

# Delegate's Link...

70th General Service Conference (GSC) April 19-25, 2020 Deadline for submission of agenda items is December 15, 2019 Theme- 2020: A Clear Vision for You Presentation/Discussion Topic: Unity: Practicing Our Principles

The presentation topic for the General Service Conference, Unity: Practicing Our Principles, inspires memories of when I first embraced the word practice.

In 1992, a sober night out meant driving from Suffolk to Manhattan over the Williamsburg Bridge (to avoid the tolls), hitting a meeting on St. Mark's Place, and eating a three-dollar bowl of noodles for dinner. It was all I could afford at the time, but it was fun. At my home group, I always submitted the receipts for supplies I purchased for the group. I needed to; what I had spent needed to go towards my rent. Slowly, however, by practicing the Steps, my circumstances improved, and by then you had taught me to submit for any AA expenses, whether I needed to or not. You told me that if I didn't want the money, I should submit my expenses anyway, take the money and put it back in the basket quietly. If my transportation was being reimbursed to go to an AA event, the time at that event belonged to AA, not me.

I've made lots of mistakes while practicing during my sobriety. In the 1990's I heard a member in the County meeting say, "We do not contribute down the triangle, the good people of the County sent in this money for us to spend here!" I took their word for it without question (mistake) as I assumed they knew what they were talking about (mistake). Then I proceeded to share this incorrect information with others (mistake). AA has never been fully self-supporting. AA is 73.4% self-supporting through our own contributions and relies on the sale of literature to make up the shortfall. Many AA entitles other than groups contribute down the triangle to AA. (69th GSC Final Report, page 115).

By the time I was earning enough to afford a Concepts shade, and figured that my group should have one, I asked at our business meeting if I could buy one for the group. They said, "Sure, Jane." Aside from the obvious ego inflation and control issue, doing this eliminated the principle of an informed group conscience; this was a decision to be made by the group, not one member!

I've come to believe that the long timers must have made tons of mistakes. After all, they're still sober and still here. The thing is, they didn't drink over mistakes. I'm blessed you remind me that when I make mistakes, own up to them, make amends as needed, and learn from them, I get to stay sober, too.

I'm grateful I get to keep practicing.

Thank you for my life, Jane E. Delegate, Area 49, Southeastern NY (SENY), Panel 69 (2019-2020)

#### 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** 

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## The Joy of Service; A Moment in Time

Service in Alcoholics Anonymous, in my experience at least, can evoke a wide range of reactions and emotions. On any given day, or committee, position, and rotation; I can experience elation, frustration, hope, despair, peace, and many other things as well.

In short: I'm human, and an alcoholic to boot. This program has taught me to weather the highs and lows, learn and grow (hopefully) from all of them, and keep moving forward.

Every once in a while I get to be part of a special moment, a moment that freezes time and sears itself into my memory, a moment that reminds me what AA and our Traditions are all about. I'd like to share one with you now.

I attended an AA business meeting recently. The group was at a crossroads, for the same reasons that beset many groups; member retention, lack of participation, resentments – you know the deal. I wanted to help in any way I could, but I am neither an AA miracle worker nor a knight in shining armor.

Fortunately, I didn't have to be either of those things. Instead, I was able to see the group version of "one drunk helping another." Several members of another group showed up that day, and pledged their group's unconditional support to help the first group get through this time of desolation.

The reason was simple, and profound. Not too long ago the positions had been reversed, and the first group had supported and embraced the second group. "I Am Responsible," indeed. "Into Action," in deed. The mood changed, the whole room was infused with hope, and I was privileged to witness a miracle.

In his final message, Dr. Bob talked about Love and Service. Dr. Bob was in the room with me that day, and I'll bet his heart was filled with the same joy that mine was, watching this loving act. Early in my sobriety I heard the phrase "don't quit before the miracle happens." In my experience, the miracles just keep on coming.

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

# **Historical Dates in December**

December 10, 1934 - Bill admitted to Towns Hospital for the fourth and last time.

December 11, 1934 - Bill W.'s sober date.

December 12, 1934 - Bill has a Spiritual Experience at Towns Hospital.

