



## Delegate's Link...

70th General Service Conference April 19-25, 2020

Deadline for submission of agenda items is December 15, 2019

Theme- 2020: A Clear Vision for You

Presentation/Discussion Topic: Recovery- Who is Missing in Our Rooms?

The recovery presentation topic for the next General Service Conference reminds me of a trip I took to Mexico right after my second AA anniversary; \$409 for airfare, resort stay for a week with daily breakfast, and 3 dinners- I knew I could afford that! Another member I'll call E. could, too; what we didn't know was that it was Cancun's rainy season.

I called the General Service Office to find out where meetings were (in 1989 there were no smart phones and no Meeting Guide app), and off we went. I had a lot of gifts to give for an upcoming holiday and thought Mexican blankets would be prefect for many of them. The blankets were within my budget (seven dollars each); and learned that I could even save two dollars per blanket if we took a work boat to a nearby island. After obtaining a dozen Mexican blankets on the island, we left them at a moped rental place and got on a moped, your delegate on the back. The skies opened and the rain came, unlike any I've seen since. Somehow, we got through the mud to return the moped, get those blankets, and then stop at a bodega where I used my last pesos to get something to replace my drenched gold mini skirt outfit. We boarded the work boat back to the mainland, grabbed a cab to the meeting place, me with hair plastered to my head (in 1989 I used one large can of hairspray weekly), makeup washed off down to my chin, both of us with mud splattered up to our thighs, E. with shorts and tee dripping wet, both of us smelly and carrying one dozen Mexican blankets.

That's how we walked into the meeting, speaking no Spanish whatsoever. A member got up, came over, took the precious blankets off our hands, put them down on a chair, led us up front, gave us chairs, and brought us hot coffee. And we heard, completely in Spanish, the language of the heart. And we didn't have to drink. And we were loved, we were home, in the wonderful fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

That was my first meeting in Spanish.

I thought about the Third Tradition when I got home. I wondered if a member who spoke no English, who was dirty and smelly, and who was carrying armloads of typical Southeastern NY souvenirs would be greeted in my home group the same way we had been in Mexico.

Who is missing in our rooms?

Jane E.

Delegate, Area 49, Southeastern NY (SENY), Panel 69 (2019-2020)

#### 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 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!

Visit: 1231 Lafayette Ave. Suite L2 Bronx, NY, 10474

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

General inquiries: info@aaseny.org

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#### Coming Soon, to a County near You...

The Joy of Service Workshops are back! In recent years, each Southeastern New York rotation has sponsored four of these workshops, and Panel 69 will be no different. SENY will be sponsoring the first one later this month, with three more to take place in 2020. I will tell you that your DCMCs are raising the bar with these, and I would like to give you a preview of the first two.

On Saturday November 23rd, from 4:00 to 8:00 PM, Suffolk County will be presenting "My Journey through Service", with four speakers who serve/have served at various levels of our upside down triangle. These speakers will share the Good, the Bad and the... well, the more Challenging parts of doing service in our Fellowship. There will be Q&A, food and fellowship. Don't miss it!

Next, on Saturday March 21, 2020 (times and location tba), Bronx / Upper Manhattan will host JOS; the centerpiece will be an encore by GSO of the Northeast Regional Forum presentation "Our Great Responsibility". If you were at NERF in May, you know what an exquisite gift this will be; if you weren't there, come and find out.

Putnam County will host the third workshop on May 16th, and it looks like the fourth one may be co-hosted by two counties over the summer. More on that at a future date.

Why are these workshops important? First, it seems that there are many members who don't fully understand the role of General Service (vs. intergroups, for example). These workshops help to identify – and respect and honor – the differences in function. Additionally, Joy of Service workshops provide wonderful fellowship and unity; ask anyone who has attended one.

But, perhaps most important: those who make the JOS workshops happen are AA members who are acting in the spirit of service. When you give your all to a commitment, isn't it great when people respond?

Take the time to support your AA SENY family – join us in the Joy of Service!

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

#### **November Historical dates**

November 1, 1963- Reverend Sam Shoemaker dies.

November 10, 2001-1st of 400,000 4th Edition Big Books arrives in the mail.

November 11, 1934- Bill W'S final drunk begins on Veterans Day and lasts about a month.

