



From the Delegate...

“2020: A Clear Vision for You” is the theme for the 70th General Service Conference (GSC). You’ll find that out in the 69th GSC Final Report, along with next year’s presentation/discussion topics: Recovery-“Who is missing in Our Rooms?” Unity-“Practicing Our Principles,” and Service-“Keeping A.A. Relevant.” For the third year, the anonymity protected version is available online. You can find it, and more at <http://www.aaseny.org/from-the-delegate>.

One of my favorite sections in each year’s final report is the Area Highlights; it was where Area 49 learned last year to start using “silent” instead of “dark” when referring to unrepresented groups or districts. The 34 Conference Advisory Actions, as well as all of the presentations, keynotes, remarks, workshops, board reports and finance reports are in there - reading it is like being at the Conference. It’s amazing! The 69th GSC Final Report is a treasure trove of information for A.A. members. Hard copies are expected at the September 14th Assembly in Orange County. Since last names of A.A. members are in these reports, the reports are confidential: for AA members only. I’m looking forward to discussing the report with my service sponsees and sponsor; and you.

I was elected to serve as Conference Committee Chair on the International Convention/Regional Forum Committee, and though it doesn’t mean that I’m able to get a “special deal” for you (or me), it does mean that I’ll be going to “Board Weekend” in February. By the time this is published, registration for the 2020 International Convention will have opened. After registering online at www.aa.org, housing arrangements can be made. You can find information about mailed-in registration and frequently asked questions there, too.

GSO has consolidated nearly all business functions into a single platform. I’m happy to report it has gone live. The new system requires that members who were making online recurring contributions prior to the August 5, 2019 launch date, re-enter their information. More info can be found at <http://www.aaseny.org/from-the-delegate> . Did you know that one dollar contributed online is approximately equal to \$1.20 mailed in? It surprised my group’s treasurer. Guess where you can find out about the reasons? You got it: the 69th GSC Final Report!

In love, with service, (and in love with service),

Jane E

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? 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!</p>	<p>Visit: 1231 Lafayette Ave. Suite L2 Bronx, NY, 10474</p> <p>Send mail: P.O. Box 571, New York, NY 10116</p> <p>General inquiries: info@aaseny.org</p> <p>Call: 718-665-1253</p>

Fearless and Thorough

It's hard to believe, but we're already a third of the way through our current rotation, Panel 69! In like manner, our Fourth Step is a third of the way through our Twelve Steps of Recovery. Therefore, in a shameless segue, I will borrow a phrase about taking inventory from page sixty four of Alcoholics Anonymous: "It is an effort to discover the truth..."

Of course, I'm not referring to our individual inventories; rather, I'd like to look at our Area 49 Inventory, taken in November, 2018. As an unofficial steward of that inventory – which can be found at www.aaseny.org/additional-resources under "SENY-specific" (the last three documents) – I am responsible to be sensitive to how the Area 49 responds to these observations and challenges.

Our current Delegate, Jane E., did a fantastic job of putting together the "Major Themes Summary," which focuses on: 1) the person new to service, 2) diversity, accessibility and inclusivity, and 3) communication. In fact all three of the inserts are "one-pagers", so while the subject matter is deep, the reading is quick.

I'm bringing this to your attention now, because it belatedly dawned on me that a lot of the GSRs and DCMs who gave us their thoughts and feedback have rotated out. If we're going to be supportive to those of you who are new in service, what better way to give that support than to show you the collective conscious of those that came immediately before you?

I have my own opinions – largely positive – on how we are doing, but you know what we AAs say about "opinions." Therefore, I would like to hear from YOU how we, as an Area, are doing. Read the three documents, and send me an email at alt-delegate@aaseny.org. I will keep your individual responses anonymous, but all feedback is important so that we can serve you as best we can.

Did I mention that the documents can be found at www.aaseny.org/additional-resources? Thanks for supporting AA and Area 49!