December 13, 1934 - Ebby visits Bill at the hospital, brought William James's book "Varieties of Religious Experience"

December, 1934 - Bill and Lois start attending Oxford Group meetings.

December 12, 1937- Bill meets with the Rockefeller Foundation to try to secure money.

December, 1937- Rockland State Mental Hospital takes patients to a meeting in New Jersey.

December, 1938 - Using the Oxford Group principles, Bill closes the loopholes and changes the Six Steps to 12.

December, 1939 - First AA Group in a mental institution is founded: Rockland State Hospital N.Y.

December 19, 1939 - Drunks in Los Angeles hold their first AA meeting.

December 2, 1943 - Bill speaks to 300 inmates at San Quentin Penitentiary.

December 20, 1945 - Rowland Hazard dies. ( He carried the message to Ebby ).

December, 1948 - Dr. Bob's last major talk in Detroit. (Site of 2020 International Convention).

December, 1950- Grapevine article written by Bill and Dr. Bob recommending establishing AA General Service Conference.

December, 1955 - "Man on the Bed" painting by Robert M. first appeared in the Grapevine (Originally called "Came to Believe").

December, 1982- Nell Wing retires from GSO after 35 years of service.

#### Concept of the Month

<u>Concept 12</u> - "The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. Tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth and power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle: that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others: that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought & action."

#### Dr. Bob: A Tribute'

Serenely marking to his attendant, "I think this it," Dr Bob passed out of our sight and hearing November 16, 1950 at noonday. As he had lived, so he had died; supremely aware that in his Father's House are many mansions.

He could only declare, "What indeed hath God wrought?" Never would Dr. Bob have us think him saint or superman. Nor would he have us praise him or grieve his passing. He can almost be heard, saying: "Seems to me you folks are making heavy going. I'm not to be taken as serious as all that. I was only the first link in that chain of providential circumstance which is called AA. By grace and good fortune my link did not break; though my faults and failures might often have brought on that unhappy result. I was just another alcoholic trying to get along - under the Grace of God. Forget me, but go you and do likewise. Securely add your own link to our chain. With God's help, forge that chain well and truly.

"The Language of the Heart' pages 354- 355 Jerry R SENY Chair; 2019-2020

#### **ANYONE, ANYWHERE**

When the subject of AA service comes up, you sometimes hear a member say "I don't care about that stuff. It's just business and politics. All I need is my own recovery in my home group." What this member doesn't realize is that he or she has been dependent on AA service, not just from the time of the call to AA, but...before that.

How did this person know there was an AA to call? Or how did their mate or doctor or friend know about AA to tell them? This is because a basic part of the service effort of AA has worked for years to tell people what AA is and how to reach it; our PI Committee (Public Information). How did AA's number get into the telephone directory? Why was a concerned AA at the other end of the phone when the call for help was placed?

AA service put them there. We receive AA literature. How did that literature get written and printed and distributed so it would be there for us when we needed it? Those who dismiss service as having no relation to recovery have missed the point. Many are sober today because service made it possible.

We often close our meetings with the "Responsibility Declaration." Anyone Anywhere are lofty goals for our fellowship. How can we meet this challenge? It is through the Unity derived from our principles that leads us to our Three Legacies of Service. From Recovery (The Twelve Steps) to Unity (The Twelve Traditions) to Service (The Twelve Concepts), our principles combined with our gratitude and our obligation to "pass it on," lead us to create our society in action. For "Together we can."

In Service, Mike D. SENY Area 49 Public Information Chair (2019-2020)

#### <u>Vision for You:</u> <u>Recovery & Unity = Service</u>

I walked back into the Canarsie Group a broken human being, an agnostic, a little knowledge, and no relationship with God. There were members cleaning up in the kitchen. I was to find out later that these men were the elder statesman of the group, or otherwise known as "The Hand of AA." I felt that no one wanted to hang out with me, and where else did I have to go? One of these men turned to me and said "Marty, why don't you meet us here next week and we will show you how to make the coffee, and we'll give you a key to open up the following week.

