

From the SENY Delegate - Panel 71

Welcome, AA members and friends, to the next rotation of Southeastern New York (SENY), Area 49! For those who are new to general service, terms such as “rotation”, “SENY”, and “area” may be confusing. Never fear: no matter what your position, those of us who are already here will help you with the terminology, assist you with your new position, and act as loving guides to the special world that awaits you in doing service below the group.

In fact, we who are already involved in service have gone through a year of changes and “firsts”. Because of the pandemic, the ways in which AA has done things in the past has been upended, and we have moved – or have been dragged, kicking and screaming! – into meetings, committee meetings, assemblies, and regional events on a virtual platform. And yet AA has survived, and has dared to dive into *gasp* technology headfirst.

If you are a new general service representative (GSR), please know that you are the link, the bridge, and the communication nexus that connects your group to the rest of the structure of the Conference – see page S-16 of your brand new AA Service Manual! And since that two-way communication is your own primary purpose as a GSR, your most important function by far will be to attend the five area assemblies, and one Delegate’s Day of Sharing each year. Because that’s where the voice of your group will be heard and will be carried to the General Service Conference by your delegate. I will report to you in greater detail on all of the above and much more at our first area assembly of 2021, which will be held virtually on Saturday, January 23rd. Afterwards, please consider the following questions and challenges:



WHATS INSIDE

- *Tradition One from our Alternate Delegate*
- *Who’s In Charge of AA?!*
- *A Reflection from Nassau*
- *Party Over Here! - News from the SENY Convnetion*

- There were several “hot-button” divisive issues addressed in the last rotation; how do we heal and move toward the unity of our Fellowship?

- What is the deeper and ultimate message of our Third Tradition and how does it affect our exercise of inclusion?

- How can we make AA technology accessible to all members?

- As trusted servants, what is our primary purpose?

I am delighted to have this opportunity to serve all of you.

Once again: *Welcome!*

In Love and Service,
Tom B.

LET’S LINK UP!

Sharing is caring... Write an article about your experience, strength, and hope in AA service. Please limit your article to 350 words, and email it to link@aaseny.org or mail it: The Link Editor, P.O. Box 571, NY, NY 10116



FROM THE LINK ARCHIVES

“A Poem For A Friend”

Friend Roger’s reached his second goal,
Just one day at a time.

With A.A.’s help found thirst control,
And life thats quite sublime.

He gave of self to prove that all,
Receive as they but give.

Assistance to anothers call,
That both may learn to live.

Tonight he celebrates with friends,
Who guided through each year.

And taught him how to make amends,
To think and be sincere.

He found the will and tools to cope,
Within our friendly walls,

Abetted by a new-found hope,
And faith that oft enthralls.

As each tomorrows sun shall rise,
~’lay Roger check his past.

To give him will to excerise,
A freedom that will last.

Tomorrow is another day,
But, with Gods hand to steer.

He has the means found in A.A.
To reach another year.

By Hugh C., Cold Spring Group

Printed in *The Link* in January 1976

NO “ME” WITHOUT “WE”

From the SENY Alternate Delegate

Our new Link editor asked me to write an article for the first issue of the Panel 71 edition of The Link. First, I want to welcome all the newly elected trusted servants to service in our area! We are going to have a blast! My assigned topic is Tradition One which states, “Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on AA unity.” My sponsor would have me answer two questions: What does this Tradition mean to me and what is it asking me to do?

This is not a complicated Tradition and really none of them are. As our literature tells us, AA’s Twelve Traditions were written based on the shared experience of the groups back then. Traditions according to most dictionary definitions are “information, beliefs or customs handed down from one generation to another.” Back when the Traditions were constructed, the groups were asked what “rules” they had.

Tradition One lets me know that although I can do as I please in AA, I should always think of what we have in common and what our common goal is. We need to stay sober and we need our Fellowship. We need to carry this message to the person who walks through our door, desperate for a solution.

My willingness to conform to these principles to the best of my ability and my willingness to sacrifice *self* for the good of the Fellowship ought to be my desire. Bill stated during one of his talks that every single one of the Traditions was a contradiction of his natural inclinations. For most of us the Traditions go against our grain and, personally, this was very true for me when I first came to

Continued...

this Fellowship. Now I find that it is better to practice strengthening the unity of our group, which in turn means freedom from the bondage of alcohol for the individual. We cannot recover alone and our dependence on each other should ever remind us that there is no “me” without “we.”

Jo Ann M.



The General Service Office is located at 475 Riverside Drive

WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?!