November 13, 1939- Bill wants to go back to work, NY drunks want him to stay on as head of the movement.

November 16, 1950- Dr. Bob S. dies in Akron, Ohio.

November 18, 1946-1st Dublin Ireland group meets.

November 26, 1895- William Griffith Wilson was born in East Dorset, Vermont

November 26, 1939- Hank P. writes Bill advocating autonomy for all AA groups.

November 28, 1934- Ebby T. carries the message to Bill.

November 28,1936- Fitz M. leaves Townes Hospital to become 'AA' #3 in NY.

November 28, 1943- Bill was the guest speaker at San Quintin Penitentiary.

November 1945- Bill's article 'Those Goof Balls' was published in the Grapevine.

November 1986- The Big Book was published in paperback.

#### Concept of the Month

<u>Concept 11</u>- The Trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

#### Gratitude Month- Our Chance to Say 'Thank You'

"The idea is in the air that A.A. might adopt Thanksgiving week as a time for meetings and meditation on the Traditions," A.A. co-founder Bill W.wrote in the November 1949 issue of the Grapevine (The Language of the Heart, p.95) shortly after publication of the Twelve Traditions.

For decades now, A.A.'s in the U.S. have set aside all of November as Gratitude Month- marking the occasion with special contributions to G.S.O. In the spirit of the Seventh Tradition A.A. is self supporting through its members contributions and frequently turns away money from well-meaning contributors. This means that the active input of every A.A. is vital to the life of the Fellowship.

Gratitude. It's a weighty, high dignity word, but in truth its close companions are humor and joy.

As Bill W. observed early on in the Big Book (p.132) "Outsiders are sometimes shocked when we burst into merriment over a seemingly tragic experience out of the past. But why shouldn't we laugh? We have recovered and have been given the power to help others. 'What greater cause can there be for rejoicing than this?

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'Pass It On' Jerry R. Chair - S.E.N.Y. Area 49

# FROM THE REGISTRAR NATIONAL AA TECH WORKSHOP

In September, I had the privilege to attend the National AA Tech Workshop in Bowling Green, Kentucky. There were about 100 AAs in attendance. During the workshop, I learned of the various new technologies being utilized across the US and Canada (and beyond).

Some notable new technologies included smartphone apps which some areas are building to support conventions and area assemblies, as well as tools used to support digital Seventh Tradition contributions at the group and area levels.

What particularly struck me was a workshop held on what the future of AA might look like as our culture becomes increasingly connected by technology. Since the beginning of our fellowship, we have successfully cooperated with the professional community to reach those alcoholics in need. The workshop asked us to consider the following: what could the future of cooperation look like with the tech geniuses of Silicon valley?

In this ever evolving landscape of tech, the needs of AA are completely unique. It is often difficult for the GSO to explain to outside vendors our tradition of anonymity. Where might we find understanding friends who understand our needs and are willing to help us achieve them?

Although the AA meeting with its coffee pot, folding chair and literature rack will always remain a timeless vessel for carrying the message of Unity, Recovery and Service, we were urged to consider where AA fits into emerging technologies. For example, if we consider how much time the average person spends on online video streaming sites, is there a need for video versions of our pamphlets and other literature? How can we best reach the still suffering alcoholic?

I'll talk more about the workshop during my report at the November assembly. Finally, if you haven't already downloaded the "Meeting Guide" app on your phone, or checked out the AA Channel on Youtube, I would check them out to see the ways AA has been evolving into the 21st Century.

In Trusted Service, Mike D. Registrar Area 49, SENY

#### **Concept IX and Service Inventory**

At the recent NYSIW a past Delegate from Area 48 looked at those in attendance and stated "I see the future leadership of AA is in good hands." My first reaction was to be flattered, but later asked myself if I was a good leader? To answer, I thought I would take an inventory. Personal and moral inventory combined with pen to paper had proven powerful for recovery. So why not one for the individual in service? Concept IX seemed a good place to start. Rereading the Concept I found inspiration for an inventory in this:

"We shall be in continual need of these same attributes -- tolerance, responsibility, flexibility, and vision – among our leaders of A.A. services at all levels. The principles of leadership will be the same whatever the size of the operation."

