

A Word From Our SENY Delegate - Panel 71

Good day, fellow AA members! Serving Alcoholics Anonymous below the group level is an extraordinary and spiritual journey. As a GSR, I learned just how important the group is, both for individual alcoholics and as part of "the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship" (Concept I). As a DCMC, it was all about learning to listen to, and honor, the voices of those groups as they came forth at the county. As an alternate delegate I heard yet other voices: the Hispanic District, YPAAs, group consciences, and many more.

And now, as your delegate, it is about carrying ALL those voices beyond the area, to the General Service Conference, where AA policies and decisions are made, and where delegates from all over the U.S. and Canada (along with 41 trustees, staff and directors) will hear the thoughts and desires of the groups, and will use them to keep AA relevant, inviting, and strong – in short, to enable all the groups to live in Tradition Five. All of this is what the structure of the Conference (the upside-down service triangle) is about on page S-16 of our AA Service Manual.

To borrow unashamedly from page 75 in the Big Book: the work above is solid, and the stones are properly in place, but what about the cement in our foundation, and the quality of our mortar? I mentioned learning and listening earlier, which was hard enough for this long-time drunk, but the spiritual part of my service journey began when I took a long, hard look at the cement (love) and mortar (tolerance) of my own recovery, and realized that a major – and ongoing – renovation was in order. "Acceptance was the answer." I love our text!

When I hunker down by my computer for the week-long virtual Conference on April 18th, I will be fully informed of SENY's thoughts, by those groups which respond to the Delegate's Questionnaire, and by the GSRs and members who attend the Delegate's Day of Sharing (3/20!) and the Pre-Conference Assembly (4/10!). 92 other delegates will bring their areas' voices as well. No matter the outcome of the many agenda items, the members of the Conference will serve AA best by exercising open-mindedness, respect, love and tolerance. Please pray for all of us to do just that.

In love and service (and tolerance),
Tom B.

WHATS INSIDE

- *Growing Pains Within the Fellowship*
- *Important Moments in Black AA History*
- *A Call To Action - And Twelfth Step Work*
- *A GSR Tells Tales From the Basement*

Next Month's Theme:

"SUPPORTING THE TRUSTED SERVANT"

Deadline For Submissions:

MARCH 4TH

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

GROWING PAINS

From the Manhattan County DCMC

I felt privileged to be asked to write an article about 'Love & Tolerance In Service.' This article may help me with the Manhattan County Workshop "Diversity In A Changing AA World" happening at the SENY Convention in March.

I recently attended a RecoverySpeakers.com workshop "Carrying The Message To Black & African-American Alcoholics: A Historical Perspective" which I found both troubling and encouraging. It was troubling because in the beginning of AA, the members reflected the racism and prejudices that were going on in America at that time. In 1942 at the 24th Street clubhouse in New York City, where you would think the most tolerant people existed, black people were not allowed to be members but were allowed to observe the meeting in the back by group conscience. In the Third Tradition on page 142 in Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions they write about an alcoholic with another addiction and how the group conscience had allowed him in after much discussion. I found out at this workshop that this man was considered to be a sexual deviant because he was gay. AA at that time was following the mores of the American society.

The part of the workshop that was encouraging was that Bill W. tried to change the racial divide in the beginning, but had to follow the group conscience and was able to eventually help make some changes. Today we have both black members and LGBTQ+ members in leadership in AA. We can create groups which focus on those specific identifications and most groups will allow other members outside of that identification to participate, because of Tradition Three, although it is customary to suggest only specific members attend like at gender specific meetings.



I went to a meeting in Arlington, Virginia once and was very apprehensive, but was made to feel at home because I was amongst my people. The members had southern drawls, but showed me love. I am a truly blessed and grateful member of AA, because of the groups that I belong to and the people I break bread with, who are very loving and tolerant. I find that when I do service I get a chance to meet people from all different walks of life and they get a chance to know a little about me as a person. It is only through love and tolerance that we are able to carry the message to the next suffering alcoholic.

Larry W.

IMPORTANT MOMENTS IN BLACK AA HISTORY...

January, 1945 - Five African-American residents of St. Louis form a group that quickly expands. Group member Howard S. writes to the New York office and 'AA Grapevine' to "withhold publicity about our group that may occasion controversial discussions of racial problems within A.A."

March, 1945 - A second black AA group, the Evans Avenue Group, is started in Chicago by Earl R. The group expands to create many other black AA groups along the South Shore Railroad, and continues to meet today.

April, 1945 - In Washington D.C., Jim S. begins to hold meetings in a rented room at a local YMCA; Jim later becomes the first black person to get a story in the Big Book ("Jim's Story") and helps start the first group in Harlem. By 1952, there were 25 known black AA groups across the country.