From the SENY Chairperson

When I started in AA, I kept trying to figure out who was in charge, who's steering this ship! After a few weeks, I realized that the meeting chair wasn't in charge; he was just doing “service” (I used to say service with air quotes). Being the deflecting newcomer that I was, I decided to do a little research instead of doing step work. When I read about the [General Service Office \(GSO\)](#), I thought, “Oh, the people in that Riverside building are the ones in charge!” Spoiler alert: they aren't the ultimate authority of AA either.

“Concept I: Final responsibility and ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.”

Wait! Before you turn the page, thinking I'm about to try to explain the Concepts straight out of the [service manual](#), hear me out. When I became a GSR, I could relate the Concepts to my homegroup through the [“Concepts Checklist”](#). Here are questions under Concept I:

- Does our group have a [general service representative \(GSR\)](#)? Do we feel that our homegroup is part of AA as a whole, and do our group's decisions and actions reflect that?
- Do we hold regular group conscience meetings encouraging everyone to participate?
- Do we pass that conscience on to the district, area, or the local intergroup meetings?
- Is the “collective conscience” of Alcoholics Anonymous at work in my homegroup? In my area?
- Where do we fit in the [upside-down triangle of AA](#)?
- Are we willing to do what it takes to ensure that our democracy of world service will work under all conditions?

This article is not only about Concept I; it is also about the resources available to learn more about AA and AA service (if you're reading this virtually, see the above links). I have learned that if I have a question about AA, I can ask someone or do a little research. And as it turns out, we're all in charge!

Nisaa A.

BEING A TRUSTED SERVANT IN THE TIME OF COVID

From the Nassau County Inter-Group Chair

At the closing address of the 1955 AA Convention, Bill delivered a stirring address in which he handed the responsibility of AA's services over to us in the form of the General Service Conference. He was confident that we, as trusted servants, would be able to serve AA's needs in both good times, and times of crises. The Covid-19 Pandemic was one of those times; in fact it was the biggest worldwide crisis for AA since the Second World War. Faced with church and school closures, our groups suddenly found themselves with no places to meet. The steering committee's executive board decided to close our office in March. All of our hotlines had to be answered remotely by volunteers.

The internet had previously been incorporated into AA: the AA Grapevine had its own YouTube channel, AA.org was in full swing, as were websites for all of our other service entities. Now, however, the leisurely pace at which the internet was incorporated into AA jumped into hyperspace. A video conferencing service, Zoom, became widely used as a tool where online meetings could take place. There was a learning curve, but "the hand of AA" was there to help. In Nassau, the Big Meeting went off very smoothly online, as well as a couple of workshops, and all three holiday "alkathons". The Nassau County Newsletter, together with the help of our webmaster, did an excellent job of keeping all of our members virtually informed of countywide events, listings of virtual meetings, and health updates on the pandemic from our literature chair.

In June, our office resumed the sale of literature, carefully following the health guidelines put forward by the state. Then some groups elected to have outdoor meetings. Moving into



*Pioneering in AA
hasn't stopped.
I hope it never
will.*



**-BILL W., 1955
INTERNATIONAL AA
CONVENTION**

the fall, some churches opened up and the AA groups were allowed back in, provided they followed the state guidelines for safety precautions such as masks, limits on attendees, and social distancing. Thus began the phenomenon of "hybrid meetings" where a laptop was set up on the front desk of the in-person meeting and a moderator could call on the virtual attendees as well as the in-person attendees.

Through it all, it looks like Nassau County fulfilled Bill's vision, voiced in 1955, of an AA that most certainly has "come of age."

Steve S.

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Grapevine, Inc."*



WHAT IS A CONVENTION?

From the Convention 2021 Chair

Excerpts from the AA Conventions Guidelines:

“As one member puts it, the best AA convention is ‘just a darned good AA meeting blown up big.’ Just watch enthusiastic members at any AA convention and you’ll get what he means. The atmosphere alone is worth the trip. Here you’ll find fellowship, laughter, warmth, and understanding—‘heaped up, pressed down, and running over.’”

“The weekend convention. This is an ideal form for a state, provincial, or regional convention. Members often arrive for an opening meeting session or “coffee & conversation” on Friday evening. Additional meetings and workshops—as well as other activities—continue through Saturday, and even into Sunday afternoon. The convention may include a banquet, luncheons, special breakfasts, Saturday-night dancing and entertainment, and perhaps a spiritual meeting on Sunday morning.”

This year’s SENY convention has what every alcoholic wants: all the recovery, unity, and service you could ask for without the transportation, hotel or food costs! The 2021 SENY Convention will be a virtual event with a \$20 registration fee. You will need to register to receive the agenda with links to all the amazing meetings, workshops, Q&A, and fellowship events. This is a SENY Convention you will SURELY never forget. Join us!