It seems to me that Bill focused on certain attributes that are the most difficult for many alcoholics, at least for me. To be a good servant, growth was necessary in each of these areas.

These are the inventory questions which provided a personal inventory of the qualities Bill deemed necessary..

Am I willing to give up the need to be right and the personal ambition to serve?

Do I seek the advice of others?

Do I accept criticism and learn from it?

Do I seek compromise when facing contrasting opinion?

Do I take a tough stand when necessary?

Am I being a spiritual example to others in service?

These are hard questions best asked after doing service work. Although I fall short at times this inventory has proven productive. The self-examination present in these questions has made practicing principals before personalities easier. Don't feel so correct about everything anymore. Compromise comes quicker when you see the other point of view in a loving manner. Criticism often has truth in it. Tolerance leads to flexibility and responsibility leads to vision. These qualities make a better servant and complement spiritual growth.

Mike D., Public Information Chair; SENY Panel 69

#### From the Treatment Facilities Chair

My name is Eddie and I am an alcoholic. I have the privilege of serving as the Treatment Facilities Chair for SENY Area 49. SENY is an acronym for South East New York. It consists of the 12 counties of NY State, and a non-geographical Hispanic community.

The painting entitled "The Man in the Bed" is very representative of our work on the firing lines. Bill D, AA # 3 is who I identify with. My first 60 to 70 meetings were in treatment facilities. I was the guy in paper slippers with my backside hanging out who told you that you didn't know what you were talking about. I don't remember much of what was said, and I didn't read any literature. I do remember that these AA people always showed up on time. They showed up well-groomed and well dressed. They had honesty, integrity, politeness and humility. They never argued with me or tried to force anything upon me -impeccable high integrity.

That's what made me curious. The first thing I saw in AA wasn't a coffee urn, it was service. It was people taking time out of their day, and suiting up and showing up. They were like the marines getting out of their landing craft. They never stopped coming. I didn't realize it at the time, but they were the embodiment of what I would read in the Treatment Facilities Workbook.

Eventually I became the Corrections and Treatment Chair for the group that visited me in the hospital, and joined the Corrections and Treatment Committee for New York Intergroup. It was quite an eye opener to see how large and expansive AA really is! I was soon interacting with professionals in the field. If an institution called Intergroup and wanted an AA meeting, I would schedule a meeting with them. One, to make sure there was a suitable meeting space, and two, to explain what AA is, and what AA is not. I would also have to delicately explain why their clients who were drug addicts or had problems other than alcoholism were not the best candidates for our meeting.

Then what happens when an institution decides to ignore our Traditions? There are open meetings, and there are closed meetings. Institutional Meetings are a different animal altogether in my opinion. The group conscience of the group adopting the meeting may not be applicable or enforceable in an institutional setting.

There was a group that adopted a meeting that had a very strong group conscience in their home group on Primary Purpose. In their home group if you did not identify as an alcoholic you could not share in an open meeting, and if you did not identify as an alcoholic you were asked to leave closed meetings. The active enforcement of their group conscience on primary purpose almost lost our being welcomed back into that facility.

The institution very sternly warned us we were not to disallow any clients an opportunity to share in the meeting. It is always vital to understand and adhere to the rules of the institution. Another incident happened in a detox, when it got so unruly a fire extinguisher was thrown. In anger, the chair of the meeting did not report it immediately but I soon heard about it and was quite alarmed!

We decided a meeting with the staff was needed, to report the incident but also to make sure our volunteers were given a safe environment.

The head clinician was very straight forward. She told us we were guests, we were not staff. You are to report all unsafe conditions immediately. She said "you are guests, not staff, you are not to take any forceful or opposing actions while in this facility." This phrase is one I have never forgotten.

I have asked many professionals about this statement: "Do not take any opposing or forceful actions". I have gotten many different answers. What exactly does that mean? It means we make sure we know what the rules of the institution are; we should ask! I think the first thing that it means is that staff should announce the meeting, not us. We do not round up attendees, the staff does. Another thing; if the TV is on in the day room we do not turn it off. Politely ask staff to turn the TV off. You will be more warmly greeted if YOU do not turn the TV off

Does the phrase "do not take any forceful or opposing action" mean we stop someone's share when it would deny another a chance to share? This is a good question to ask the staff. Establish a friendly professional relationship with the staff to better understand their rules. It is also a good idea to inform staff about our Traditions and why we find them helpful. Never lecture an institution about their policies – ever. Let's be friendly with our friends.