I got my first commitment: coffee maker! My next task was to find a sponsor and commit to a home group. I had had so many sponsors in my one and one-half years in AA. I carried a "toxic shame" with me into my first meeting fresh out of rehab, and soon added to that by relapsing. I was told to try some controlled drinking or just try and stop abruptly; but I could not.

I was determined to succeed and NOT to be one of those who could or would not give themselves to this simple program of recovery. Progressing through the Twelve Steps, I now surrendered my two part illness to God, as I understood Him to be. My next commitment was to communicate daily with my sponsor and I had the coffee commitment.

Soon I became an effective member of a good home group. I watched what the successful group members did and I took many other commitments in the group. Eventually, I became the group GSR, yet I was not so enthused. I eventually started sponsoring others.

After many years of sobriety, I relocated, got married, and we had a child. All of a sudden, the material and the service plane increased, and it started affecting my personal recovery. I was only making one meeting a week, stopped calling my sponsor, and my support network; yet I still celebrated my anniversary every year to show the newcomer the miracle of recovery. I was giving back what was so freely given to me.

One night in 2007, my whole attitude towards AA changed. I told my wife that I was going to forge ahead with my program. I got a new home

group and a new sponsor – "a little giant." This man was very involved with service outside of the group. I followed along and the "fire of service" was truly lit this time.

With time, I became the Alternate GSR, got involved in a variety of committee assignments in general services, including LISTS (Long Island Spirituality Through Service). I became chair of that soon. I've served since then as the Unity Breakfast Chair in Nassau, GSR, First Alternate DCMC, Grapevine Chair for Nassau General Services, and many others.

The ever widening circle of love and the increasing need for service in the AA community has kept me going. If you don't give back, you're missing out on a lot. I've found that service, is truly character building, and gives you a chance to hone new skills you never had before. By the grace of a loving God, I am sober – and happy today!

Marty K

1st Alternate DCMC, Nassau County General Services.



BUILDING CONNECTIONS WITH GRAPEVINE'S 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TOOLKIT

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- bookmarks (5 of each)
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aagrapevine.org/75thanniversary or call 800-631-6025 US/Canada; 818-487-2091 International

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

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#### **Extra Extra: Read All About The AA Grapevine**

Another Grapevine Writing workshop was conducted and hosted by Orange County General Service on Saturday November 16th at The First Presbyterian Church in Campbell Hall, NY.

Attendance was light which allowed everyone the opportunity who came from Rockland, Manhattan, Nassau and Suffolk counties, to share the stories they had just written, or speak on a Grapevine topic. The Grapevine Outreach Coordinator (VICKY B.) guided the writing process and shared her experience, strength and hope with the Grapevine.

The courage it took for the woman with 18 days back to read her story was overwhelming. Another woman spoke on how men and prostitution were her solution. An editor by profession was in attendance and clearly stated more than once that she hates to write, then shared two stories she had just written.

A gay man shared how he has never felt excluded in Alcoholics Anonymous. Another man just shared about his writing experience process; that his inspiration or intuitive thought comes from a Higher Power encouraging him to just write at any given moment.

Another member shared about the four articles he currently has published in the magazine.

Members discussed Grapevine Advisory actions, and if Grapevine is Conference Approved Literature. One member donated some old back issues of the magazine from his personal collection.

The GV Outreach Coordinator, Victoria B., raffled off some 75th Anniversary Tool Kits along with presenting some GV trivia.

Folks really shared from their hearts, touching the hearts of those in attendance. So I say, even if you don't think you can write or choose not to; attend a Grapevine writing workshop for the experience itself; to feel the unity of Alcoholics Anonymous, to be a lifeline linking one alcoholic to another. It is an experience you must not miss. You won't want to.

As the Area GV chair, I'm overwhelmed with gratitude for "Our Meeting in Print." Driving back to Orange County's General Services meeting place brought me back to the statement where I would say: "I gave Orange County General Services six years of my life". The real truth hit me hard. No, "Orange County gave me THEE BEST 6 years of my sober life." For that, I am reminded that it is still an honor and privilege to serve.