1948 - In Indiana, Jimmy M. becomes the first black woman in AA and is unanimously referred to as "the First Lady of Black AA."

March, 1962 - Joe McQ. becomes the first black person to join AA in Arkansas and goes on to make the "Joe & Charlie" tapes.

SERVICE WAS THE KEY

From the SENY Archives Chair

In our Third Step, it talks about the key of willingness. Once I made the decision to unlock the door, there was a pathway to doing service in recovery. I started doing service at my home group, which is the oldest group in Harlem. I began following around my sponsor, like a sponsee should, and he introduced me to service below the group level. I learned about the upside down triangle and why the group's voice was so important. Around this time, I was asked to serve as my group's GSR. After a moment of pause, I conceded. In our Third Step, it talks about the key of willingness. Once I made the decision to pick up that key and unlock the door, there was a pathway to doing service in recovery.

I felt so uncomfortable at my first SENY assembly because there weren't a lot of people of color there and I kept hearing the term "dark districts." I thought for some reason they were talking about me and my District 620 in Harlem. So I went up to the microphone and asked why they kept saying "dark district" -- in reality I was the darkest one at the assembly! The chair said "it's a district that's inactive." Well that term sounded

much better. Today when someone says "dark district" I'll jump in and say "inactive or silent!" I'm so grateful for Tradition Three, which states the ONLY requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking and I'm so glad I had the Twelve Steps and these principles in my life at that time.

Now for the other 24 principles, the Traditions and Concepts. I was later elected DCM for my district which made me study our service manual. I'll share what I've learned along the way. I love Tradition Two, which states that "our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern" so there's no bosses in AA. In Concept IX, it tells me that good leadership cannot function well in a poorly designed structure. I love that service keeps this structure afloat and we can't keep it unless we give it away. Our Fifth Tradition states that my "primary purpose is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers." This means that when anyone anywhere reaches out for help I want the hand of AA to be there and for that Jeffrey is responsible. Love is Love!

Jeffrey P.

VITAL TWELFTH STEP WORK—MULTIPLIED

From the SENY Cooperation with the Professional Community Chair

Our Area 49 Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Committee is vital Twelfth Step work and we need your help! Our committee reaches out to the still suffering alcoholic by way of informing and educating professionals—whose work involves the active alcoholic such as doctors, mental health professionals, clergy, judges, and more—about Alcoholics Anonymous, who we are, and what we do.

Many professionals have not had the opportunity to find out exactly how the AA program works. There are many misconceptions about AA in the professional sector and unless we correctly inform them, many still suffering alcoholics may never have the chance to find us. This is Twelfth Step work multiplied. For every professional we reach, that professional has the potential to reach hundreds if not more, hopeless alcoholics.

As the new CPC chair, I'm looking forward to increasing the digital accessibility of CPC and am working towards having more of a virtual presence for AA members and professional communities. I'm excited to meet with county CPC chairs and hope to stir enthusiasm and encourage all AA members and groups to get involved with this essential Twelfth Step work. Some ideas that I'm exploring for more participation include: research work, outreach, professional sector point-persons, speakers, as well as diversity and inclusion strategies ensuring that CPC work reaches communities underserved by AA or underrepresented in the Fellowship.

Do you know how many professionals don't actually know about AA? The answer to this and other mind-blowing statistics can be shared, and solutions implemented when you invite me to your county meetings, groups, and workshops. The CPC committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 7:30-8:30 pm on the Zoom platform: 998 938 7641 (PW: 714921). Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 23rd. Let's pull together, fostering area-wide involvement, and rocket CPC into the fourth dimension!

Together we can,
Gail W.

What is CPC & how is it 12th step work multiplied?



How can you help spread the message?

- **Tom B. P71 Delegate, SENY**
- **Gail W. CPC Chair, SENY**
- **Vera F. P68 Delegate, Oregon**
- **Tim C. CPC/PI National Group, California**

ASK IT BASKET



Zoom ID: 998 938 7641
Passcode: 714921

For AA Members
Saturday, 2/20/21 ▲ 12 - 1:30 PM EST
Presented by SENY Area 49, Cooperation with the Professional Community

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LIVING BY “THE CODE”

From the Queens District 312 DCM

I know most people in AA say there are 36 principles. They correspond with the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts, but there are also other principles in our literature. They are sprinkled like chocolate chips throughout the Big Book. Look for them! Mmmm....

One of the principles to be used in all our affairs is “love and tolerance.” One of my most important affairs is certainly service in AA. Our Book says “Love and Tolerance is our code.” The word “code” is a synonym for principle. “Code” is also a synonym for the word rule. Don’t let anyone tell you there are no rules in AA...we just call them principles!