Many institutions have written guidelines for volunteers. These guidelines almost always resemble the guidelines in the Treatment Facilities Workbook! Be on time, be neatly dressed and well groomed. Many institutions, like many meetings prefer there be no profanity. Would you believe there was a group adopting a meeting who insisted on their right to use profanity?! They argued for using profanity in a psychiatric hospital!

"ESA LOCA"

The Intergroup I did service with did not have a "Bridging the Gap" program, but soon instituted one. I was not directly involved but saw the growing pains. There are many moving parts. As the Treatment Facilities Coordinator I manage a SENY email address. Most of the actionable emails I get concern Bridging the Gap. People in Southeast New York go to treatment centers across the country; in California, Florida, and Minnesota. When they are discharged they fill out a Bridging the Gap form before returning home. Then a trusted servant in that area or district emails me, with their contact information. They may live in any of our 12 counties, or be Spanish speaking. Then it is up to me to contact that county for a "Gapper." One challenge is that all the counties and intergroups are autonomous. Oy Vey!

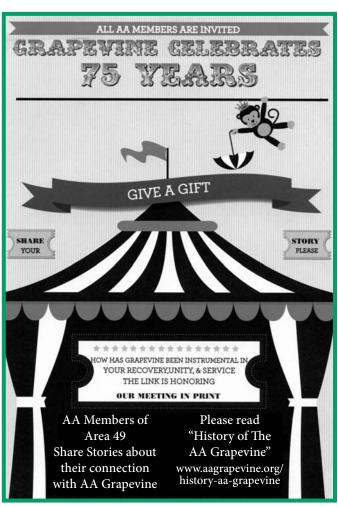
One of many great things about Area 49 is that it is smaller than most! This has allowed me to visit many of our county meetings as well as local intergroups to make personal connections, which are very helpful in getting Bridging the Gap requests filled.

Bridging the Gap in Area 49 is just like the rest of North America, it is unevenly applied and there are gaps in coverage. Presently, Nassau County is building a Bridging the Gap Program. It takes a lot of moxie! Someone in their county went to the Bridging the Gap seminar last year and brought back step by step instructions from Area Six in California. I also plan on attending the Bridging the Gap Seminar in Sacramento, California. All I have to do is ask the treasurer!

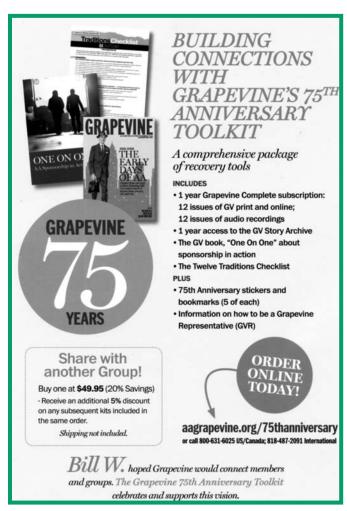
We are building a Treatment Facilities Committee, with a representative from every county. We are putting a high priority on making sure we are represented at all the county "Share a Days," and of course workshops to better inform the fellowship how much fun they are missing out on! This can all be very challenging because despite my fancy title I have no authority, but I am guilty of encouraging – a lot!

Excelsior! Ed M.

Panel 69, Area 49, SENY Treatment Facilities Chair









#### What Was Missing????

I had some years sober; working with a sponsor, taking commitments, sponsoring women . . . I was on fire. Then, I found comfortability with this life, and my alcoholic mind needed to seek more energy to do more "stuff." The busier I appeared to others, the better I felt about me. What was missing????? God.

Living in my alcoholic mind without God, my body required false energy to keep up with all this "stuff." I found myself seeking 'prescription' pills... actually believing that this was ok since it is not alcohol or illegal drugs..

WELL, it did not take long for me to come in contact with my quest, and even less time to begin a relationship with this person (me). I was so spiritually sick, I thought that a new sponsor and redoing the Twelve Steps could fix it.

