

2020: A Clear Vision for You

“2020: A Clear Vision for You” is the theme of this year’s the 70th General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous. Could this theme come at a better moment? For the first time ever, the General Service Conference will be held virtually, during this pandemic for which Area 49, SENY is the epicenter. We have lost many AA members and many family members. We are grieving.

Our 36 principles will guide us through this time; we’ll practice love and tolerance as our code, we will learn much. We will be comforted that our Book, our 12&12, “AA Comes of Age” and our latest book, “Our Great Responsibility” are full of blunders we’ve made along the way and learned from. We may apply these lessons learned, embodied in our 12 Traditions, to questions members are starting to ask about safely reopening face to face meetings. The General Service Office, our Area, your district and county service structure cannot tell an AA group what to do; we offer resources to help your group come to an informed conscience.

Safety in AA our Common Welfare reminds us to talk about issues of safety before they arise., that safety is something each member attending an AA meeting can be mindful of, and that common sense and experience suggest that A.A. membership does not grant immunity from local regulations and being at an A.A. meeting does not put anyone beyond the jurisdiction of government mandates. Or, as my first service sponsor used to pound into my head, “Jane! The law of the land does not end at the door of the meeting!”

On aa.org you’ll find much information including Updates on Corona Virus (COVID 19) at the top of the page. I hope you find these links useful as your group has conversations about its own vision.

We have a chance to explore new possibilities in applying all our Traditions. We know of members who do not have a smart phone or internet access, thus limiting their access to virtual meetings. We also know of members who now get to more meetings than ever before. I was on a meeting where a member is now going to two or three meetings a day but for 18 years made one or two meetings a week, due to physical limitations. AA Online Intergroup was started in the 1990s largely to help members with such accessibility concerns.

Each AA group needs to come to its own informed conscience, service entities below the groups provide information so the group can make its own informed conscience to act on. This is just the beginning of a larger conversation. Truly, we are in the “Flying Blind Period 2.0”!

The office recently sent two letters concerning the Seventh Tradition. They may be found amongst other items of interest for AA members on the From the Delegate page on aaseny.org Will you help me, please? Will you share these letters with other members?

I invite you to our first ever virtual Post Conference Assembly, June 14, details on our homepage of aaseny.org. The first ever virtual GSC starts tomorrow, May 15. I can’t wait! I’m bringing all of you with me in my heart to this historic first ever virtual General Service Conference. I can hardly believe that I’m the lucky delegate who gets to go. Thank you for this amazing spiritual journey.

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

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

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

General inquiries: info@aaseny.org

Call: 718-665-1253

An Aspect of Service – Vision

Hello, friends. Last month in this column I talked about “flexibility”, and the subject this month will be “vision”. Those of you familiar with Concept IX will remember that those are two of the four attributes needed “among our leaders of A.A. services at all levels”. Interestingly, flexibility is more or less an “in the moment” quality, whereas vision applies to the future. And that’s what I’d like all of us to ponder right now: the future, in particular the immediate future.

On May 9th Area 68 (Southwestern Texas) presented a virtual workshop entitled “Are we ready to re-open?” It was the same day and time as our Joy of Service Workshop, so our Delegate Jane covered Texas while I covered Putnam County. Just four days later our own District 618 presented another virtual workshop, “Reopening meeting spaces for AA meetings safely”, with Jane as the speaker and me as one of the 300 attendees (from all over the U.S., and Canada as well).

Having personally attended the latter, and having read all the survey comments from the former, I can tell you two things: 1) for the most part, the population density (and therefore the perspective, and the number of deaths) is wildly different between the two Areas; and 2) the core questions are the same. How do we continue to reach out to the newcomer? How do we keep our safety at the forefront, and at the same time not turn anyone away? How do we honor all aspects of Tradition Four? And how can we keep the essence of this Program of Recovery intact, while adapting it to face a new, all-pervasive reality?

I certainly don’t know the answers (I suspect there is more than one). But I heard and read glimmers of those answers at D618 and SW Texas. We all have to be leaders, and we all have to seek vision; to take another line from Concept IX a bit out of context, “The stakes are about as big as they could be”. I love A.A., and I want to keep carrying the message. But I can’t carry the message if I’m dead.