In Love and Service,
Tom B., Alternate Delegate
Area 49, Panel 69

From Our Area Chair

Historical Dates

- July 2-3, 1955 - Bill W. turns "the fellowship over to the fellowship" at 4:00 P.M., 5000 attend the 20th Anniversary at our St Louis convention.
- July 2-4, 1965 - 10,000 attend the 30th Anniversary of AA in Toronto. There we came to our own Responsibility Declaration.
- July 2, 2000 - 20 Millionth Big Book given to Al-Anon in Minneapolis.
- July 3-5, 1970 - Bill W. gave his last talk at the 35th Anniversary of AA in Miami.
- July 4, 1939 - 1st meeting started in Flatbush, N.Y.
- July 4, 1999 - He who has a fifth on the fourth may not come forth on the fifth.
- July 5, 1985 - AA gives Ruth Hock the 5,000,000th Big Book during the 50th AA Anniversary in Montreal, Canada.
- July 5th, 1990 - AA gives Nell Wing the 10,000,000th Big Book during the 55th AA Anniversary in Seattle, Washington.
- July 5-8, 1990 - 48,000 attend the 55th AA Anniversary in Seattle. 75 countries were represented as the former Soviet Union's members attended for the first time.
- August 8, 1879 - Dr. Bob S. is born in St. Johnsbury, Vermont.
- August, 1934 - Rowland H. and Cebra G. persuade the judge to parole Ebby T. to them.
- August 11, 1938 - Akron and N.Y. members begin writing stories for the Big Book.
- August 16, 1939 - Dr. Bob and Sister Ignatia admit the 1st alcoholic to St. Thomas Hospital, Akron, Ohio.
- September 11, 2001, 30 Vesey St, New York, AA's first office is damaged during the World Trade Center attack.
- September 13, 1937 - Florence R. 1st female in AA in New York.
- September 21, 1938 - Bill W. and Hank P. form Works Publishing Co.
- September 30, 1939 - Morris Markey runs a story on AA, Alcoholics and God in Liberty Magazine.
- September 1948 - 1st issue of the Grapevine published in "pocketbook" size.

Concept of The Month - Concept 9

Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Hoping everyone has had a Grateful and restful summer.

The Highlight of my summer was the New York State Informational Workshop, hosted by S.E.N.Y., at Greymoore Hall Garrison, N.Y.. The Workshop was chaired by K.C.; he and his committee put on a fabulous weekend for all of us. I also want to thank James D., for his presentation on 40 years of the NYSIW, Joe S. our Friday Night Speaker and Julio E. from G.S.O. as our Saturday Night Speaker. Bravo also to the workshop panelists from S.E.N.Y.; Maureen (Accessibility), Ed M. (Treatment), Hank G. (Archives), Chris P. (Literature), Sherry A. (Grapevine), Mike D. (P.I.), Laura G. (C.P.C), Scott (Corrections), and the leaders of the Meditation meetings Friday Night, Saturday Morning and Sunday Morning.

Pass It On
Jerry R.
S.E.N.Y. Chair

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Bill W. hoped Grapevine would connect members and groups. The Grapevine 75th Anniversary Toolkit celebrates and supports this vision.

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F304

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Our meeting in print....

Somewhere in my first 90 days, a loving A.A. introduced me to the Grapevine. Later in my first year, Suffolk Intergroup Association put on an event with members dressed up in purple grape costumes singing “I Heard it Through the Grapevine.” I had so much fun that night! Suffolk General Service’s Grapevine Chair gave interesting reports, but I was only using Grapevine occasionally. Somewhere along the line, I realized that “I am responsible” covered more turf than those important live 12-Step calls, and that I could subscribe to the Grapevine as a small part of my responsibility to the organization that gave me my life. So, I did.