Whether the code is a legal code, traffic code, electrical code or the code of AA, all these codes are put in place for one purpose; a primary purpose if you will. All codes are designed to protect life and property. Certainly our AA code protects my life and property. My life is my sobriety. My property is my relationships. My most important relationships are with my Higher Power, my relationship with my friends and other travelers, and my relationship with myself. Love and tolerance is our guiding code in service and all my affairs!

Ed M.

PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS

From the Monday Women’s Group GSR

Hi, my name is Kara and I’m an alcoholic—and a first-time GSR. I am very excited to learn from you all and for the upcoming year! I’ll admit, I was having a difficult time trying to give an example of where I used “love and tolerance in service.” My alcoholic mind immediately went to old resentments of years past. I quickly had to take a break (with my Higher Power) to find a little extra love and tolerance when writing this!

One example that comes to mind was when my old home group moved meeting locations. We had some strong personalities, including my own, within this meeting. The original location was in an unfinished, dingy, cold basement. The metal chairs barely had any cushion left, the bathrooms rarely worked and ceiling tiles were scattered around the hall. It may sound less than appealing, but here is where I found a little sliver of hope to stay sober until the next meeting.

As the basement continued to deteriorate and the church raised our rent, we determined our meeting couldn’t stay there much longer. We began the search for a new meeting location and an ad hoc committee was formed. For the next

few months, we voted on potential new locations, but couldn’t come to a unanimous decision. The business meetings were split between old members, who got sober in the freezing cold basement, and new members who wanted to keep the meeting alive. This meeting saved my life, and I didn’t want to move.

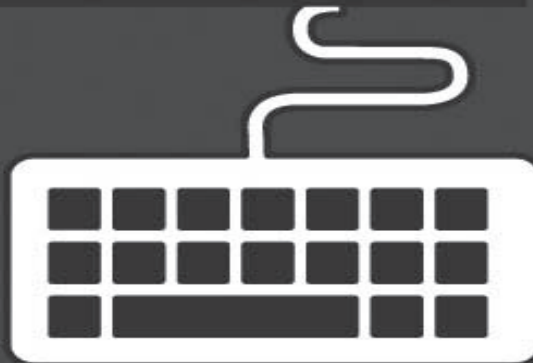
I had to change my perspective. I had to look at the bigger picture and see if we were thinking of all alcoholics who came down the basement steps, rather than a small group of “original members.” I listened to all group members and saw what was important for them in a meeting space. Eventually, we found a new hall (with heat!) and the meeting has been going strong ever since. I learned I had to let go and invite love, patience and tolerance into my heart. After all, it’s not the location, but the spirit of the meeting that keeps it alive.

Best,
Kara Q.

NORTHEAST REGIONAL
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
SERVICE ASSEMBLY

VIRTUAL
2021^V NERAASA

February 26, 27, and 28, 2021



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



MARCH 5-7

★ LET'S GET THE PARTY STARTED ★

TO REGISTER : CLICK HERE

REGISTRATION FEE : \$20.00

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

UPCOMING GENERAL SERVICE MEETINGS			To add or update email agenda@aaseny.org
SENY Public Information Committee Meeting	2/18 & 3/18	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
SENY Intergroup Committee Meeting	2/21	4:00p	Zoom ID: 631 669 1124
Queens County General Service Assembly	2/22	7:30p	Zoom ID: 733 111 2611 Password: 98765
SENY CPC Committee Meeting	2/23	7:30p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
SENY Treatment Facilities Committee Meeting	2/24	7:30p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
SENY Service Sponsor Committee Meeting	2/28	4:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
District 312 Virtual Meeting	3/3	6:30p	Zoom ID: 312 815 7427 2176 PW: 2580
SENY Grapevine/La Vina Committee Meeting	3/3	7:30p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
SENY Archives Committee Meeting	3/5	6:00p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
SENY Accessibilities Committee Meeting	3/11	7:30p	Zoom ID: 998 938 7641 Passcode: 714921
Staten Island General Services Meeting	3/14	7:00p	Zoom ID: 847 1858 9467 Passcode: 2021
Nassau County General Service Meeting	3/15	7:30p	Zoom ID: 922 8787 8377 Passcode: 12345
Manhattan County General Service Meeting	3/16	6:30p	Zoom ID: 815 4964 5983 Passcode: BillandBob
Orange County General Service Meeting	3/16	7:00p	Zoom ID: 999 6809 5777 PW: Acceptance
Rockland County General Service Meeting	3/17	7:30p	Zoom ID: 996 6281 8407 Passcode: 280593

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*Special committees (neither standing, nor adhoc committees)

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