What was missing on this list??? God. So off I was with a wonderful new sponsor in her living room reading our "12&12." Surely, I was not being honest with her. I believe God walked me into her home because she suggested that I take on some service with becoming the Grapevine Representative for my county.

I took on this responsibility only because I wanted to 'show' people that I was ok. But... I was entering service without God. Well it wasn't long before I picked up a drink. I wish I could say that I came right back, but sadly that is not my story. It took some years for my return. I am happy to say that I called this same sponsor and am still working with her today.

With grace and dignity, she said she had been waiting for me. She prayed for me that I would come to learn on my own that what was always, and only, missing in my life was God.

I returned to my county's general service meeting at a time when they had no Grapevine materials or Rep., and made a formal amends to them. By the Grace of God, I was reinstated and today I am proudly serving my county with God and AA.

Jeanette K.

#### 2020 S.E.N.Y. Calendar

## Assemblies

Sunday-February 9, 2020- Nassau County

Saturday- March 7, 2020- (DDOS) - Westchester County

Saturday- April 4, 2020- Pre Conference - Queens County

Saturday- June 13, 2020- Post Conference - Suffolk County

Saturday- September 12, 2020- Elections - Manhattan County

Saturday- November 14, 2020-Area Inventory - Putnam County

## **Committee Meetings**

All committee meetings are at the Church of the Holy Family, 2158 Watson Ave, Bronx N.Y. 10472, 7:30-9:30

Monday January 6, 2020

Monday March 2, 2020

Monday May 4, 2020

Monday June 1, 2020

Monday October 5, 2020

Monday November 2, 2020

Monday December 7, 2020

## Other Important Dates- 2020

February 21-23, 2020- NERAASA

March 13-15, 2020 NERD

March 27-29, 2020- S.E.N.Y. Convention

April 19-25, 2020

General Service Conference

## Upcoming LINK Article/Flyer Submission Deadlines:

- 1. 11/20 for 12/2/19 Committee Mtg.
- 2. 12/9 for 1/6/20 Committee Mtg.
- 3. 1/22/20 for 2/9/20 Assembly.
- 4. 2/19/20 for 3/2/20 Committee Mtg.



Staten Island General Services
of Alcoholics Anonymous
Presents

The 18th Annual Spiritual Breakfast

"We Are
People
Who

Normally
Would Not
Mix"

Sunday, November 24, 2019
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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

Ticket Price: 335 Per Person / \$350 Tables of 10
(No Tickets Sold at the Door)

For Information, Contact: Liz H. (646) 327-4931
Louis B. (718) 702-8043
www.StatenlshandA.org

Spanish and American Sign Language Interpretation Provided upon Request

& Please inform us in advance of any special needs

For Ticket Purchase:

### Save the Date! NERAASA 2020

29th Annua

Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly

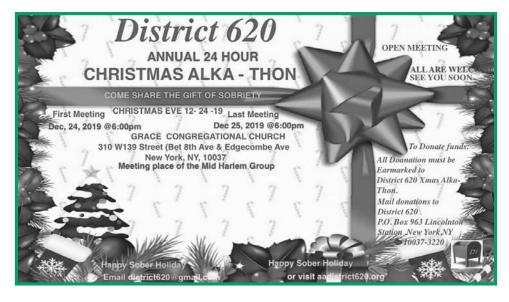
February 21st, 22nd, and 23nd 2020



Hosted by Area 43 New Hampshire Radisson Hotel Nashua 11 Tara Blvd, Nashua, NH For More info: www.neraasa.org







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 meeting May)	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	
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	3-5:00 pm
PI & CPC Joint Committee Meeting (Sundays: 10/20/19, 11/17/19, 12/22/19)	SENY Office, 1231 Lafayette Avenue, Suite L2, Bronx, NY 10474	12:00 pn
Treatment Facilities Committee (last Sunday, monthly)	SENY Office, 1231 Lafayette Avenue, Suite L2, Bronx, NY 10474	
12 Concepts of World Service Workshop (1st Wed., monthly)	Trinity Lower East Side, 602 E 9th St., New York, NY 10009	
	NY Intergroup Office, 307 7th Ave. #201, New York, NY 10001	
SENY Service Participation Meeting	NT Intergroup Office, 307 7th Ave. #201, New Tork, NT Tool	7:00 pm

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