At the risk of seeming overly dramatic, subscribing to the Grapevine changed my life, and my sobriety for the better. For close to 20 years, I’ve been reading the Grapevine almost daily. I started subscribing to the daily quote via email some years ago and I learned that a subscription makes a great anniversary gift to sponsees. I’ve submitted a letter and a joke (both of which got published) and I encourage others to submit to the Grapevine. I look forward to hearing our Area Grapevine Chair’s report at every Assembly and Committee meeting; her enthusiasm is contagious. I also look forward to articles from people I know (This happens with regularity from members in SENY! This August issue’s cover story was written by Vera, the delegate I quoted at the Post Conference Assembly in June).

One thing I love about the Grapevine is that it comes out every month (We have new stories every single month! We don’t have to wait.) The experience strength and hope that’s shared is always current. Another thing I love is that it helps me embrace many perspectives.

I heard someone say recently that the Grapevine is the most underutilized tool we have in A.A. If that’s true, I hope it changes. It has for me. The anonymity protected 69th General Service Conference report is posted on <http://www.aaseny.org/from-the-delegate> and we’re expecting the confidential hard copies at the September Assembly. You can read more about the Grapevine in it!

I heard it through the Grapevine...

Jane E.
Delegate

A Key That Opened The Willingness

It was suggested to show up at Orange County’s General Service meeting, having no idea what was in store for me, I left there the newly elected Grapevine/La Vina Committee Chair. The gentlemen that made the suggestion, opened my eyes to “Our Meeting in Print” and that it is more than just the magazine.

It started with one plastic bin of books, mushrooming into 4. The commitment required physical strength and a dolly to transport the materials. Living on a second floor apartment the commitment become a challenge. The bins were carried up and down, up and down, stacked in my bedroom. One morning heading out to do a Grapevine/La Vina presentation, one of the heavier bins slipped out of my hands, bouncing down all 14 steps, waking up the landlord from the loud noise and my profanities. Asking, ‘What happened?’ In tears, I said look, look, the books fell out, this is a big order, I can’t go through with it. He put the books back in the bin than said, ‘Please continue to do what you are doing Sherry,’ I left and did that Grapevine presentation knowing I could not give up.

Days later, the landlord asked me to give him a ride. We drove out of the driveway three houses down to his other property, where he told me to drive around back in front of the garage doors. He said, ‘Come with me ‘ handing me THEE KEY that opened the garage doors’. At the back of the garage was a wooden shelf, he built for the Grapevine commitment and said “it’s for you. Store the bins here. No more struggle carrying them, JUST CARRY THE MESSAGE!

Continuing to serve Orange County 4 more years after that commitment, and currently serving as Area 49, SENY, Panel 69 Grapevine/La Vina chair, I must remain willing to go to any lengths for my sobriety, the Unity of Alcoholics Anonymous, and for the lives of those to come...

Sherry A

The Grapevine – You Just Never Know

I have read the Grapevine for a while now, but never as a set routine. It's always sitting on the dining room table, along with several back issues. In the past I picked one up and started reading it almost accidentally. You might be familiar with the phenomenon that occurs when you pick up our Meeting in Print and open to a random story – it turns out to be exactly what I needed to hear at that moment in time.

That changed several years ago. A dear, sober friend ended up in the hospital for over a month. Some fellow members of AA and I started driving down to the hospital every Saturday night with a Grapevine, loaded with concern and prayer. I had heard about the power of a Grapevine meeting, such as in a treatment center or correctional facility. When I took such commitments it just didn't occur to me that a reading from the Grapevine might bring some additional value beyond my own experience, strength and hope. Ego dies hard in an alcoholic, at least in this one.

We called our little meeting “The Miracles” because who knows more about miracles than a bunch of drunks? One of us would say the Preamble, then we would take turns reading one of those random stories aloud and then we would take turns sharing. Sometimes we laughed, sometimes we cried, but we were always in loving fellowship.

Fortunately, our friend was finally released. That's the nice thing about miracles – they're always right there, just waiting to happen. However, our “Miracle” meeting fell by the wayside because life was getting busy for all of us. I ask myself, when I see the latest edition of The Grapevine come to our house, “are you really that busy, that you can't take time out for a sober friend?” I've heard more than once: I am responsible.