Sherry A. AA Grapevine Chair Area 49 SENY, 2019-2020

# 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 <u>Other Important Dates- 2020</u> 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

# 52<sup>nd</sup> SENY Convention

Start: March 27, 2020 @ 5:00 pm Ends: March 29, 2020 @ 12:00 pm



# Westchester Marriott

670 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, NY 10591

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

### GET INVOLVED With the Upcoming 2020 Convention Planning Committee meetings Sundays Dec. 15, 2019 @ 11:00 am / Program Sub-Committee at 9:00 am Jan. 12, 2020 @ 9:00 am Feb 02, 2020 @ 9:00 am / at the Westchester Marriott Hotel Mar 08, 2020 @ 9:00 am

At the new SENY Office 1231 Lafayette Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Bronx, NY 10474 use Garrison Ave entrance

Any questions please email Richie N.: convention@aaseny.org



# Upcoming LINK Article/Flyer Submission Deadlines:

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



Queens County 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Share A Day Planning Committee (QSAD) meets at 7pm August 12, 2019 / September 9, 2019 / October 14, 2019 November 11, 2019 and December 9, 2019 (2<sup>cr</sup> Monday of the month) until the 2020 Queens Share A Day event – TBD Steinway Reformed Church

41-01 Ditmars Blvd. Astoria

Let's get busy – lots of service opportunities!! Please bring your ideas, experience and joy to general service and help plan Queens County's Premier Service Event – we need you!

To Make Donations for 2020 Q&AD - Mail Chook to PO Box 670633 Fluching, NY 11367 - please write Q&AD on chock and envelopel Questions - please contact Maura Z. - Qsad@acasa.org

Thank You

 La Vina Taller / Grapevine Workshop Distrito 2-14 & Nassau County Grapevine Enero vientiseis 2020 January 26, 2020

 AGGERAPEEVINE + LA VIÑA Distrito 2010 Constraints

 Distrito 2010 Constraints

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 Distrito 2-14 & Nassau County Grapevine Enero vientiseis 2020 January 26, 2020

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 Market Constraints

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 Conso apoyar tu revista La Vina

\*\* Time: 2pm-5pm Writing & Audio Workshops Seny Grapevine Chair Sherri will be helping us. Step 12 in action In AA the districts, groups and members , work together bearing the message of hope and recovery.

Come out , Support Your Grapevine and La Vina Magazines. Meeting in Print!!!!! Location: Bethlehem Lutheran Church 1375 Grand Ave., Baldwin, 11510

SPEAKERS: 2pm-2:45pm Karina C. Associate Editor La Vina Al Z. Grapevine Publisher Ricardo G." Exploring asgrapevine.org" Rose Translation

Audio & Writing Workshops: 3pm-4:30pm Food 4:30 -5pm

# Save the Date!

NERAASA 2020

29<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly February 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020



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

### Save the Date! <u>March 7, 2020</u> <u>Delegate's Day of</u> <u>Sharing</u> 8:30-3:15

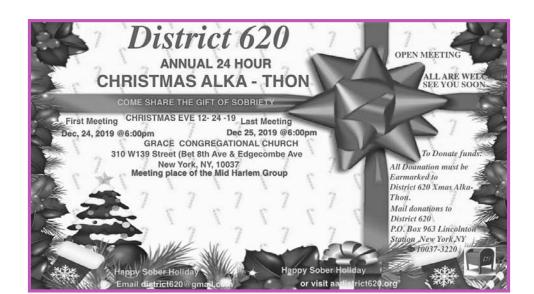
What: Background Information for the delegate's questionnaire presented by AA members; there will be no business conducted. All AA members are invited!

Continental Breakfast & Lunch will be served

Westchester County General Service to host this Area 49 SENY event No registration fee. 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition "Hat" will be passed



FOR INFO CONTACT: RONNIE (917)952-1191 FAITH(917)744-5611 OR BRIAN(347)455-2710



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 meeting May)	Oakwood Heights Community Church, 345 Guyon Ave, Staten Island, NY 10306	7:00 pm
Suffolk (3rd Friday, monthly)	True 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	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 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

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\*Special committees (neither standing nor adhoc committees)