

Space is accessible for wheelchairs and walkers. Elevator building with ADA approval, accessible restrooms.
 You are welcome. Come one and all for fellowship, questions answered and shared experiences of hope

OUR THREE LEGACIES
WORKSHOP


HOSTED BY QUEENS COUNTY
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2018
 9:00 AM - 4:00PM
 (DOORS OPEN 8:45 – BREAKFAST/REGISTRATION)
ST. MARY GATE OF HEAVEN SCHOOL
 104-06 101ST AVE, OZONE PARK, NY
 (AMPLE PARKING IN REAR)



STEPS, TRADITIONS, CONCEPTS, SERVICE - Q & A
BREAKFAST & LUNCH

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: BEN L. – TRASURER@QCGSA@EMAIL.COM
 OR JOANN – BDM@QCGSA.ORG

Staten Island General Services
of Alcoholics Anonymous
 Presents
The 17th Annual Spiritual Breakfast




Sunday, November 25, 2018
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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

Ticket Price: \$30 Per Person/ \$300 Tables of 10
 (No Tickets Sold at the Door)

For Information, Contact: Brian C. (347) 455-2710
 Liz H. (646) 327-4931
www.StatenIslandAA.org

For Ticket Purchase: Tommy W. (646) 269-2494
 Christopher P. (718) 761-8977



Spanish and American Sign Language Interpretation Provided upon Request
 Please inform us in advance of any special needs

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

- Sunday, October 21 (distribution at the November 4 Area Assembly)
- Wednesday, November 14 (distribution at the December 3 Area Committee meeting)
- Sunday, December 30 (distribution at the January Area Committee meeting)

Upcoming 2018 Area Committee Meetings and Assemblies

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	<i>Sullivan</i> : location TBD
12/03/19	7:30 pm	Area Committee	Church of the Holy Family, 2158 Watson Avenue, Bronx, NY 10472

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	10/10/18	7:00 pm
Brooklyn (3d Wednesday, monthly)	St. Francis College, 180 Remsen St., Brooklyn, NY 11201	10/17/18	7:30 pm
Hispanic Districts (3d Sunday, monthly)	Location rotates - please see aaseny.org or aacdhseny49.org each month	10/21/18	9:30 am
Manhattan (3d Tuesday, every other month)	Seafarer's House, 123 East 15th Street, New York, NY 10003	10/16/18	6:30 pm
Nassau (3d Monday, every other month)	Nassau Intergroup Office, 361 Hempstead Tpke, West Hempstead, NY 11552	10/15/18	7:30 pm
Orange (3d Tuesday, monthly)	First Presbyterian Church, Campbell Hall, Rte. 207, Campbell Hall, NY 10916	10/16/18	7:00 pm
Putnam (2nd Tuesday, monthly)	Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, 76 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, NY 10512	10/9/18	7:00 pm
Queens (last Monday, every other month)	Saint Mary Gate of Heaven Church, 101-18 104th St., Queens, NY 11416	10/29/18	7:30 pm
Rockland (3d Wednesday, monthly)	Elim Alliance Church, 40 Lake Road, Valley Cottage, NY 10989	10/17/18	7:30 pm
Staten Island (2nd Sun; no meetings May, July or August)	Oakwood Heights Community Church, 345 Guyon Ave, Staten Island, NY 10306	10/14/18	7:00 pm
Suffolk (3d Friday, monthly)	Bellport United Methodist Church, 185 South Country Road, Bellport, NY 11713	10/19/18	8:00 pm
Sullivan (3d Sunday, monthly; except July & August)	Sullivan County Community College, 112 College Rd., Loch Sheldrake, NY 12759	10/21/18	3:00 pm
Westchester (3d Wednesday, monthly)	Memorial Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Avenue, White Plains, NY 10605	10/17/18	7:30 pm

Standing Committee Meetings & Workshops		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	10/5/18	7:00 pm
Archives Committee	NY Intergroup Office, 307 7th Ave. #201, New York, NY 10001		
Corrections Committee (3d Saturday, monthly)	SENY Office, 99 Lincoln Ave., Bronx, NY 10454		
PI & CPC Joint Committee Meeting (last Tuesday, monthly)	NY Intergroup Office, 307 7th Ave. #201, New York, NY 10001	10/30/18	7:15 pm
Treatment Facilities Committee (last Sunday, monthly)	SENY Office, 99 Lincoln Ave., Bronx, NY 10454	10/28/18	11:30 am
12 Concepts of World Service Workshop (1st Wed, monthly)	Trinity Lower East Side, 602 E 9th St New York, NY 10009	10/3/18	8:15 pm
SENY Service Participation Meeting	NY Intergroup Office, 307 7th Ave. #201, New York, NY 10001	10/11/18	7:00 pm
SENY DCMC Meeting	NY Intergroup Office, 307 7th Ave. #201, New York, NY 10001		
Archives Advisory Committee	NY Intergroup Office, 307 7th Ave. #201, New York, NY 10001	12/15/18	1:00 pm

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*Special committees (neither standing nor adhoc committees)