Thank you, AA!

Anonymous

Grapevine Article Writing =’s Many OMG! Moments

At 22 years of sobriety, whenever a newcomer quietly asks me “how'd you do it?” I say that both steady reading of and writing articles for submission to the AA Grapevine are probably amongst two of the best tools in our “sobriety toolbox.” I say this quite unabashedly and with strong conviction.

In June of 1944, Bill and his team at “The Alcoholic Foundation,” the forerunner of The General Service Board, put out the first edition of the Grapevine magazine; appropriately dubbed “Our Meeting In Print.”

The Grapevine contains stories by us . . . AA members, which are “qualifications” in print, expositions on the Traditions and Steps of the month, jokes, cartoons, and stories about sponsorship, accessibilities issues, and so much more. In fact, Bill saw the Grapevine as being one of the strongest champions of our Second Legacy of UNITY!

By the time this issue of the LINK comes out, I will have had four articles published in The Grapevine, and a fifth on the way. Today, I received my best “OMG” moment. A group held a Grapevine meeting where an article is read and discussed. It happened that my article published this past June was read and discussed.

A member of that group tracked me down to personally thank me, because the story helped him. I can't describe the feelings of love and service I felt with any words. So, I ask you: Please write for the Grapevine. It can be very cathartic to look down and see your own story published. For me, reading it with a purposeful sense of detachment, it completely eliminated any shred of lingering doubt I may have had that I was an alcoholic and belonged here.

Don't be shy to write for the magazine. Let your words come from your heart and even deeper. Do that and you will succeed. You may even say “OMG!” yourself one day. You never know until you try!

In Trusted Service

Steve S.

2nd Vice Chair, NIAA

DCM; AREA 49 SENY Districts 208-209-211

Attraction vs. Promotion

Tradition Eleven – “*Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.*”

Tradition Eleven outlines our public relations policy. The anonymity part like Traditions Ten and Six are about protection through anonymity. However the beginning uses the words *public relations* and being attractive but not promotional. How can an alcoholic be “attracted” to something if he doesn’t know it exists, or if he doesn’t know it is available in his community? What if he knows of it, but is misinformed and has an unattractive picture of what it is like?

We do not have Public Attraction or Promotion Committees in AA. The word is *Information*. We assume that if the public is given accurate *information* about AA, the true picture of AA will *attract* the active alcoholic. That same picture of AA, we believe, will attract the confidence of professional people dealing with alcoholics, as well as family, friends, employers, and co-workers.

Don’t confuse the word “promotion” with the word “attraction.” There is a difference between making information available and promoting the program. Attraction means we put information out where individuals SEEKING it have possible access to it. This includes pamphlets, literature, audio, video, speakers, panels, web pages, and information booths. The tone of these activities must remain close to supplying information instead of being promotional.

Promotion is different than giving out information about an AA meeting or event. Promotion involves making *promises of results*. It has the tone of a sales pitch or a guarantee that cannot be delivered. It relies on exaggeration and pressure to push or urge a person to believe in something or to buy something he does not want.

Doesn’t sound like AA does it? No, because we are a spiritual fellowship living in the principal of humility. We don’t place ourselves above anyone else. Although miraculous recoveries occur in AA, we don’t make promises or grand speeches about AA to the public. We can only talk about how AA has improved our own lives. We can only extend an invitation to attend a meeting. There is honesty in

our humility. No wonder that promotion is not an avenue we pursue.

Besides our humility, another way we are attractive to the public is through our living examples in our communities. People see the way we were and the way we are now. It is powerful and effective. Our friends, families, co-workers, doctors and clergy see the miracle of Recovery and speak of it.

This is important as the majority of still suffering alcoholics must be reached INDIRECTLY through others in the community. Many first hear of us by media reports and announcements, professional referral, or by others in the community at large.

To reach as many people as possible we need good cooperative relations with the communities around us. We rely on the principle of humility and our results to make AA attractive to all.