We’re all leaders in Alcoholics Anonymous. And it’s time to look to a new future.

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

Concept of the Month- Concept VI

The Conference recognizes that the chief initiatives and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

June Historical Dates

June 10th,1939 - Dr. Bob’s last drink and the official founding date of AA.

June 11th,1945 - Twenty five hundred members attend AA’s Tenth Anniversary in Cleveland, Ohio.

June 16th,1938 - Jim Burwell “The Vicious Cycle” in the Big Book had his last drink.

June 18th,1940 - One hundred AA’s attend the first meeting in the first clubhouse at 334-1/2 West 24th Street, New York City.

June 21st,1944 - The first issue of the AA Grapevine was published.

June 26th,1935 - Bill Dotson, (AA#3), entered Akron’s City Hospital for his last detox and his first day of sobriety.

June 28th,1935 - Dr. Bob and Bill Wilson visited Bill Dotson at Akron’s City Hospital.

June 30th,1941 - Ruth Hock showed Bill Wilson the “Serenity Prayer” and it was adopted readily by AA.

Chair’s Report

Complacency, Boredom, Terror — Boy Was I Wrong

When this terrible pandemic started, I was alarmed and full of fear by the amount of closings that were being done; stores, sporting events, hair salons, restaurants, banks. Libraries, GSO, Intergroups, and so on. When I received the call from the secretary of the church where my homegroup meets and that it will not be open for the groups that meet there, that’s when I felt the hard reality—where’s my Fellowship going?

How were we to meet? Our AA meetings, our GSR meetings, our District Meetings, our committee meetings and assemblies, our workshops and conventions. This Fellowship has amazed me since I was new, but how are we going to weather this? This was uncharted territory. With our continuing Primary Purpose to “carry the message,” the digital and virtual worlds came together for us to not only meet, but to meet in ways that we never imagined possible.

Just recently, our SENY Archives Committee put on a workshop that was super from beginning to end, and a week later Putnam County put on a “Joy Of Service Workshop” that was inspiring and amazing. We have the opportunity to “be with” and “meet” people from all walks of life and hear their stories through the magic of the Internet.

Many workshops on the Traditions, Concepts, AA History, and all forms of service are there for us. I look forward to the day we can meet the way we used to, but I am having a new experience with an open mind and an open heart.

Jerry R
SENY AREA 49 Chair, Panel 69-70
“Pass It On”

2020 National Workshops, Conference and Seminars

New York State Informational Workshop

Hosted by Area 50 Amherst, N.Y. July 31-August 2
Location TBA

Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend 2020

September 11-13 Rock Island, Illinois
@ Holiday Inn Rock Island, IL

2020 National AA Technology Workshop (NAATW)

September 11-13 Seattle, Washington
Sheraton Bellevue Hotel
newsletter: naatw.org

2020 Intergroup Seminar

Hosted by Area 24, District 7 Des Moines, Iowa
September 18-20
Flyer Info Coming Soon

4th National Corrections Conference

November 13-15 Chicago, Illinois
Info on-line

2020 Area 49 Convencion Hispania

Manhattan Hosting
November 7-8
Cancelled

XLVIII Convencion Hispana De Alcoholicos Anonimos

Estados Unidos Y Canada, Sede , Chicago, Illinois
4, 5 & 6 De Septiembre 2020
convencionhispanadeaausaycanada.com

2020 S.E.N.Y. Calendar

Assemblies

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 October 5, 2020
Monday November 2, 2020
Monday December 7, 2020

SAVE THE DATE

June 20 1 pm to 2:30 pm
“Interacting with Public and Media”

*A Workshop Presented by Area 49 and the
Public Information Committee*

The Workshop will explain how and why to be
anonymous. With an emphasis on the practical and
spiritual benefits of the principal of anonymity.

John W – AAWS Trustee and past SENY Delegate

Mike D – SENY’s Public Information Chairperson

Join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83216727002?pwd=S2NZaVBbb3MwV2xwTFNESnVveGdMUT09>

Meeting ID: 832 1672 7002

Password: 888673

Phone: +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

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)	Room #107, #25 Smith Street, Nanuet, NY 10954	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	7:30 pm

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)