Kathy W.



A PREVIEW OF EVENTS...

 A Speaker from the General Service Office

 Al-Anon and Alateen Meetings

 Long-Timers Meeting

 Morning Spiritual Meeting

 Sobriety Countdown

 Spanish Meetings

 Round-The-Clock Alkathon Meetings

 Young People’s Meetings

 Five Different Entertainment Events

2021 SENY CONVENTION A.A. IN A TIME OF CHANGE



TECH VOLUNTEERS

THE 2021 SENY CONVENTION NEEDS YOUR TALENT
TO HELP FACILITATE MAIN SESSIONS + WORKSHOPS

Since our 2021 Convention will be held virtually March 5 - 7 using the Zoom platform, we are looking for volunteers with experience using Zoom's host controls or experience acting as a host or co-host in a large (>20 participants) meeting. Volunteers should be proficient in managing the waiting room, muting and unmuting participants, removing unwanted participants from the meeting, and other participant management tasks. Volunteers should also be familiar with common Zoom settings, and have an understanding of basic user functionality to be able to assist participants who are accessing the meeting space with either a smartphone, a computer, or dialing in with a phone.

Each workshop will require at least 2 volunteers : a primary Host and a Co-Host. If enough volunteers are available, we would like 1 or 2 additional volunteers to act as Spiritual Ushers / TimeKeepers and help with monitoring for unwanted disruptions, especially in the larger sessions.

HOST : Primarily responsible that the workshop is running smoothly and on time.

CO - HOST : Assists host with room/participant management duties.

SPIRITUAL USHERS / TIMEKEEPERS : Monitors for disruptions and takes appropriate action.

★ LET'S GET THE PARTY STARTED! ★



TO VOLUNTEER : [CLICK HERE](#) OR FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
JOHN L.
2021 SENY CONVENTION
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
JPLIVZ@YAHOO.COM

★ INFORM - COMMUNICATE ★ INVOLVE - ACT ★ INSPIRE - ATTRACT ★

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2/6 - NY Inter-Group "Ways We Connect" Event
- 2/26-2/28 - NERAASA
- 3/5-3/7 - SENY Convention
- For more events go to AASENY.org

NORTHEAST REGIONAL
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
SERVICE ASSEMBLY

VIRTUAL
2021^V NERAASA

February 26, 27, and 28, 2021



AN INTER-GROUP ASSOCIATION OF AA OF NEW YORK SPECIAL EVENT

A VIRTUAL NIGHT OF FUN

THEME

WAYS WE
connect
IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Sharing ideas that help improve our connection to the AA program and carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

DANCING • FUN • SPEAKERS • MUSIC • DJ • TRIVIA
• GAMES • ROCK & ROLL COUNTDOWN • AND MORE

EVENT IS FREE LIMITED CAPACITY REGISTER TO ATTEND

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2021

7 PM - 11 PM EST DOORS OPEN AT 6:30

REGISTER NOW!

[HTTP://NYINTERGROUP.ORG/CONNECTREG](http://nyintergroup.org/connectreg)

TO ACCESS REGISTRATION PAGE PLEASE ENTER THE TEXT ABOVE INTO YOUR BROWSER

UPCOMING GENERAL SERVICE MEETINGS			To add or update email agenda@aaseny.org
SENY Service Sponsor Committee Meeting	1/24	4:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
Brooklyn County General Service Meeting	1/27	7:30p	Zoom ID: 828 3147 4891 PW: 403618
SENY Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting	1/27	7:30p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
District 312 Virtual Meeting	2/3	6:30p	Zoom ID: 312 815 7427 2176 PW: 2580
SENY Grapevine/La Vina Committee Meeting	2/3	7:30p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
SENY 2021 Convention Committee Meeting	2/8 & 2/22	7:00p	SENY Office 1231 Lafayette Ave Bronx, NY 10474
SENY Archives Committee Meeting	2/8	7:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
Bronx-Upper Manhattan General Service Meeting	2/10	7:00p	Zoom ID: 405 675 7373
SENY Accessibilities Committee Meeting	2/11	7:30p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
Staten Island General Services Meeting	2/14	7:00p	Zoom ID: 847 1858 9467 Passcode: 2021
Nassau County General Service Meeting	2/15	7:30p	Virtual Info TBA
Orange County General Service Meeting	2/16	7:00p	Zoom ID: 999 6809 5777 PW: Acceptance
SENY CPC/PI Joint Committee Meeting	2/18	7:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
Hispanic District Asamblea	2/21	9:30a	161 N. Main Street Freeport, NY 11520
SENY Literature Committee Meeting	2/21	2:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921

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*Special committees (neither standing, nor adhoc committees)