Mike D., SENY Public Information Chair,
Panel 69

– Jessie R, Mahopac NY

I’ve been reading the Grapevine periodically since my sober journey started in 2006. It was the perfect way to get my medicine when I couldn’t make a meeting. It also helped me complete the 5 things I was taught to do every day.

- 1) Pray for help to stay away from a drink in the morning
- 2) Make a meeting
- 3) Read AA literature
- 4) Call a sober alcoholic
- 5) Thank God before bed for another sober day.

April 20, 2011 was a life changing day. I donated my kidney to a fellow alcoholic. It was a grueling process for both of us leading up to surgery. I had known this AA’er for about two years, he was dying of polycystic kidney disease. As our friendship developed, I grew more aware of what God wanted me to do. To make a long story short, surgery was successful and my friend has had eight more years with his family. My friend gave me a special gift too. He gave me an annual subscription to the Grapevine. For a few months after surgery, I struggled getting to meetings. Reading the stories kept me connected to AA. My friend has since moved away and unfortunately, we have drifted apart. However, every year he provides me with my Grapevine subscription.

After I enjoy my issue, I pass it along. Sometimes the issue feels perfect for a particular person, so I give it to them. Other times, I leave them on the literature table at a meeting. Something I really enjoy doing is leaving them in strange places. It may be a hotel room, or a public bathroom or even the seatback of an airplane. Service is the key to recovery and this is one simple way I pass the message.

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of our meetings:
Provide opportunities
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Allow
Anyone
To Serve

Be willing
to change
things

Be Patient
&
Tolerant

No Criticism

Stop hoarding
service positions
Rotation is key
It's OK to
question long-timers
of the group.

County General Service Meetings Please visit www.aaseny.org for the most up-to-date information

Bronx-Upper Manhattan (2nd Wed. every other even mn.)	Bedford park Congregational Church, 3008 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, NY 10458	7:00 pm
Brooklyn (3rd Wednesday, monthly)	St. Francis College, 180 Remsen St., Brooklyn, NY 11201	7:30 pm
Hispanic Districts (3rd Sunday, monthly)	Location rotates - please see aaseny.org or aacdhseny49.org each month	9:30 am
Manhattan (3rd Tuesday, every other month)	Seafarer's House, 123 East 15th Street, New York, NY 10003	6:30 pm
Nassau (3rd Monday, every other month)	Nassau Intergroup Office, 361 Hempstead Turnpike, West Hempstead, NY 11552	7:30 pm
Orange (3rd 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 (3rd 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 (3rd Friday, monthly)	1 Rue North, Community Church, 1101 Lakeland Avenue, Bohemia, NY 11716	8:00 pm
Sullivan (3rd Sunday, monthly except July & August)	Sullivan County Community College, 112 College Road, Loch Sheldrake, NY 12759	3:00 pm
Westchester (3rd Wednesday, monthly)	Memorial Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Avenue, White Plains, NY 10605	TBD

Standing Committee Meetings & Workshops Please visit www.aaseny.org for the most up-to-date information

Accessibility/Special Needs Committee	SENY Office, 1231 Lafayette Avenue, Suite L2, Bronx, NY 10474	TBD
Archives Advisory Committee	NY Intergroup Office, 307 7th Ave., #201, New York, NY 10001	1:00 pm
Corrections Committee (3rd Saturday, monthly)	SENY Office, 1231 Lafayette Avenue, Suite L2, Bronx, NY 10474	
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, 1231 Lafayette Avenue, Suite L2, Bronx, NY 10474	10:30 am
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
SENY Convention Planning Meeting	TBD	7:00 pm

SENY Officers

Delegate	Jane E.	delegate@aaseny.org
Alt. Delegate	Tom B.	altdelegate@aaseny.org
Chair	Jerry R.	chair@aaseny.org
Treasurer	Joann M.	treasurer@aaseny.org
Registrar	Mike D.	registrar@aaseny.org

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